

Meeting of the Climate Action Joint Committee

Date: Monday 18 November 2024
Time: 1.00pm
Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Agenda

Item	Title	Page
1.	Welcome/Karakia/Housekeeping/Apologies	
2.	Conflict of Interest Declaration	
3.	Confirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action Joint Committee meeting held on 26 August 2024	
Decision Items		
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Subject: Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment

Reason for report

1. This report provides an update on the regional climate change risk assessment project. It also seeks the Climate Action Joint Committee's endorsement of the communications approach to support the public release of the regional climate change risk assessment report.

Background

2. In August 2024, the Climate Action Joint Committee (Joint Committee) directed the Climate Action Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to prioritise workstream 1 of the Climate Action work programme, and to proceed at pace in undertaking Hawke's Bay's first Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment (Risk Assessment).
3. There was acknowledgement by the Joint Committee that completing this first Risk Assessment is a starting point – that while there will be some data gaps, the intent with this first assessment is to bring together existing data and information to form a cohesive picture of what we do know about climate change risks for the region.
4. The Joint Committee also directed that this first phase be completed as quickly as possible to enable the Joint Committee and councils to move forward with future phases of work, such as engagement with communities to prioritise risks and action, and asset management planning. The Joint Committee asked the TAG to confirm a revised approach and timeframes to give effect to this direction as soon as possible following the meeting. This was provided in September 2024 directly to Joint Committee members between meetings as requested.

Discussion

Update on progress since August 2024

5. The TAG subsequently engaged technical specialists Urban Intelligence to undertake the regional climate change risk assessment and produce a public-facing risk assessment report in early 2025. This was possible due to confirmation of joint funding through Long Term Plans for climate action, and work that had been started by Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Urban Intelligence to develop Urban Intelligence's spatial risk assessment tool, the Resilience Explorer, for Hawke's Bay.
6. Following approval from the Joint Committee on the revised approach, work has progressed quickly and the assessment is well underway. In the last two months, the focus has been on collating and requesting data and information from the five councils, CDEM and critical lifelines to inform the assessment. All five councils are collaborating to share data and progress this work, including through attendance at practitioner workshops led by the Urban Intelligence team.
7. Urban Intelligence will provide an update at this meeting on progress to date and a high-level overview of what to expect to see in the final report. Their presentation will cover the risk assessment approach for Hawke's Bay, including:
 - 7.1. An overview of what the risk assessment is and what it will enable
 - 7.2. A snapshot of how the risk assessment project is progressing
 - 7.3. A description/example of the types of outputs that can be anticipated from the risk assessment.

8. The update will not provide detail of the assessment itself, given the assessment is still being undertaken. The purpose of providing this update is to provide visibility of the work underway and information about the form and scope of the final report, prior to its finalisation and planned public release in early 2025. The TAG is planning to bring the final report to the Joint Committee in early March 2025.
9. The final risk assessment report will be a public resource to:
 - 9.1. enable everyone – communities and mana whenua, industries and businesses, public services (schools, hospitals), lifeline service providers, local and central government – to make climate-informed decisions based on best available evidence and information
 - 9.2. inform long-term climate adaptation planning and decision-making at regional and district levels
 - 9.3. support council and community conversations about adaptation priorities and actions that can have both short term and intergenerational impact.

Communications support for the release of the report

10. The TAG has identified a need for communications support for the release of the report. Following an update from Urban Intelligence at the meeting, the communications approach for the public release of the report (planned for March 2025) will be presented for the Joint Committee's endorsement. This will be presented by Reputation Matters and will include:
 - 10.1. communication objectives and outcomes
 - 10.2. specific considerations influencing the approach to the report's release
 - 10.3. the key audiences for the report's release
 - 10.4. a summary of the communication collateral that will be prepared for the report's release.

