

## Meeting of the Climate Action Joint Committee

**Date:** 26 August 2024  
**Time:** 2:00pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Hawke's Bay Regional Council  
159 Dalton Street  
NAPIER

## Agenda

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1.	Welcome/Karakia/Housekeeping/Apologies	
2.	Conflict of Interest Declarations	
3.	Confirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action Joint Committee meeting held on 11 March 2024	
<b>Decision Items</b>		
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## Climate Action Joint Committee

26 August 2024

### Subject: Committee leadership and Terms of Reference amendments

#### Reason for report

1. This report seeks the Joint Committee's agreement to amending the Terms of Reference to:
  - 1.1. appoint a new Chair
  - 1.2. make a small number of changes to reflect legislative changes affecting the work of the Joint Committee and procedural improvements.

#### Staff recommendations

2. Staff recommend that the Joint Committee confirms the appointment of Cr Xan Harding as the Chair of the Climate Action Joint Committee for the remainder of this triennium and recommends the updated Terms of Reference for adoption by the member councils.

#### Executive summary

3. The current Chair of the Climate Action Joint Committee has indicated her desire to resign as Chair and change her role to the alternate for HBRC due to competing priorities and now that the Joint Committee has funding security and a more certain work programme through the councils' Long Term Plans.
4. The current Terms of Reference specifies that the Chair of the Joint Committee is the Chair of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC). To enact the leadership change, it is proposed to amend the Terms of Reference to allow the Chair of HBRC to nominate another HBRC Climate Action Joint Committee member to replace them as Chair. Staff consider this is appropriate, given HBRC is the administering authority for the Joint Committee and has a regional mandate.
5. Chair Hinewai Ormsby has nominated Cr Xan Harding to replace her as Chair of the Joint Committee, and it is proposed that Cr Hayley Brown remains the Deputy Chair. Consistent with the collaborative intent of the Joint Committee, the Chair and Deputy Chair will continue to work together in relation to meeting agenda development.
6. Subject to approval by the Joint Committee, it is proposed that Cr Harding's appointment and the other changes to the Terms of Reference are recommended to the member councils for adoption.
7. For continuity, staff recommend that Chair Ormsby chairs the remainder of this meeting and that, if agreed, Cr Harding commences his role as Chair once the meeting concludes.

#### Background

8. Under s30 of [Schedule 7](#) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), the Council may appoint committees, sub-committees and other subordinate decision-making bodies that it considers appropriate, and joint committees with another local authority or other public bodies by agreement.

9. A new Climate Action Joint Committee administered by Hawke’s Bay Regional Council was established following a proposal from the first meeting of the Mayors and Chair after the 2022 local body elections.
10. The Terms of Reference was discussed and adopted by the first meeting of the Joint Committee on 22 May 2023, and recommended for adoption to each of the member councils. At that meeting the Joint Committee made two changes to the Terms of Reference:
  - 10.1. invite Post [Treaty] Settlement Governance Entities (PSGEs) within the Hawke’s Bay region to appoint one member, and one alternate. This is in addition to up to two members and one alternative appointment to represent Ngāti Kahungunu Taiwhenua and Board representatives from HBRC’S Māori Committee.
  - 10.2. alter section 2.3 to more directly align the aspirations and work of the Committee with central Government policy on climate change.
11. Invitations from the Chair were sent to the PSGEs to appoint members to the CAJC in June 2023. The Terms of Reference were formally ratified by member councils in July 2023.

### Discussion

12. The Committee can review its Terms of Reference at any stage to ensure that is appropriate and fit for purpose for the context in which it is operating. Any changes must be recommended for adoption by the member councils.
13. The Climate Action Joint Committee is deemed to be discharged following the triennial election of a new council, unless resolved otherwise by the previous council.
14. Given that there are less than 14 months between now and the election, staff consider that changes to the Terms of Reference should be limited, to avoid back and forth between member councils; more substantive changes can be considered in the new triennium.

### Summary of changes to TOR

15. Attached to this report is a tracked-change version of the Terms of Reference. The reasons for the changes are summarised in the table below.

Reference	Suggested change	Reason for change
Section 3 – Objectives		
3.5	Remove reference to legislation that has been repealed.	The Government repealed the Spatial Planning Act and the Natural and Built Environments Act in December 2023, making this objective no longer relevant.
Section 5 – Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson		
5.1	Allow the Chair of HBRC to nominate an HBRC JC member to be Chair	To provide flexibility in the ToR for leadership changes.
Section 6 – delegated authority		
Section 12 - Technical Advisory Group and Reporting		
12.2	Remove references to specific job titles.	Provides for changes to role titles and descriptions over time without the ToR becoming out of date. For example, the Climate Action Ambassador role (HBRC) has changed. The reference to dedicated climate roles at NCC and HDC has also been removed as there is currently no provision for a dedicated climate role at NCC.
12.3	Alternative wording proposed.	Streamline process for providing information to member councils.

Reference	Suggested change	Reason for change
Section 14 – List of member representation		
14.	Membership	Updated to reflect current membership
Appendix	Delete	Reflects information at a point in time and no longer relevant.

### Significance and Engagement Policy assessment

16. The Joint Committee can review its Terms of Reference at any stage. Any changes agreed by the Joint Committee must then be recommended for adoption by the member councils, however, don't require consultation with the wider community.

### Financial and resource implications

17. There are no financial or resourcing implications of the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference.

### Consultation

18. The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference were discussed with the cross-council Technical Advisory Group and no issues were raised.

### Decision-making considerations

19. Councils and committees are required to make every decision in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. Staff have assessed the requirements in relation to this item and have concluded:
- 19.1. The decision does not significantly alter the service provision or affect a strategic asset, nor is it inconsistent with an existing policy or plan.
  - 19.2. The use of the special consultative procedure is not prescribed by legislation.
  - 19.3. The decision is not significant under the criteria contained in Hawke's Bay Regional Council's adopted Significance and Engagement Policy.
  - 19.4. There are no persons directly affected by this decision and the Joint Committee can exercise its discretion and make a decision without consulting with the community.

### Recommendations

That the Climate Action Joint Committee:

1. Receives and considers the *Committee leadership and Terms of Reference amendments* staff report.
2. Recommends the attached amended Terms of Reference to each of the member councils for adoption.
3. Appoints Councillor Xan Harding as the Chair of the Climate Action Joint Committee.

### Authored by:

**Leeanne Hooper**  
Team Leader Governance

### Approved by:

**Desiree Cull**  
Strategy & Governance Manager

### Attachment/s

- 1 [↓](#) Proposed amended Climate Action Joint Committee Terms of Reference August 2024



**Proposed amendments to the  
Terms of Reference  
for the  
Climate Action Joint Committee**

*Adopted by resolution of:*

Hawke's Bay Regional Council, 26 July 2023  
Hastings District Council, 20 July 2023  
Napier City Council, 20 July 2023  
Central Hawke's Bay District Council, 21 September 2023  
Wairoa District Council, 18 July 2023

**1. Name and status of Joint Committee**

- 1.1. The Joint Committee shall be known as the Climate Action Joint Committee.
- 1.2. The Joint Committee is a joint committee under clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act (the Act).

**2. Purpose**

- 2.1. Climate mitigation and adaptation is core business for councils. It spans multiple council workstreams such as urban planning, land-use and resource management, transport, flood protection, coastal hazards and emergency management. Without duplicating effort, the purpose of the Joint Committee is to support a coordinated and collaborative response to address the complex challenge of Climate-Resilient Development<sup>1</sup> for the communities of Hawke's Bay.
- 2.2. The focus of the Joint Committee' will be promoting action to mitigate climate change (emissions reductions and offsetting) and adapt to the changing regional climate.
- 2.3. The Joint Committee aims to support communities and industries to become resilient to the effects of climate change and to thrive within the means of our natural environment in a manner that aligns with central government policy on climate change<sup>2</sup>.