Financial and resource implications

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

Decision-making considerations

12. Councils and committees are required to make every decision in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Staff have assessed the requirements in relation to this item and have concluded:
 - 12.1. The decision does not significantly alter the service provision or affect a strategic asset, nor is it inconsistent with an existing policy or plan.
 - 12.2. The use of the special consultative procedure is not prescribed by legislation.
 - 12.3. The decision to seek endorsement of the communication approach is not significant under the criteria contained in Hawke's Bay Regional Council's adopted Significance and Engagement Policy 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 *Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment* staff report.
2. Endorses the communications approach for the release of the Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment 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.

Subject: Update on Climate Action work programme

Reason for report

1. This paper provides an update on the climate action work programme (**attachment 1**), including specific updates on the regional climate change risk assessment (workstream 1) and progress on the Māori climate action workstream in relation to this project.

Background

2. In August 2024, the Climate Action Joint Committee (the Joint Committee) endorsed a work programme for the remainder of the triennium. They directed the Climate Action TAG to prioritise '*Workstream 1: Climate risk information to support evidence-based decision-making*', and to proceed with pace to ensure significant progress was made on a regional climate change risk assessment this triennium. The work programme also included a proposed workstream for Māori climate action (workstream 2.1), noting further work was needed to co-design this workstream.
3. At this meeting, the Joint Committee endorsed the work programme on the basis it was adjusted to reflect their direction for workstream 1 to progress in two phases.
 - 3.1. Phase 1: Bringing together existing available datasets and information to produce an initial regional climate change risk assessment, noting there would be some data gaps and that future iterations of the risk assessment could potentially have a greater scope and involve engagement.
 - 3.2. Phase 2: To be determined following publication of the report, but could include future iterations of the risk assessment, investment in critical data gaps, and community engagement about climate adaptation action.
4. There was acknowledgement that future work to build on the risk assessment following the completion of phase one would likely require engagement with communities, including mana whenua. The TAG noted in their advice to the Joint Committee that this engagement would be a critical qualitative step for understanding and assessing vulnerability to different climate risks. There was broad agreement that this first phase (a desktop exercise to produce a risk assessment report) is starting point and foundation for future work.

Discussion

5. Based on the direction provided, the TAG has moved quickly to undertake phase one. The regional climate change risk assessment project started in September 2024. The TAG has engaged technical specialists Urban Intelligence to lead this work, leveraging existing data and information to produce a risk assessment report in phase one.
6. An update on the progress of the risk assessment, including project milestones and timeframes, is outlined in a separate report for this meeting (item one) and is therefore not repeated here.
7. Moving at this pace has required significant resource commitment from the TAG and has meant adjustments to the work programme presented in August have been made. Sequencing of other work planned in workstreams 2 and 3 has been delayed to 2025. To explain this, **attachment 1** to this report includes:
 - 7.1. the original work programme presented in August
 - 7.2. an updated version of this work programme that reflects the resourcing priority given to

the climate risk assessment, with some pieces of work removed or delayed until a later date

- 7.3. a zoomed-in view of work being progressed within workstream 1, including key project milestones for the climate risk assessment.
8. The TAG will provide an update on the climate action work programme as a standing item at future Joint Committee meetings. The TAG notes the work programme is likely to evolve in 2025 in response to any future Joint Committee decisions following or alongside the release of the regional climate change risk assessment report in early 2025.