**3. Objectives**

- 3.1. Oversee and guide the development and implementation of a Regional Emissions Reduction Plan including recommending actions for partner councils to consider for inclusion in their Long Term Plans.
- 3.2. Oversee and guide the development and implementation of a spatial Regional Climate Risk Assessment to deliver on responsibilities under the National Adaptation Plan to:
  - 3.2.1. Reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change
  - 3.2.2. Enhance adaptive capacity and consider climate change in decisions at all levels
- 3.3. Strengthen resilience
- 3.4. Support compliance with the statutory requirement to "have regard to" the National Emissions Reduction Plan and the National Adaptation Plan in all RMA-related plans of partner councils<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Climate Resilient Development is a framework developed in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6<sup>th</sup> report – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. It combines strategies to adapt to climate change with actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to support sustainable development for everyone ([FAQ 6: What is Climate Resilient Development? jpcc.ch](#))

<sup>2</sup> Including UNFCCC Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

<sup>3</sup> From 30 November 2022 it is a legal requirement for local government to 'have regard to' the national adaptation plan and the emissions reduction plan when preparing or changing regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans. (Guidance note [environment.govt.nz](#))

- 3.5. Inform planning to drive climate-resilient development in the right locations within the Future Development Strategy required under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, ~~and the Regional Spatial Strategy and regional combined plan proposed under the Spatial Planning and Natural and Built Environments legislation.~~
- 3.6. Collaborate on the delivery of key services for infrastructure impacted by climate change on respective councils.

#### 4. Membership<sup>4</sup>

- 4.1. Up to two elected members from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council; being the Chair and one other elected member, and one alternate.
- 4.2. Up to two elected members from each Territorial Authority within the Hawke's Bay region; preferably the Mayor and one other elected member, and one alternate.
- 4.3. Each Post [Treaty] Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) within the Hawke's Bay region is invited to appoint one member, and one alternate.
- 4.4. Up to two members and one alternate appointed to represent the Ngāti Kahungunu Taiwhenua and Board representatives on the HBRC Māori Committee<sup>5</sup>.
- 4.5. Under clause 30A(6) Schedule 7 of the Act, the power to discharge any member on the Joint Committee and appoint his or her replacement shall be exercisable only by the body that appointed the member.

#### 5. Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

- 5.1. The Chairperson of the Joint Committee will be the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Chair or a HBRC Joint Committee member nominated by the Chair of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.
- 5.2. At the first meeting of the Joint Committee the members shall elect a Deputy Chairperson.
- 5.3. The mandate of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson ends if that person, through resignation or otherwise, ceases to be a member of the Joint Committee.

#### 6. Delegated authority

The Joint Committee has delegated responsibilities for:

- 6.1. Guiding and monitoring climate mitigation and adaptation across the region with current and relevant technical inputs
- 6.2. Leading regional emissions reduction plans including recommending actions for consideration to partner councils to include in their long term plans
- 6.3. Leading spatial regional climate risk assessments to deliver on responsibilities under the National Adaptation Plan
- 6.4. Setting targets, including interim goals, towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050
- 6.5. Monitoring regional greenhouse gas emissions (community carbon footprint) on a regular basis and reporting annually on implementation of regional emissions reduction plans
- 6.6. Considering and recommending key emissions reduction actions to each of the partner councils and industry for consideration
- 6.7. Advocating for and/or advancing the objectives of regional climate action by submitting on and participating in processes, at the Joint Committee's discretion, including but not limited to:

<sup>4</sup> Membership will be reviewed at the end of the three-yearly cycle.

<sup>5</sup> HBRC Māori Committee has 13 tangata whenua representatives, 3 from each of the Taiwhenua (and Wairoa Kahungunu Executive) within the Hawke's Bay regional boundary and 1 from the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc Board.

- 6.7.1. Council long term plans
  - 6.7.2. Council annual plans
  - 6.7.3. District and regional plan and policy changes
  - 6.7.4. Reserve management plans
  - 6.7.5. Asset management plans
  - 6.7.6. Notified resource consent applications
  - 6.7.7. Central Government policy and legislation
  - 6.7.8. Investigating and securing additional sources of funding to support regional decarbonisation, offsetting and protecting communities from the impact of climate change.
- 6.8. For the avoidance of doubt, the Joint Committee can only make recommendations to partner councils. Without legally binding subsequent council decisions, the partner councils agree to:
- 6.8.1. Have particular regard to the recommendations of the Joint Committee in developing policies, determining priorities, and allocating resource
  - 6.8.2. Progress, to the fullest possible extent, actions identified through joint planning and decision-making arrangements.

## 7. Powers not delegated

The following powers are not delegated to the Joint Committee:

- 7.1. Any power that cannot be delegated in accordance with clause 32 Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 7.2. Decisions relating to the allocation of funding for undertaking investigations, studies and/or projects in climate adaptation, offsetting or climate mitigation and matters relating to consenting.

## 8. Meetings

- 8.1. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council standing orders will be used to conduct Joint Committee meetings as if the Joint Committee were a local authority and the principal administrative officer (Chief Executive) of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council or his or her nominated representative were its principal administrative officer.
- 8.2. The Joint Committee shall hold meetings at such frequency, times and place(s) as required for the performance of the functions, duties and powers delegated under this Terms of Reference, at least three times per year.
- 8.3. Notice of meetings will be given as far in advance a possible to all Joint Committee members, and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
- 8.4. Meetings may provide for members' attendance by audio-visual link if required.
- 8.5. Members, or their confirmed alternates, will attend all Joint Committee meetings.
- 8.6. The quorum will consist of a majority of members.

## 9. Voting

- 9.1. In accordance with clause 32(4) Schedule 7 of Act, at meetings of the Joint Committee each member has full authority to vote and make decisions within the delegations of the Terms of Reference on behalf of the body that appointed them without further recourse to the appointing body.
- 9.2. Where voting is required, each member has one vote.

- 9.3. Best endeavours will be made to achieve decisions on a consensus basis.
- 9.4. The Chairperson at any meeting has a deliberative vote and, in the case of equality of votes, may use a casting vote.

#### 10. Good faith

- 10.1. In the event of any circumstances arising that were unforeseen by the partner councils or their representatives at the time of adopting these Terms of Reference, the partner councils and their representatives hereby record their intention that they will negotiate in good faith to add to or vary these Terms of Reference so as to resolve the impact of those circumstances in the best interests collectively of the partner councils taking into account also the views of the Regional Planning Committee and Māori Committee appointed members in relation to those circumstances.

#### 11. Remuneration

- 11.1. Each partner council shall be responsible for remunerating its representatives on the Joint Committee and for the costs of those persons' participation in the Joint Committee.
- 11.2. Hawke's Bay Regional Council as the Administering Authority shall be responsible for remunerating the HBRC Māori Committee representatives and the PSGE representatives on the Joint Committee for travel and attendance as per its agreed meeting fees policy.

#### 12. Technical Advisory Group and Reporting

- 12.1. A technical advisory group (TAG) will service the Climate Action Joint Committee.
- 12.2. The TAG will comprise of staff members from the partner councils who are working in climate mitigation and adaptation and will involve subject matter experts as required to ensure linkages with other workstreams, such as the work of the Regional Transport Committee and Napier-Hastings Future Development Strategy Joint Committee. The TAG will be led by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, ~~Climate Action Ambassador along with the dedicated climate roles at Napier City Council and Hastings District Council.~~
- 12.3. Following each meeting of the Joint Committee, ~~meeting minutes will be distributed for information to each partner council~~ TAG shall create a summary report of the business of the meeting which will be distributed, for information, to each partner council for inclusion in the agenda for the next available council meeting. ~~Such reports will be in addition to any formal minutes prepared by the Administering Authority, which will be circulated to Joint Committee members.~~

#### 13. Variations to the Terms of Reference

- 13.1. Any member may propose a variation, deletion or addition to the Terms of Reference by putting the wording of the proposed variation, deletion or addition to a meeting of the Joint Committee for recommending to the partner councils if agreed.
- 13.2. Amendments to the Terms of Reference must be agreed by all partner councils before taking effect.

#### 14. Recommended for Adoption

- 14.1. The Climate Action Joint Committee, made up of the following members, confirms this Terms of Reference as adopted by the five partner councils.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council represented by:

Councillors ~~Hinewai Ormsby and~~ Xan Harding, and Di Roadley, ~~and Hinewai Ormsby~~ as alternate

Councillor ~~Hinewai Omsby~~ [Xan Harding](#) as Chairperson of the Climate Action Joint Committee

**Hastings District Council** represented by:

Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and Councillors ~~Ann Redstone~~ [Hana Montaperto-Hendry](#), and Tania Kerr as alternate

**Napier City Council** represented by:

Councillors Annette Brosnan and Hayley Browne, and Chad Tareha as alternate

**Central Hawke's Bay District Council** represented by:

Mayor Alex Walker and Councillors Tim Aitken and Jerry Greer as alternate

**Wairoa District Council** represented by:

Mayor Craig Little and Councillors Roslyn Thomas, and Denise Eaglesome-Karekare as alternate

**HBRC Māori Committee** represented by:

Paul Kelly and Roger Maaka, and Marei Apatu as alternate

**Post [Treaty] Settlement Entity appointees:**

Tamatea Pōkai Whenua

Mana Ahuriri Trust – represented by Tania Eden

Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust

Ngati Pāhauwera Development Trust

Ngati Tuwharetoa Hapu Forum

Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa – represented by Michelle McIlroy

Te Kopere o te Iwi Hineuru

Te Toi Kura o Waikaremoana



## Climate Action Joint Committee

26 August 2024

### Subject: Regional Climate Action Work Programme and funding update

#### Reason for Report

1. This report seeks endorsement of the regional climate action work programme and provides an update on funding secured through member council Long Term Plans (LTPs).

#### Background

2. In late 2023, the Climate Action Joint Committee (Joint Committee) discussed a proposed budget for its work programme for the next three years (2024-25 to 2026-27).
3. Dr Nic Peet, Chief Executive of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, then wrote to all Chief Executives to agree on a proposed funding split of: 26% Hawke's Bay Regional Council; 26% Hastings District Council; 26% Napier City Council; 11% Central Hawke's Bay District Council; and 11% Wairoa District Council. The Joint Committee Chair and Deputy Chair subsequently wrote to the mayors of the partner councils to request that they allocate funding in their LTPs on this basis.
4. In March 2024, the Climate Action Technical Advisory Group (TAG) provided a high-level work programme and funding update to the Joint Committee to support requests for joint regional funding. The Joint Committee agreed to recommend joint funding of \$690,000 over three years towards the climate action work programme, including provision for communication and engagement.
5. HBRC, HDC, NCC and CHBDC subsequently included the recommended funding in their adopted LTPs, providing dedicated funding for the Joint Committee's work programme over the next three years.
6. Officials have further developed a forward work programme for the Joint Committee through to the end of the triennium (**Attachment 1**).

#### Discussion

##### ***Climate action work programme connections and interdependencies with other regional work programmes***

7. The Joint Committee's focus is on promoting action to mitigate climate change and adapt to a changing climate. The Terms of Reference set out several objectives and responsibilities of the Committee to oversee and support climate action.
8. The work being progressed by this Joint Committee has strong connections to other climate-related work underway across the region (**Attachment 1**, slide 1), including post-cyclone recovery and flood protection works. While not within the direct remit of this Joint Committee, it is important the climate action work programme has synergies with other key regional work programmes that are driving climate action. The Climate Action Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is working with officials across partner councils to better understand potential interactions and interdependencies.

9. There are also opportunities for Climate Action Joint Committee members to, through their various governance roles, ensure alignment of work and priorities for climate action. This includes regional governance groups and committees like Matariki.

### ***Overview of the forward work programme***

10. To support the Joint Committee to achieve its objectives, the TAG has developed a work programme that:
  - 10.1. prioritises putting in place foundations that will help build momentum over time
  - 10.2. takes a regional view while acknowledging localised climate challenges and opportunities
  - 10.3. will support the region to take climate action at all levels.
11. The one-year forward work programme (Attachment 1) has been designed to help both staff and the Joint Committee prioritise the work that is needed within the next year to set us up for the next triennium. Getting the foundations in place to build momentum has been carefully balanced with a desire to see tangible progress being made in the short term.
12. The work programme has been split into four overarching workstreams:
  - 12.1. Workstream 1: Climate risk information to support evidence-based decision-making
  - 12.2. Workstream 2: Enabling local climate action (including supporting Māori climate action)
  - 12.3. Workstream 3: Community awareness and knowledge building
  - 12.4. Workstream 4: Monitoring regional progress and council-led action.
13. These workstreams are designed to be complementary and mutually re-enforcing. For example, an engagement strategy for a regional climate change risk assessment will form part of the broader communication and engagement plan for the wider work programme. Māori climate action has been embedded in each overarching workstream, but also has a dedicated workstream under 'enabling climate action'.
14. The TAG is seeking the Joint Committee's endorsement of the one-year forward work programme. A longer term work programme will be developed in 2025 once further decisions on key projects have been made (namely, the regional climate change risk assessment).

### ***Update on funding and resourcing to support the work programme***

15. Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Hastings District Council, Napier City Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council have confirmed they have included the recommended funding in their LTPs. This gives a total confirmed budget of \$614,100 over three years. We are working with Wairoa District Council as it finalises its LTP to confirm what funding is available for this work.
16. There are currently two council staff in full-time dedicated climate roles – one each at Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Hastings District Council. Napier City Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council both have staff providing support for the work programme as members of the Technical Advisory Group.
17. Staff resourcing to deliver this work programme therefore remains a challenge. To help manage this, the work programme has sequenced work across the four overarching workstreams. The priority in the next year is progressing the regional climate risk assessment, but the work programme is designed to ensure work is still progressing on a range of mitigation and adaptation workstreams.

### **Financial and resource implications**

18. There are no financial or resourcing implications from decisions sought through this paper.

**Decision-making considerations**

19. Councils and committees are required to make every decision in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. Staff have assessed the requirements in relation to this item and have concluded:
  - 19.1. The decision does not significantly alter the service provision or affect a strategic asset, nor is it inconsistent with an existing policy or plan.
  - 19.2. The use of the special consultative procedure is not prescribed by legislation.
  - 19.3. The decision is not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted Significance and Engagement Policy.
  - 19.4. There are no persons directly affected by this decision and the Joint Committee can exercise its discretion and make a decision without consulting with the community.

**Recommendation**

That the Climate Action Joint Committee:

1. Receives and considers the *Regional Climate Action work programme and funding update* staff report.
2. Endorses the *Climate Action Work Programme – September 2024 to October 2025*.

**Authored by:**

**Amberley Gibson**  
**Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor**

**Approved by:**

**Desiree Cull**  
**Strategy & Governance Manager**

**Attachment/s**

- 1 [↓](#) Climate Action work programme September 2024 - October 2025



## Situating the Climate Action Joint Committee’s work programme in the wider context

### Climate Action Joint Committee (CAJC)

The CAJC’s focus is on promoting action to mitigate climate change and adapt to a changing climate.

To support the Committee to achieve their objectives, we have developed a work programme that:

- prioritises putting in place the foundations that will help us build momentum for climate action over time
- takes a regional view while acknowledging localised climate challenges and opportunities
- will support the region to take climate action at all levels.

**Workstream 1: Climate risk information to support evidence-based decision-making**

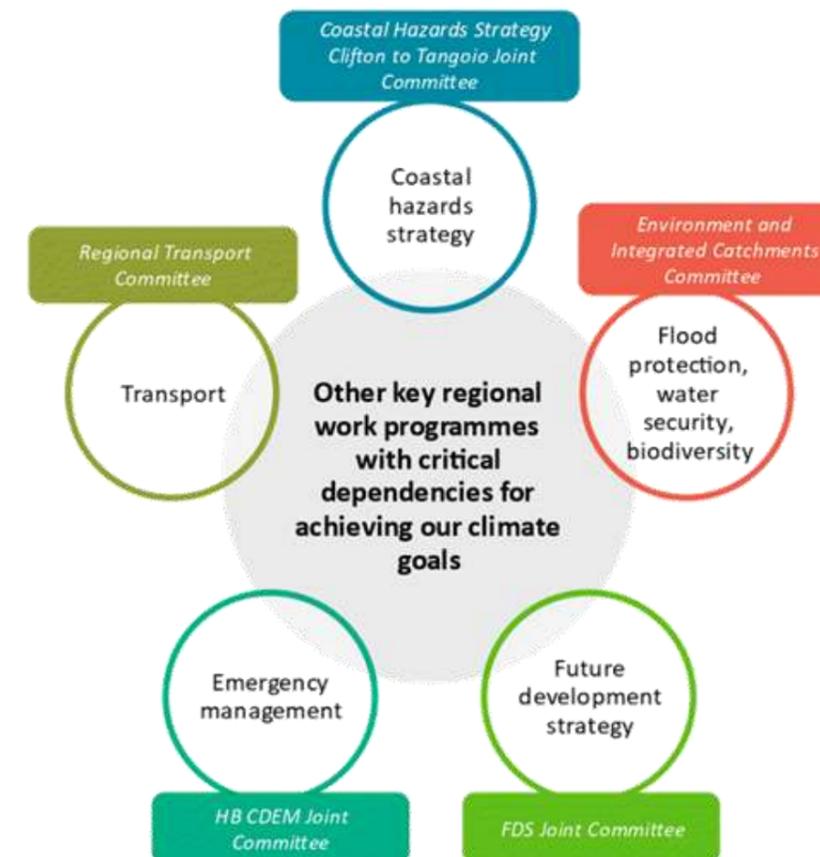
**Workstream 2: Enabling local climate action (including supporting Māori climate action)**