Māori climate action workstream & Māori Partnerships advice and support

9. The Climate Action TAG is collaborating with staff across the five councils to support the Joint Committee in delivering the climate change risk assessment. Prior to the August Joint Committee meeting, the TAG identified Māori Partnerships staff involvement as essential to the project's success and proposed close collaboration to establish next steps for tangata whenua participation in work progressed through workstream 1. This was alongside internal conversations during development of the climate action work programme about potential options for developing a Māori climate workstream.
10. The risk assessment project marks the first time the Joint Committee has actively sought tangata whenua involvement beyond committee discussions. To strategically manage capacity and maximise in-house resources, Māori Partnerships staff have been engaged in phase one to support the thorough desktop assessment. This approach leverages internal expertise and builds a foundation for deeper involvement in the next phases. Staff recommend that Māori Partnerships representatives from the five councils continue their active involvement to ensure there is a pathway for tangata whenua input within the four Hawke's Bay districts.
11. Throughout August and September, HBRC staff reached out to tangata whenua representatives on the Joint Committee with invitations to the workshop held on 4 November.
12. Tangata whenua representatives on the Joint Committee were then invited to contribute a Te Ao Māori perspective into phase one at a practitioner workshop held on 4 November 2024. Maori partnerships staff were also invited to highlight what tangata whenua input would look like in the context of a risk assessment. The purpose of this workshop was to capture input and perspectives on key climate risks for the region and was led by Urban Intelligence. The invitation was extended to the Māori Units of the territorial authorities, with representatives from all five councils attending. This cross-council involvement strengthens the collaborative approach of this mahi and aligns with the intent to incorporate diverse Māori perspectives.
13. An update on the regional climate change risk assessment was provided by HBRC staff to the Regional Council's Māori Committee on 6 November 2024. Strong interest and support for the project was expressed, with a request for another update at the Committee's first meeting in the new year. A briefing meeting with tangata whenua Joint Committee members is also scheduled with HBRC staff in preparation for the upcoming Joint Committee meeting on 18 November.

Next steps

14. In August, the Joint Committee directed that any community engagement for risk assessment work (such as risk prioritisation and adaptation planning) should occur during the second phase of work, following the risk assessment report being published.
15. It is recommended that tangata whenua involvement in future phases of the risk assessment work be prioritised to ensure a Te Ao Māori view and Mātauranga Māori are appropriately integrated into this work. Māori Partnerships representatives from the five councils continue their active involvement to ensure a sustained Te Ao Māori consideration throughout phase 1 of the project.

Decision-making considerations

16. 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 the climate action work programme* staff report.

Authored by:

Amberley Gibson
Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor

Jack Smith-Ballingall
Manager, Central & Internal Relationships

Approved by:

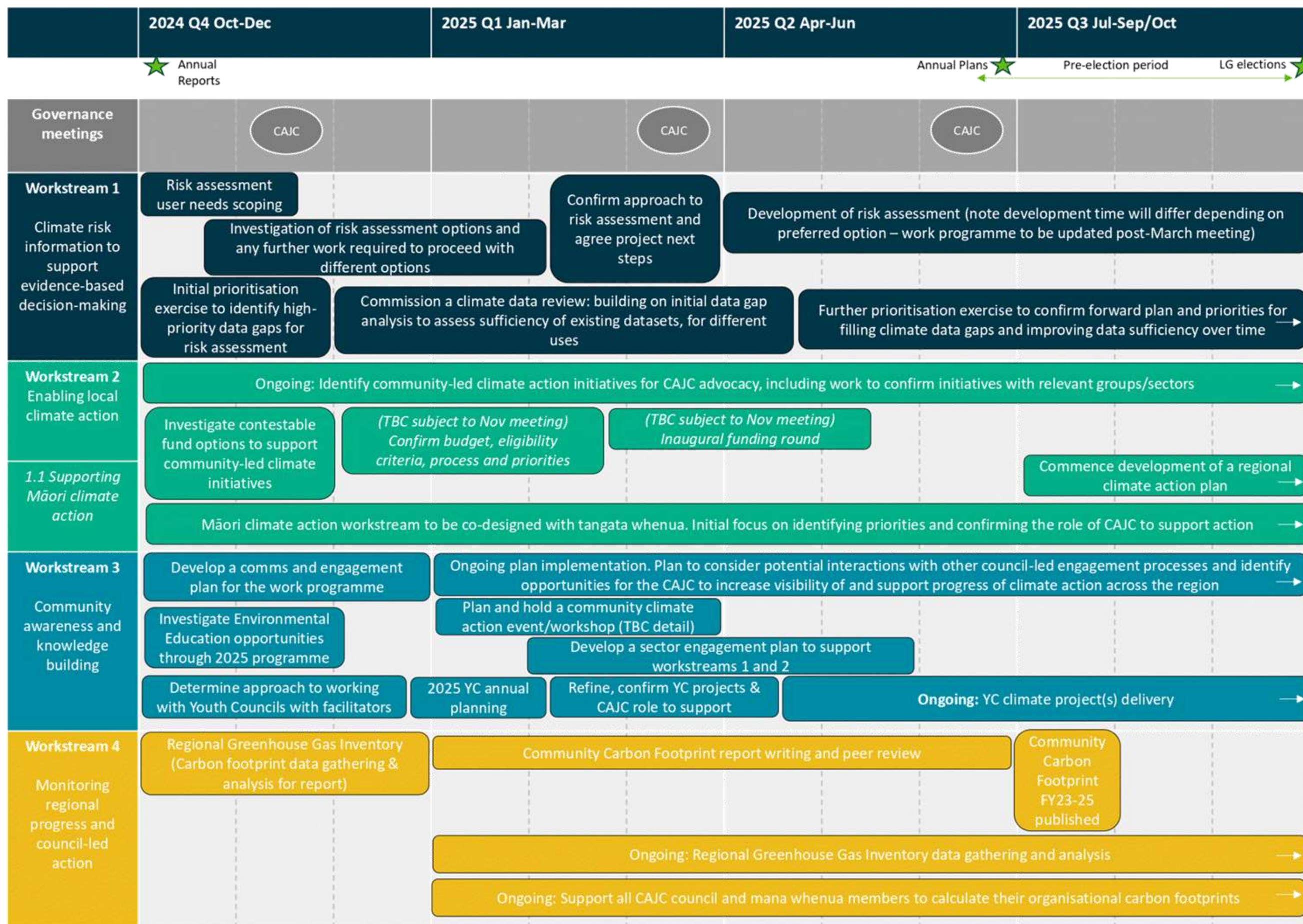
Desiree Cull
Strategy & Governance Manager