**Workstream 3: Community awareness and knowledge building**

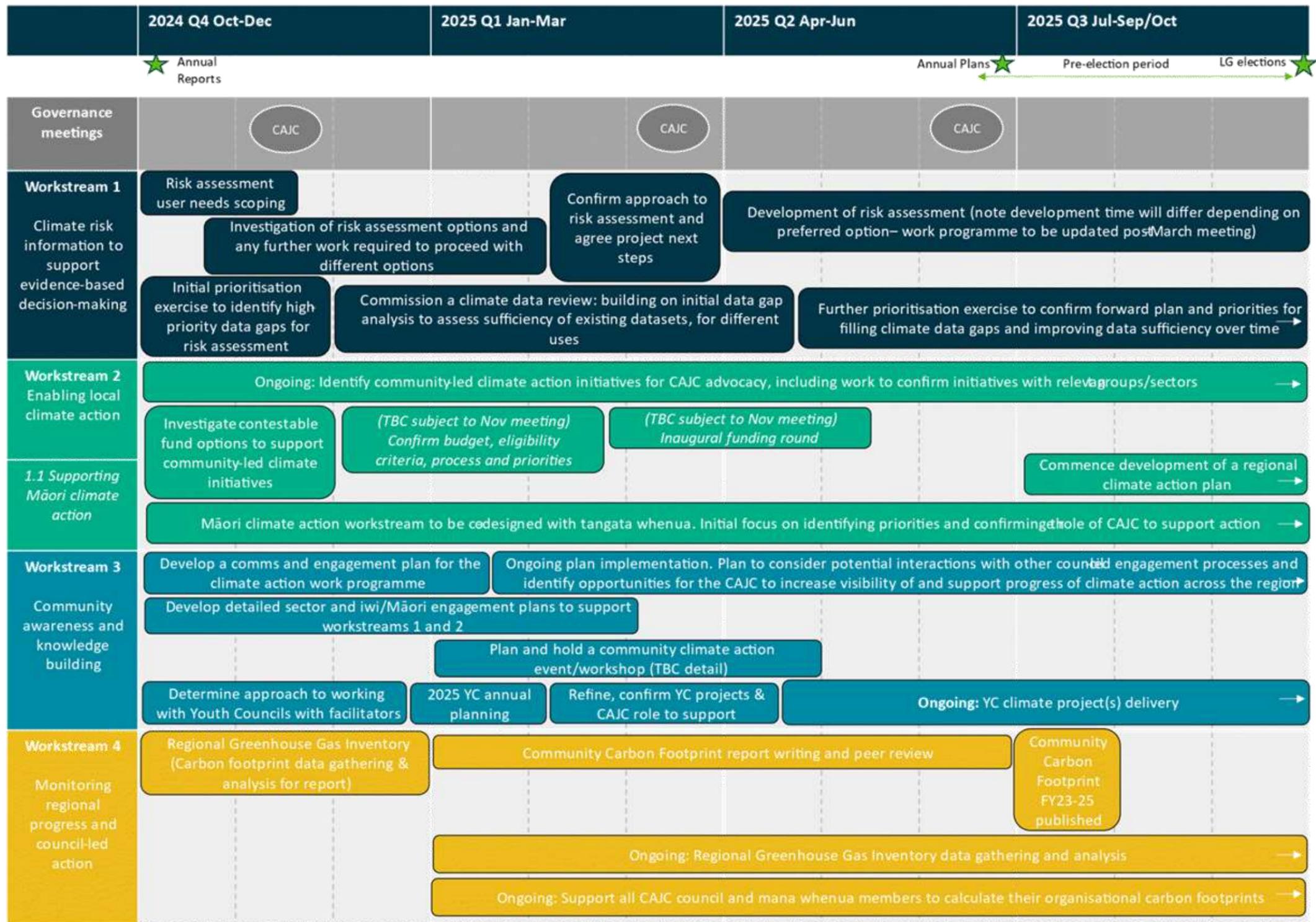
**Workstream 4: Monitoring regional progress and council-led action**

### Climate-related workstreams outside of CAJC remit

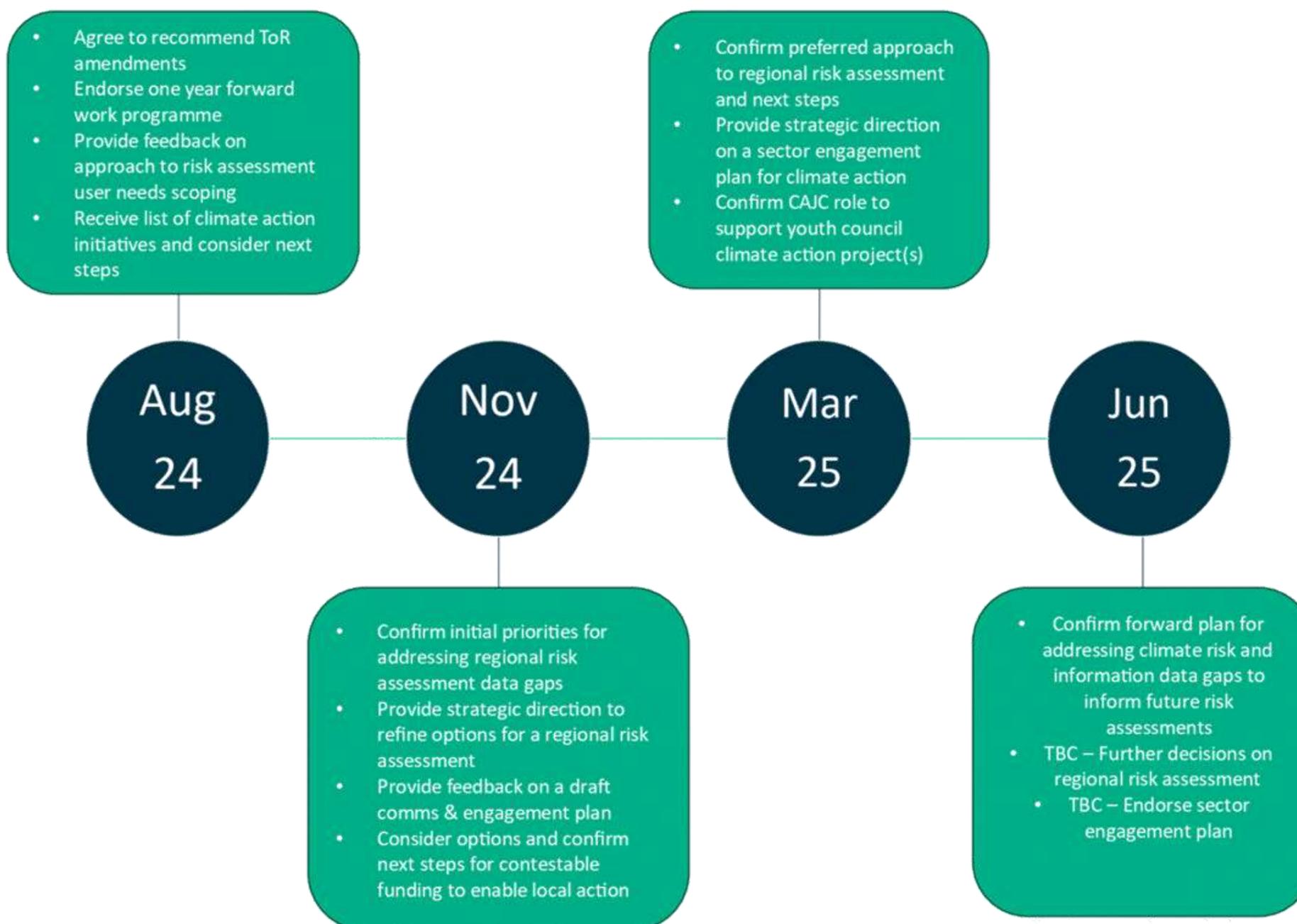
Several regional work programmes are being progressed through other committees that are critical to achieving our regional climate goals. These form part of the region’s wider climate change work programme but are not within the direct remit of the CAJC.



### Climate Action Work Programme- September 2024 to October 2025



## Indicative Climate Action Joint Committee work programme August 2024 - June 2025





## Climate Action Joint Committee

26 August 2024

### Subject: Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment

#### Reason for report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Regional Climate Risk Assessment work underway as part of the regional climate action work programme.

#### Strategic Fit

2. Developing Hawke's Bay's first Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment (risk assessment) is a foundational piece for regional climate action. Producing a risk assessment is critical for increasing our understanding of the full range of climate risks Hawke's Bay is facing.
3. The Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Joint Committee (the Joint Committee) set out overseeing the development of a regional risk assessment as a key objective and responsibility of the Joint Committee.

#### Background

4. The Joint Committee has previously discussed the need for a regional risk assessment, received the results of an existing natural hazards data analysis, and discussed some of the differences between the role of a regional risk assessment and the existing Hawke's Bay Hazards Portal.
5. An initial data stock-take of known natural hazards data and information to support these conversations was reported to the Joint Committee in March 2024. This stock-take identified geographical data gaps and provided a high-level overview of known datasets and their limitations.
6. Following this meeting, next steps were for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to report back to the Joint Committee on identified user needs and different options (including costs) for a regional risk assessment. Resourcing constraints due to staff departures and changes has meant this work has not progressed as planned in 2024.
7. However, the forward one-year work programme presented for endorsement to the Joint Committee at this meeting (August 2024) sets out a road map with key milestones for this regional risk assessment workstream through to the end of the triennium.

#### Discussion

##### ***A regional climate risk assessment is a foundational piece for all climate action in Hawke's Bay***

8. Developing and publishing a regional risk assessment is the first step in an ongoing journey to build our resilience as a region in the face of a changing climate. Both the development and release of a public-facing regional risk assessment has significant value in helping us understand the full range of risks we are exposed to and what impact these risks could have on our communities. This is critical information to inform decision-making about where best to prioritise climate action across the region.

9. The range of climate impacts we will need to adapt to is broader than the impact of natural hazard events. Because of this, climate risk assessments go far beyond mapping natural hazard risk. A risk assessment is a comprehensive process of identifying, evaluating and prioritising a range of risks posed by climate change; this can include (but is not limited to) risks to our natural and built environment, people and communities (including cultural wellbeing and social cohesion), infrastructure, and regional economy.
10. A risk assessment is foundational to climate action for several reasons. It can be used to:
  - 10.1. develop climate plans, including adaptation strategies and plans to prepare for/reduce these risks
  - 10.2. inform strategic and long-term decision-making and planning, including Long Term Plans, future infrastructure investment, and prioritisation of climate action
  - 10.3. better communicate the range of risks and impacts we can expect from climate change, and how these impacts will be felt differently (and by different people) across the region
  - 10.4. support our communities to understand their risks and develop their own climate change plans (including iwi/Māori and sectors who will be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change)
  - 10.5. identify and seize opportunities presented by a changing climate that will support a transition to a low-emissions, more resilient future.

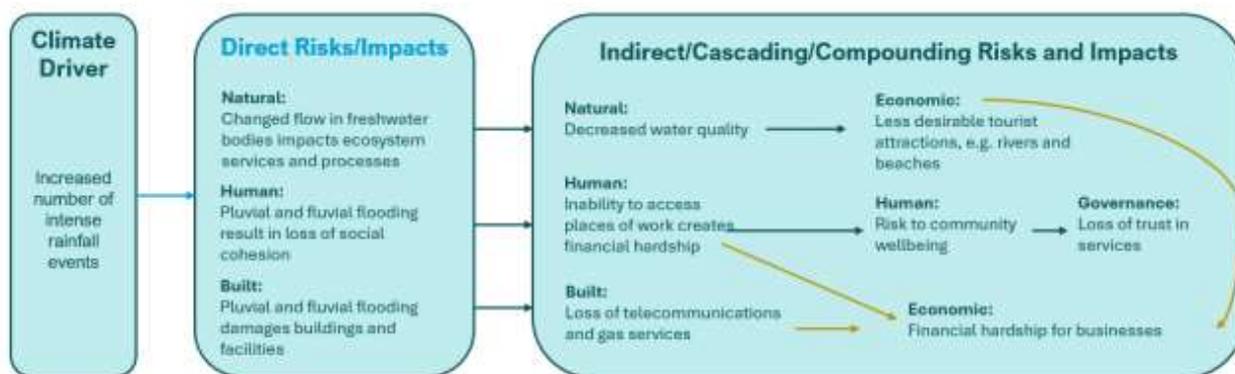
***Assessing risk is a necessary first step to embed climate adaptation into our decision-making at all levels and enable action.***

11. While a regional risk assessment can have a range of uses, it is particularly important for climate adaptation. Climate adaptation is defined as the ‘process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects’. Adaptation takes place across multiple scales, but it is widely acknowledged adaptation happens primarily at a local-level, with communities making decisions about their options to reduce their risk.
12. To enable adaptation planning and decision-making, decision-makers first need a thorough understanding of the risks they are facing. The Ministry for the Environment *Guidance on local climate change risk assessments* sets out a clear process for undertaking risk assessments. The process for developing the first Hawke’s Bay risk assessment will be consistent with this guidance.
13. The guidance recommends the use of both qualitative and quantitative information to assess risk, based on ratings of exposure and vulnerability of ‘elements at risk’ for different climate hazards.
  - 13.1. **Elements at risk** are defined as people, values, taonga, species, sectors, assets that are potentially vulnerable to climate change impacts
  - 13.2. **Exposure** refers to the presence of people, livelihoods, species or ecosystems, environmental functions, services and resources, infrastructure, or economic, social or cultural assets in places and settings that could be adversely affected by a climate hazard
  - 13.3. **Vulnerability** refers to being predisposed or more likely to be adversely affected by climate hazards (including sensitivity and lack of capacity to cope and adapt).<sup>1</sup>
14. A risk assessment process can assess both direct risks and impacts and how these can lead to indirect/cascading/compounding risks and impacts. For example, an extreme weather event (direct risk) can cause a sequence of secondary events in natural and human systems that have a range of impacts (indirect risk - see Figure 1 below). These are referred to as cascading risks and impacts. Cascading impacts are complex and multidimensional, and often relate to how

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<sup>1</sup> Adaptive capacity is defined in the National Adaptation Plan (2022) as “the ability to adjust to potential damage, take advantage of opportunities or respond to impacts”.

vulnerable natural and human systems are, rather than the size of the original hazard.



**Figure 1:** Relationship diagram showing an example of the direct risks and impacts associated with a climate hazard, and how direct impacts can lead to indirect and cascading impacts<sup>2</sup>

15. Without this assessment, it is challenging to understand the full range of risks we are facing as a region. While further decisions are needed on the scope of the first Hawke’s Bay risk assessment, we can expect that a risk assessment will build a picture of what these risks look like under different climate scenarios and over different time horizons.
16. Future decisions for the Joint Committee on the scale and scope of the first risk assessment will include what time horizons to use for assessing risks, such as the:
  - 16.1. mid-term time horizon (2030 to 2050) – most useful for strategic planning aligned with infrastructure lifecycles and policy horizons
  - 16.2. long-term time horizon (2050 to 2100) – ensuring resilience against future climate impacts and intergenerational planning
  - 16.3. extended time horizon (beyond 2100) – particularly relevant for coastal areas and sea-level rise projections.

***Balancing the need to do risk assessments while managing uncertainties and data gaps***

17. Our understanding of climate risks will change over time, as will the amount of climate data and information available to inform our evidence base for decision-making. This includes:
  - 17.1. natural hazard mapping and modelling (for example, direct impacts of a severe weather event under different climate scenarios)
  - 17.2. more detailed community vulnerability information, including adaptive capacity
  - 17.3. mātauranga Māori.
18. Adaptation action successfully taken to reduce our exposure and/or vulnerability to climate change impacts will also affect future assessments of climate risk.
19. Reliable quantitative and qualitative data is key to undertaking risk assessments. However, excessive dependence on data can be costly, time-consuming, and ultimately serve as a barrier to decision-making. As work progresses to develop a risk assessment, we propose to manage this challenge by adopting a precautionary approach, and where necessary, relying on qualitative assessments in the absence of quantitative data.
20. This is consistent with the approach of other councils around New Zealand and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>3</sup>. The IPCC advocates for a precautionary approach, where a lack of evidence should not preclude action if inaction will result in serious and irreversible damage. Taking this approach also supports the avoidance of maladaptation,

<sup>2</sup> Figure taken from Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment Report, published 13 February 2024.

<sup>3</sup> The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

i.e., actions that may lead (usually as an un-intended consequence) to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, now or in the future.