Te Wairama Munro
Te Pou Whakarae

Attachment/s

- 1 [↓](#) Updated climate action work programme - November 2024

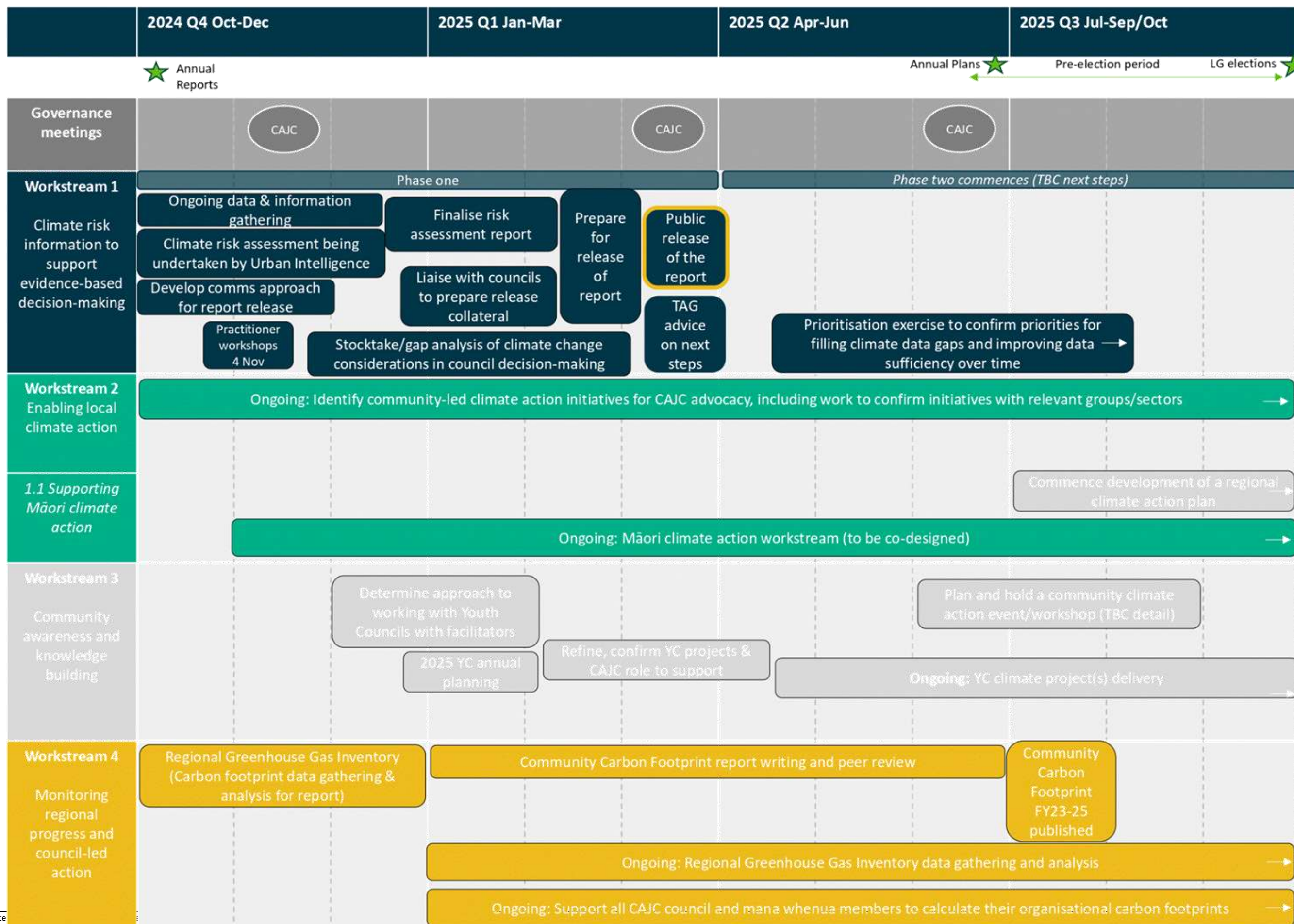
Original Climate Action Work Programme (presented to Joint Committee August 2024)



Amended Climate Action Work Programme (November 2024)