21. Qualitative assessments are a critical input into a risk assessment process. A risk assessment process needs to provide opportunities for community perspectives and knowledge to be heard, expert judgement, stakeholder input, and scenario analysis. This qualitative information is particularly important for understanding vulnerable populations and considerations of social equity in this work.
22. Further work is needed before the TAG can recommend the best approach to engaging with our communities as part of the risk assessment workstream. There is a need to align any engagement with other council-led engagement processes and look for opportunities to take a joined-up approach where it makes sense to do so.
23. Communicating climate risk and advocating for action to address the risks identified through a risk assessment is a key role for the Joint Committee. The collection of data and information through this risk assessment process, including through engagement, creates important pathways and relationships for communicating climate risk with our communities, including with iwi/Māori and sector groups.

***Ongoing work is needed to understand climate data and information gaps and develop long-term plans to improve data sufficiency for future risk assessments***

24. We need a coordinated and planned approach to filling regional data gaps where data could inform future risk assessments. This work will be ongoing. Filling data gaps, as noted above, can be extremely costly and time consuming so prioritisation is essential. This also requires collaboration with national agencies to understand the pipeline of climate data and information that is being produced at a national level, in addition to local work to improve our climate information and datasets.
25. Work to date has identified that there are significant data gaps and limitations for some parts of the region, particularly Central Hawke's Bay and Wairoa. The forward climate action work programme provides for an ongoing sub-workstream to investigate these gaps, including prioritisation and forward planning for investment in climate data and information over the longer term.

***By the end of the triennium, our aim is to have taken significant steps towards release of our first regional risk assessment***

26. While we can expect our understanding to evolve over time with subsequent risk assessments, having a risk assessment completed for the region in the near future is critical for different actors to know where to prioritise action, and where there are opportunities we should seize now.
27. To set us up to succeed, it is critical we get the initial planning stages right. The TAG will come back to the Joint Committee in November with a more detailed project plan, including a draft engagement plan and indicative timeframes for development of the risk assessment.
28. Between now and November, the TAG is focused on:
  - 28.1. completing risk assessment user needs scoping (underway)
  - 28.2. investigating risk assessment options to inform project planning (including high-level budgets)
  - 28.3. developing an engagement plan for the risk assessment workstream (noting this will be part of the wider communications and engagement plan for the regional climate action work programme)
  - 28.4. undertaking an initial prioritisation exercise to identify any high-priority data gaps for the first regional risk assessment.

***Work is already underway to scope the different user needs for a regional risk assessment***

29. A phased approach is being taken to the user-needs scoping exercise, starting by engaging with council officials across the region. The TAG will work together to connect with relevant officials from different parts of each council to ensure we are capturing a range of views (for example, asset management, planning, Māori partnerships).
30. Through these conversations, the TAG is looking to understand the different ways organisations may look to use the regional risk assessment, including the outcomes they would like to achieve with this first risk assessment. Initial conversations have indicated that for territorial authorities, this is likely to include a better understanding of climate risks to inform asset management planning for the next LTP cycle.
31. As a first step, staff will engage with iwi/Māori representative members on this Joint Committee to get feedback on initial priorities for user needs. We will work with our Māori Partnership teams on the best approach for wider engagement.
32. We welcome any initial feedback and direction from the Joint Committee at this meeting on risk assessment user needs, including the approach to the scoping exercise, and any associated priorities.

**Next steps**

33. Staff will report back to the Joint Committee in November with an update on the regional risk assessment workstream. This will include:
  - 33.1. high-level options for a risk assessment, including recommendations on scope and scale
  - 33.2. a draft engagement plan for this workstream
  - 33.3. an update on identified regional risk assessment data gaps.

**Decision-making considerations**

34. Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

**Recommendation**

That the Climate Action Joint Committee receives and notes the *Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment* staff report

**Authored by:**

**Amberley Gibson**  
Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor

**Tom Skerman**  
Contractor

**Approved by:**

**Desiree Cull**  
Strategy & Governance Manager

**Attachment/s**

There are no attachments for this report.



## Climate Action Joint Committee

26 August 2024

**Subject: Update on key national work programmes on climate change**

### Reason for report

1. This item provides updates on key elements of the Government's climate change work programme plus work of other key Crown entities (such as He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission). The updates also note proposals where councils may have an opportunity to make comments or lodge a submission.
2. In all cases, councils are **not** the decision-maker, applicant nor proponent.
3. Copies of formal submissions made by the Regional Council (and its standing joint committees) on proposals relating to resource management and climate change can be viewed online at [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz) (keyword #hbrcsubmissions).

### Decision-making considerations

4. Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

### Recommendation

That the Climate Action Joint Committee receives and notes the *Update on key national work programmes on climate change* staff report.

### Authored by:

**Gavin Ide**  
Principal Advisor Strategic Planning

**Amberley Gibson**  
Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor

### Approved by:

**Desiree Cull**  
Strategy & Governance Manager

### Attachment/s

- 1  Update on key central government and national climate change programme activity



## Update on key central government/national climate change programme activity (August 2024)

This update provides an overview of:

- key elements of the Government's climate change work programme, including the work of the Climate Change Commission
- proposals where councils may have an opportunity to make comments or lodge a submission.

<b>Name</b>	He Pou a Rangi – Climate Change Commission activity
<b>Proposal Type</b>	Various
<b>Owner / Lead</b>	He Pou a Rangi – Climate Change Commission (the Commission)
<b>Summary</b>	<p>As an independent Crown entity, the Commission provides independent, evidence-based advice to government on climate issues. The Commission's advice is based on research and analysis of different factors that can affect NZ's emissions and the potential impacts and effects of climate change. It helps the government make decisions to help transition to a thriving climate-resilient and low-emissions New Zealand.</p> <p>The Commission monitors and reviews progress towards the country's goals for reducing emissions and adapting to a changing climate. The Commission also gives other advice on policies from time to time.</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>In July 2024, the Commission delivered its <b>first emissions reduction monitoring report</b>. The report looks at how well current emissions reductions policies and plans, up until April 2024, set the country up to meet its climate goals.</p> <p>In June, Minister of Climate Change Simon Watts requested a report from the Commission on <b>levels of domestic emissions reduction</b> that NZ could feasibly achieve as part of its second nationally determined contribution (NDC2). The Commission has received finalised terms of reference for this work. The Commission will deliver its report to the Minister by 31 October 2024. That timeframe is intended to allow time for the Commission's analysis to inform the Government's decision on NDC2, which is due in February 2025. NDCs represent NZ's contribution to the collective global effort on climate change, which the country signed up for under the Paris Agreement.</p> <p><b>Commission's first progress report for the National Adaptation Plan</b></p> <p>On 15 August 2024, the Commission released its first-ever monitoring report gauging the progress NZ is making to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This is the first in a series of two-yearly progress assessments for the Government's national adaptation plan. Key findings of the report show climate change risks are significant and rising. The report identifies the top priorities for the most urgent action and highlights the value of a proactive approach to addressing the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The headline finding is that <i>"adaptation is not happening on the scale, or at the pace, that is needed. The status quo is unsustainable."</i></p> <p>The <a href="#">Commission's report</a> makes nine recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable effective local planning and action.</li> <li>2. Provide clarity on how costs will be shared and paid for.</li> <li>3. Ensure iwi/Māori can plan and act.</li> <li>4. Improve the science and research system.</li> <li>5. Work to ensure costs &amp; impacts do not fall unfairly on particular communities and groups.</li> <li>6. Prepare a workforce development strategy and plan.</li> <li>7. Facilitate sharing of expertise and information.</li> <li>8. Make the direction, scale and pace of change required clear.</li> <li>9. Make changes to improve the plan's effectiveness and monitoring of it.</li> </ol>



<b>Actions arising</b>	No immediate actions or opportunities for feedback for councils at present.
<b>Important Dates</b>	31 October 2024 – Commission to deliver report to Minister of Climate Change on domestic emissions reduction for NDC2.
<b>Further Information</b>	<a href="#">Commission's first progress assessment against the National Adaptation Plan, Aug 2024</a> <a href="#">Commission's Terms of Reference for reporting on NDC global emissions commitments</a> <a href="#">Commission's first emissions reduction monitoring report</a>
<b>HBRC's Lead</b>	Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor – Amberley Gibson



<b>Name</b>	Climate Change Adaptation Policy programme
<b>Proposal Type</b>	National Framework
<b>Owner / Lead</b>	Ministry for the Environment (plus other Ministries)
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Multiple work programmes are running simultaneously in relation to climate adaptation. Key features of those initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Climate Change Adaptation Framework intended to set out the Government’s approach to sharing the costs of adapting to climate change. The framework aims to cover ways to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ minimise the long-term costs to NZ of adapting to the impacts of natural events.</li> <li>○ provide certainty for property owners and ensure any support is predictable, principled, and fair. This includes clarity about the Government’s response and the roles of insurers, local government, and other groups.</li> <li>○ improve the sharing of information so that everyone – individuals, communities, councils, and industries - can make informed decisions.</li> <li>○ contribute to maintaining efficient housing and insurance markets.</li> <li>○ ensure people have the ability and incentive to make decisions to reduce their risk where they can.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parliament’s Finance and Expenditure Select Committee is conducting an Inquiry to develop and recommend objectives and principles for the design of an adaptation framework. The Inquiry is covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the nature of the climate adaptation problem New Zealand faces</li> <li>○ investment and cost-sharing</li> <li>○ roles and responsibilities</li> <li>○ climate risk and response information-sharing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Update</b>	<p><b>Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry</b></p> <p>Public submissions to the Inquiry closed on 16 June 2024. HBRC made a joint submission with the Hawke’s Bay Regional Recovery Agency, Hastings District Council and Napier City Council. A submission was also made by the Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy Joint Committee. The Select Committee has completed its hearings.</p> <p><b>Government’s Climate Change Strategy</b></p> <p>On 10 July 2024, the Government released its climate change strategy, setting out its approach to how it will deliver on New Zealand’s climate goals. The strategy’s five pillars are focussed on making sure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared</li> <li>• credible markets support the climate transition</li> <li>• clean energy is abundant and affordable</li> <li>• world-leading climate innovation boosts the economy</li> <li>• nature-based solutions address climate change.</li> </ul> <p>“Our Government has committed to meeting our climate change targets - reducing net emissions is one of the nine Government targets to achieve better results from the public service.” <a href="#">Climate Change Minister Simon Watts said.</a></p> <p>While the climate strategy outlines the Government’s overall approach to the climate response, the second emissions reduction plan will form the basis of the Government’s response to reduce New Zealand’s emissions in line with our targets.</p> <p>More information here: <a href="#">Government releases new climate strategy   Ministry for the Environment.</a></p>
<b>Actions arising</b>	None – submissions to Inquiry have been presented.
<b>Important</b>	5 Sept 2024 – due date for Finance & Expenditure Committee report back to Parliament.



<b>Date</b>	
<b>Further Information</b>	<a href="#">Ministry for the Environment – Climate Adaptation Framework</a> <a href="#">New Zealand Parliament – Finance and Expenditure Committee Inquiry</a> <a href="#">Government’s Climate Change Strategy</a>
<b>HBRC Lead</b>	Principal Advisor Strategic Planning - Gavin Ide



<b>Name</b>	National Emissions Reduction Plan and other emissions-oriented proposals
<b>Proposal Type</b>	National plan, and others
<b>Owner / Lead</b>	Ministry for the Environment (plus other Ministries)
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Emissions reduction plans are produced every five years by the Government. The first emissions reduction plan was released in 2022, for the years 2022 to 2025. The Second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2) will outline the actions to reduce emissions in New Zealand during the second emissions budget period (2026 – 2030).</p> <p>MfE is consulting on policy proposals and initiatives to inform the second emissions reduction plan. These proposals sit across the Government's five priority areas and focus on key sectors: energy, transport, agriculture, forestry and waste.</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p><b>Consultation on NZ's second emissions reduction plan</b></p> <p>Following the release of the Government's climate change strategy, <a href="#">consultation on New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan</a> opened on 18 July 2024. The submission period closes on 25 August 2024.</p> <p>The consultation document outlines seven key policies which the Government believes will have the greatest impact on reducing emissions. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ increasing renewable energy by reducing the consenting burden through Electrify NZ</li> <li>▪ targeting 10,000 public EV chargers by 2030</li> <li>▪ lowering agricultural emissions by giving farmers the tools to reduce emissions and through fair and sustainable pricing of on-farm agricultural emissions by 2030</li> <li>▪ investing in resource recovery through the Waste Minimisation Fund</li> <li>▪ improving organic waste and landfill gas capture</li> <li>▪ improving public transport</li> <li>▪ investigating carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS).</li> </ul> <p>The discussion document also outlines other actions or initiatives that will help to reduce emissions. Additionally, the discussion document sets out how emissions pricing, and the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme in particular, will play a central role in the climate change response.</p> <p>"The final Emissions Reduction Plan for the period 2026-2030 will be finalised by the end of this year after considering public feedback and advice from the Climate Change Commission," Climate Change Minister Simon Watts said.</p> <p><b>Proposal for regulatory regime for carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS)</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment recently invited feedback on a <a href="#">proposed regulatory regime for CCUS</a>. Submissions closed on 6 Aug 2024. The paper sought feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how CCUS activities should be treated under the Emissions Trading Scheme;</li> <li>• what type of monitoring regime should be imposed for CCUS;</li> <li>• how liability for CO2 storage sites should be managed;</li> <li>• how the consenting and permitting regimes should work for CCUS;</li> <li>• whether there are any barriers to enabling the utilisation of carbon captured.</li> </ul>
<b>Actions arising</b>	Reviewing Emissions Reduction Plan discussion document; providing advice and feedback via local government sector representative organisations for collective response (e.g. Taituara and Te Uru Kahika).
<b>Important Date</b>	21 August 2024 – submissions close on MFE's discussion document.
<b>Further Information</b>	<a href="#">Ministry for the Environment – Second National Emissions Reduction Plan consultation page</a> <a href="#">MBIE – Proposal for a regulatory regime for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage</a> <a href="#">Government's Climate Change Strategy</a>
<b>HBRC Lead</b>	Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor – Amberley Gibson



<b>Name</b>	Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023 ('SWERLA')
<b>Proposal Type</b>	Legislation and Orders in Council
<b>Owner / Lead</b>	Various Ministries
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Orders in Council (OICs) are temporary law changes to assist achieving purposes of SWERLA. The principal purpose of SWERLA is "... to assist communities and local authorities affected by severe weather to respond to, and recover from, the impacts of severe weather events [including Cyclone Gabrielle] ..."</p> <p>Over 2023-24 period, a number of OICs were passed that temporarily relaxed the usual legislative requirements. <a href="#">MFE's website</a> hosts further information about OICs relating to elements of the resource management system.</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024, a OIC came into force that will speed up flood protection works in Hawke's Bay. That OIC was requested by the HB Regional Recovery Agency. The OIC will be limited to consent applications that local authorities in Hawke's Bay have lodged for eight specified sites. These sites are in Wairoa, Whirinaki, Waiohiki, Ohiti Road/Omāhu, Pākōwhai, Havelock North, Pōrangahau and Awatoto. This flood protection work would enable properties categorised as Category 2A or 2C, to be re-categorised as Category 1, providing more certainty faster for the affected landholders.</p> <p>Meanwhile, preliminary proposals are also being consulted on for another OIC (or similar) that would enable certain recovery works to be undertaken until 31 December 2025 under RMA on rural land in Hawke's Bay affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.</p>
<b>Potential Impacts for local councils</b>	OICs typically relax regular legislative requirements and compress timeframes for consent processing. This has impacts on the workload and capacity of the respective councils' consenting and compliance teams.
<b>Actions arising</b>	<p>Consent application preparation and preliminary processing underway for some of the prioritised HB flood works projects.</p> <p>HBRC personnel engaging with Government officials on draft wording of OIC for Rural Recovery Works to ensure that OIC is clear and readily implementable.</p> <p>Compliance team following up on monitoring and where conditions have not been met.</p>
<b>Important Dates</b>	<p>SWERLA expires 31 March 2028. Each individual OIC specifies its own in-built expiry date.</p> <p>No known date yet if/when new OIC to come into effect for rural recovery activities.</p>
<b>Further Information</b>	<p><a href="#">MFE – Hawke's Bay Flood Protection Works Order in Council</a></p> <p><a href="#">MFE – proposal for Rural Recovery works in Hawke's Bay Order in Council</a></p>
<b>HBRC Lead</b>	Principal Advisor Strategic Planning - Gavin Ide



## Climate Action Joint Committee

26 August 2024

**Subject: Advocating for climate action - climate action initiatives**

### Reason for report

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Hawke's Bay Climate Action Joint Committee (the Joint Committee) with a list of climate action initiatives for its visibility. This list is intended to support members in their role as advocates for climate action across the region.

### Strategic fit

2. The Joint Committee's Terms of Reference states the focus of the Joint Committee is promoting action to mitigate climate change (emissions reductions and offsetting) and adapt to the changing regional climate.