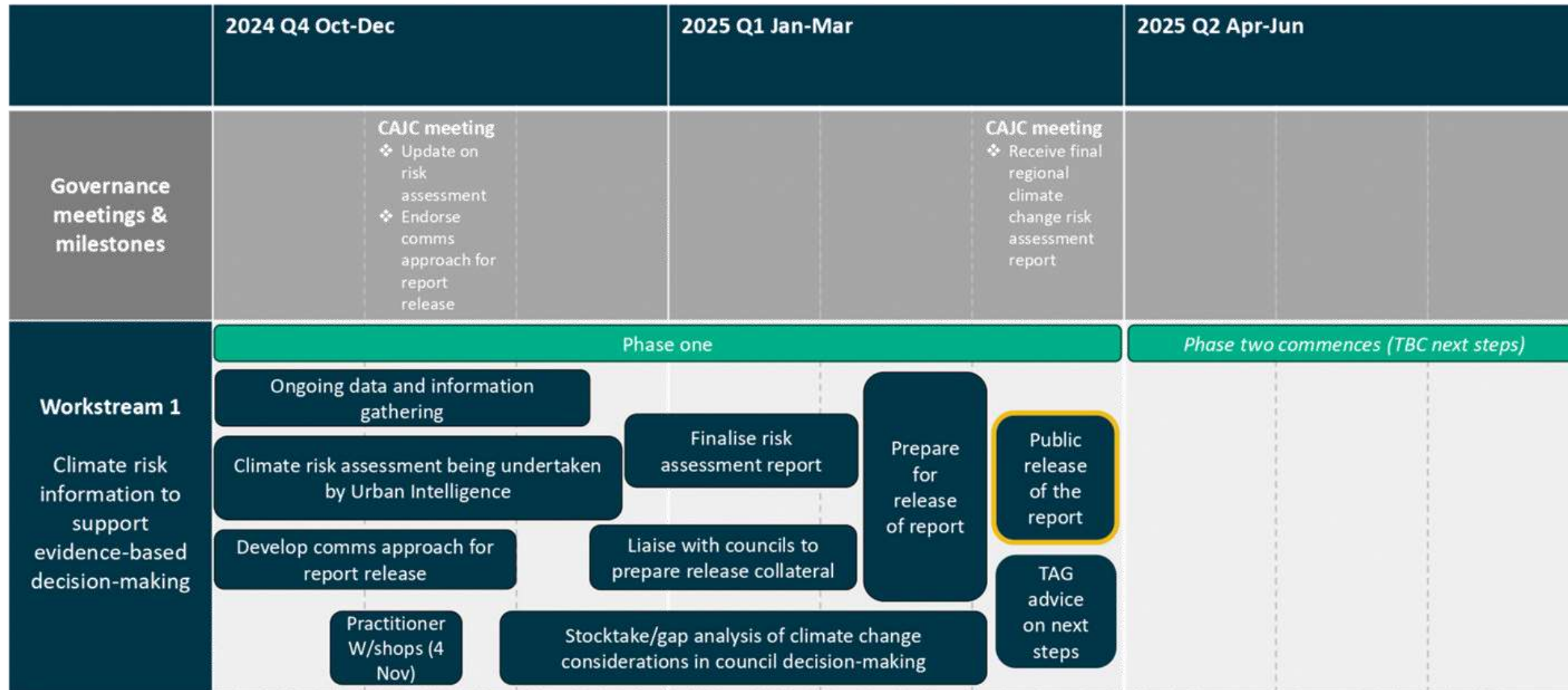
Updated to reflect direction and priorities following August Joint Committee meeting

*Grey denotes where work is currently not progressing due to resourcing constraints



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

Updated timeframes and key milestones September 2024 – April 2025



HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Climate Action Joint Committee

18 November 2024

Item 6

Subject: Update on national climate change work programmes

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 (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 national climate change work programmes* 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 October 2024

Update on key central government/national climate change programme activity (October 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.

The following summary outlines those proposals that are currently active. [Green text](#) represents updates since previous report to the Joint Committee in August 2024.

Name	He Pou a Rangi – Climate Change Commission activity
Proposal Type	Various
Owner / Lead	He Pou a Rangi – Climate Change Commission (the Commission)
Summary	<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>
Update	<p>Previously, in July 2024, the Commission delivered its first emissions reduction monitoring report. 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. In October, the Government released its response to the Commission's first annual monitoring report on emissions reductions.</p> <p>In June, Minister of Climate Change Simon Watts requested a report from the Commission on levels of domestic emissions reduction that NZ could feasibly achieve as part of its second nationally determined contribution (NDC2). 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>Commission's first progress report for the National Adaptation Plan</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.</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 Commission's report makes nine recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable effective local planning and action. 2. Provide clarity on how costs will be shared and paid for. 3. Ensure iwi/Māori can plan and act. 4. Improve the science and research system. 5. Work to ensure costs & impacts do not fall unfairly on particular communities and groups. 6. Prepare a workforce development strategy and plan. 7. Facilitate sharing of expertise and information. 8. Make the direction, scale and pace of change required clear.



	9. Make changes to improve the plan’s effectiveness and monitoring of it.
Actions arising	No immediate actions or opportunities for feedback for councils at present.
Important Dates	31 October 2024 – Commission delivered report to Minister of Climate Change on domestic emissions reduction for NDC2. This report was publicly released on 7 November 2024.
Further Information	Commission’s first progress assessment against the National Adaptation Plan, Aug 2024 Commission’s Terms of Reference for reporting on NDC global emissions commitments Commission’s first emissions reduction monitoring report Government’s response to the Commission’s first emissions reduction monitoring report Commission’s report on the potential domestic contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand’s second nationally determined contribution
HBRC’s Lead	Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor – Amberley Gibson



Name	Climate Change Adaptation Policy programme
Proposal Type	National Framework
Owner / Lead	Ministry for the Environment (plus other Ministries)
Summary	<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"> • 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"> ○ minimise the long-term costs to NZ of adapting to the impacts of natural events. ○ 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. ○ improve the sharing of information so that everyone – individuals, communities, councils, and industries - can make informed decisions. ○ contribute to maintaining efficient housing and insurance markets. ○ ensure people have the ability and incentive to make decisions to reduce their risk where they can. • On 1st October 2024, Parliament’s Finance and Expenditure Select Committee completed its Climate Adaptation Inquiry and presented its report back to Parliament. • The Inquiry was to develop and recommend objectives and principles for the design of an adaptation framework. The Inquiry is covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the nature of the climate adaptation problem New Zealand faces ○ investment and cost-sharing ○ roles and responsibilities ○ climate risk and response information-sharing.
Update	<p>Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 1st October 2024, Parliament’s Finance and Expenditure Select Committee published its report and completed its inquiry into climate adaptation. The Committee’s recommendations cover a range of matters, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ objectives and principles for system design ○ inclusion of meaningful performance measures ○ Kaupapa Māori ○ data and information ○ responses to key questions regarding who does what; who pays for investment in climate adaptation and how are costs shared for residential property retreat. <p>The Government has sixty working days to respond to the Select Committee’s report in writing.</p> <p>Previously, 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 Tagoio Coastal Hazards Strategy Joint Committee.</p> <p>Government’s Climate Change Strategy</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"> • infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared • credible markets support the climate transition • clean energy is abundant and affordable • world-leading climate innovation boosts the economy • nature-based solutions address climate change. <p>More information here: Government releases new climate strategy Ministry for the</p>



	Environment.
Actions arising	None – submissions to Inquiry have been presented.
Important Date	1 Oct 2024 + 60 working days – The Government has sixty working days to respond to the Select Committee’s report in writing. (24 December 2024). The Select Committee has written to Parliament’s Business Committee asking that it organise a special debate in the House. A date is yet to be confirmed.
Further Information	Ministry for the Environment – Climate Adaptation Framework New Zealand Parliament – Finance and Expenditure Committee Inquiry – media release + report Government’s Climate Change Strategy
HBRC Lead	Principal Advisor Strategic Planning - Gavin Ide



Name	National Emissions Reduction Plan and other emissions-oriented proposals
Proposal Type	National plan, and others
Owner / Lead	Ministry for the Environment (plus other Ministries)
Summary	<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's consultation closed 25 August 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>
Update	<p>Consultation on NZ's second emissions reduction plan</p> <p>Following the release of the Government's climate change strategy, consultation on New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan closed on 25 August 2024.</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>
Actions arising	None – submission period has closed.
Important Dates	
Further Information	Ministry for the Environment – Second National Emissions Reduction Plan consultation page Government's Climate Change Strategy
HBRC Lead	Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor – Amberley Gibson



Name	Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023 ('SWERLA')
Proposal Type	Legislation and Orders in Council
Owner / Lead	Various Ministries
Summary	<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. MFE's website hosts further information about OICs relating to elements of the resource management system.</p>
Update	<p>On 7th 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>On 20 September 2024, a OIC came into force that temporarily amends the RMA and associated regulations to speed up rural recovery works in Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>This OIC allows rural landowners and occupiers in Hawke's Bay to carry out recovery works on their land as deemed permitted activities, provided certain conditions in the OIC are met.</p>
Potential Impacts for local councils	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.
Actions arising	<p>Consent application preparation and preliminary processing underway for some of the prioritised HB flood works projects.</p> <p>HBRC Regulation Group plus rural relationships and communications teams providing information about the new Rural Recovery Works OIC.</p> <p>Compliance team following up on monitoring and where conditions have not been met.</p>
Important Dates	<p>SWERLA expires 31 March 2028. Each individual OIC specifies its own in-built expiry date.</p> <p>30 April 2026 – HB rural recovery works OIC expires.</p>
Further Information	<p>MFE – Hawke's Bay Flood Protection Works Order in Council</p> <p>MFE – Hawke's Bay Rural Recovery Works Order in Council</p>
HBRC Lead	Principal Advisor Strategic Planning - Gavin Ide