### Background

3. The Joint Committee provides oversight of the regional climate action work programme led by officials. The work programme for both officials and the Joint Committee has sequenced work to prioritise the development of a regional risk assessment in the next year. This has meant that the development of a regional climate plan is not sequenced to begin until later in 2025.
4. However, the absence of a plan does not mean an absence of climate action across the region that the Joint Committee can support. The Climate Action Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recognise that Joint Committee members may wish to lean into their roles as advocates for regional climate action throughout the year, beyond their governance role at Joint Committee meetings. This list of climate initiatives, while not exhaustive, intends to recognise and support this.

### Discussion

5. A list of climate action initiatives is attached as **Attachment 1**. This list is not intended to be an exhaustive list of climate action initiatives underway across the region. It has been informed by work that was progressed in 2022 (pre-Cyclone) to support a Regional Emissions Reduction Plan, and regional projects the TAG are currently aware of.
6. Members of the Joint Committee may choose to lend their support to one or more climate action initiatives identified to drive progress, unblock barriers or expedite action.
7. Officials may bring other climate action initiatives to the attention of the Joint Committee or provide updates on the existing list to support members in their advocacy role. This may be in the form of an updated list or deputations at Joint Committee meetings.

### Parameters for inclusion

8. The approach to collating this list has been to identify initiatives and align these with the six domains in the Joint Committee's Strategy and Vision (2023-24). Where possible, the TAG has identified community-led initiatives over council-led projects. To keep the list focused, only 1-2 initiatives have been included for each domain.

9. Where initiatives are council-led or have council involvement, initiatives have only been identified where they go above and beyond 'business as usual' statutory functions such as updating a regional or district plan.
10. The initiatives in Attachment 1 were identified based on a qualitative assessment with the following selection criteria. Each initiative:
  - 10.1. will drive climate action that has local or regional impact by either:
    - 10.1.1. contributing to emissions reduction or
    - 10.1.2. building resilience to the impacts of climate change.
  - 10.2. has either been publicly identified, is already underway or has been identified as a potential initiative through earlier climate action work led by councils
  - 10.3. could benefit from member advocacy to help build momentum, create awareness or unblock potential barriers to progress
  - 10.4. relates to at least one of the six domains in the Climate Action Joint Committee Strategy and Vision (2023/4) (and has been assigned to the most relevant domain based on known initiative scope).

### **Risks and caveats**

11. Ongoing work is needed to confirm the status of all initiatives on this list. The TAG notes that in some cases, where projects have no council involvement, further conversations are needed with relevant parties involved in these initiatives to confirm progress and current status. It is possible some have been discontinued or are not progressing as planned since they were initially identified.
12. This is intended to be a living list. It is highly likely there are other climate action initiatives that meet the criteria set out above that could be included. As noted above, updates to this list will be shared with the Joint Committee. We are sharing the current list now to give members visibility should they wish to further investigate opportunities for advocacy or to bring other initiatives to officials' attention.

### **Consultation**

13. No consultation on the initiatives identified in the paper has occurred beyond discussion by the TAG.

### **Decision-making considerations**

14. Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

### **Recommendation**

That the Climate Action Joint Committee

1. receives and considers the *Advocating for climate action - climate action initiatives* staff report.
2. Notes the list of climate initiatives has been provided to support the Joint Committee members to advocate and support climate action, and that it is a living list that will be updated and regularly shared with Joint Committee members for their information.

### **Authored by:**

**Amberley Gibson**  
**Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor**

**Approved by:**

**Desiree Cull**  
**Strategy & Governance Manager**

**Attachment/s**

- [1](#) List of climate action initiatives for Climate Action Joint Committee member advocacy



### Attachment 1: List of climate action initiatives for Climate Action Joint Committee member advocacy

Domain	Key initiatives	Brief initiative overview
	Blue carbon opportunities	Blue carbon habitats (i.e. mangroves, saltmarshes, and seagrasses) have high capacity to absorb and store carbon. In many locations carbon sequestration from blue carbon habitats greatly exceeds the rate of carbon sequestration from terrestrial ecosystems. Protection and restoration of blue carbon habitat will have significant environmental benefits while also reducing our regional carbon footprint. HBRC and Tidal Research are currently leading a project to support this work.
	Large-scale deer fencing	Feral deer numbers across Hawke's Bay are increasing, including in parts of the region that historically have had low or no deer populations. Deer damage native forests by browsing on seedlings and saplings, leading to recruitment failure and potential canopy collapse. This browsing pressure impacts the amount of carbon these forests can sequester and store. Excluding deer from these ecosystems in most cases is essential to ensure forest regeneration. Deer fencing requires significant investment and is not practical in some areas, so large areas of remaining forest remain unprotected e.g. Boundary Stream, Maungataniwha.
	Green hydrogen development	The potential of hydrogen fuel in Hawke's Bay presents a material opportunity to reduce carbon emissions. The Government is exploring the potential for collaboration with the private sector through an industry-led leadership group to support development of the hydrogen sector. A national-level hydrogen roadmap is also being developed. There are opportunities for members to advocate for regional representation and involvement in these processes.
	Regional rail services that connect Hawke's Bay with other regions	There are strong advocacy opportunities for investment in rail services for Hawke's Bay, including passenger rail. Inter-regional rail offers a low-emissions, congestion free way for people and freight to travel to and from Hawke's Bay.

Domain	Key initiatives	Brief initiative overview
	Carbon Positive Project - Regenerating soil carbon	The Carbon Positive Project is a joint project between Hawke's Bay Future Farming Trust and LandWISE, and key project partners MPI, HBRC, HDC, Heinz Watties and McCains. It is aimed at restoring soil health and regenerating soil carbon in Hawkes Bay soils used for intensive field cropping on the Heretaunga plains by comparing conventional vs. regenerative and hybrid growing systems over a six-year trial.
	Exploring rural electrification	Rewiring Aotearoa is a New Zealand not-for-profit working to speed up the transition to an 'electrified' future. Rewiring Aotearoa and ASB are working together to explore the potential of rural electrification, barriers to electrification and how on-farm energy resilience can be improved. There are opportunities to advocate and connect key sector leaders and businesses with this work to better understand opportunities for rural electrification.
	Warmer Kiwi Homes	EECA provides funding and support for homeowners with a pre-2008 home that have a Community Services Card or live in an area identified as low-income. Warmer Kiwi Homes covers up to 90% of the costs to purchase and install insulation and an efficient heater, to help homeowners save money on power bills and have a warmer, healthier home all while reducing emissions.
	Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) programme – biomass waste pathways	The RETA programme involves working across medium/large energy users and those who supply energy, to reduce the carbon footprint of industrial processes. This includes biomass producers and suppliers, renewable electricity providers, government, regional economic development agencies, iwi and industry groups. One of the aims of this initiative is to support regional energy users and suppliers with committing to and fast-tracking decarbonisation projects. This includes options to increase the uptake of biomass as a waste stream that can be used as a low emission renewable energy source.
	Managed Aquifer Recharge pilot	This pilot forms part of the Hawke's Bay Regional Water Security Programme. It is a 3-year pilot in Central Hawke's Bay to determine whether Managed Aquifer Recharge is a viable option to help ensure Hawke's Bay has long-term, climate-resilient and secure supplies of freshwater, for all.

## Climate Action Joint Committee

26 August 2024

### Subject: Deputation - Regional Energy Transitions Accelerator (RETA) Programme

#### Reason for report

1. This report is to introduce Oliver Howitt from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). Oliver is a Programme Advisor for the Hawke's Bay Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) programme.
2. RETA's focus is on understanding localised opportunities and barriers faced by industry when seeking to reduce emissions from process heat – the energy used for heat generation in manufacturing and processing primary products.
3. This involves working across medium and large energy users and those who supply energy to reduce the carbon footprint of industrial processes, including biomass producers and suppliers, renewable electricity providers, government, regional economic development agencies, iwi and industry groups.
4. One of the aims of this initiative is to support regional energy users and suppliers with committing to and fast-tracking decarbonisation projects. Oliver will present to the Joint Committee on the work of the RETA programme to boost and accelerate business decarbonisation within Hawke's Bay, including opportunities to increase the uptake of biomass as a waste stream that can be used as a low emission renewable energy.

#### Decision-making considerations

5. Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

#### Recommendation

That the Climate Action Joint Committee receives and notes the *Deputation - Regional Energy Transitions Accelerator ('RETA') Programme* staff report.

#### Authored by:

**Amberley Gibson**  
Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor

#### Approved by:

**Desiree Cull**  
Strategy & Governance Manager

#### Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.