Name	Auditor-General report – how well councils are responding to a changing climate
Proposal Type	Report with recommendations
Owner / Lead	Auditor-General
Summary	This report looks at the actions of Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, Nelson City Council, and Whanganui District Council in responding to the local impacts of climate change. These four councils represent a cross-section of size and type of local authority. All four councils have declared a climate emergency, identify climate change as a strategic priority, and are taking action to ensure they are well-informed about climate risks. This included examples of collaboration between councils and the use of online risk mapping technology.
Update	<p>The Auditor-General's findings were that clear strategy, community engagement, and regular reporting are key to councils' climate responses. All four councils had identified climate change as a strategic priority in some way and work to address climate change is underway, but identifying climate change as a strategic priority has not always translated into treating it as one.</p> <p>Auditor-General John Ryan also noted: "Maintaining community support is critical to the success of climate-related actions, and keeping the community well informed of progress is fundamental to maintaining that support."</p> <p>The Auditor-General has encouraged all councils to consider the five recommendations of the report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. take opportunities to collaborate with and assist each other to understand the current and likely impacts of a changing climate on their infrastructure and communities; 2. make clear in climate strategies what their climate-related objectives are, how they intend to achieve those objectives, how they will use their strategies to set priorities, and how they will measure and report on progress in implementing their strategies; 3. strengthen the use of performance measures that reflect climate-related strategic objectives and priorities; 4. clearly set out how climate-related activities will be governed and ensure that staff understand what information the relevant governance body needs to govern effectively; and 5. report publicly on progress with their climate change strategies and work programmes, to support accountability and so communities are well-informed, engaged, and supportive.
Actions arising	<u>None.</u>
Important Dates	
Further Information	Auditor-General's report overview — Office of the Auditor-General New Zealand Auditor-General's Report - How well four councils are responding to a changing climate
HBRC Lead	Climate Change Lead Strategic Advisor – Amberley Gibson



Subject: Napier City Council Emissions Reduction Plan

Reason for report

1. The purpose of this report is to share Napier City Council's Emission Reduction Plan (ERP) with the Climate Action Joint Committee members. This plan sets out how Napier City Council (NCC) will reduce its own emissions and facilitate a reduction in community emissions, working towards a target of net zero emissions by 2050.
2. It also provides a brief update on emissions reduction work underway at other Hawke's Bay councils.

Background

3. The science (and increasingly our own experience of severe floods, droughts, wildfires and storms) tells us that taking action on climate change is of paramount urgency and importance. It is critical that the world limits warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Additional greenhouse gas emissions will increase warming and the impacts of climate change.
4. Exceeding 1.5°C increases the risk of long-lasting or irreversible impacts such as the loss of ecosystems and sea level rise that will put much of Napier at risk. Council efforts to reduce their own emissions is an important demonstration of climate leadership, and role models the kind of efforts other organisations can take to reduce their carbon footprints. The first step to supporting others with emissions reduction is to get our own houses in order.
5. The Climate Action work programme presented to the Joint Committee in August 2024 included a workstream 'Monitoring and reporting on climate action' progress. This includes work to update the regional carbon footprint, and a commitment from the Climate Action Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to provide visibility of the emissions reduction progress councils are making within their own organisations. The TAG is also committed to sharing knowledge and working collaboratively across councils to support each other in undertaking this work.

Context for this work

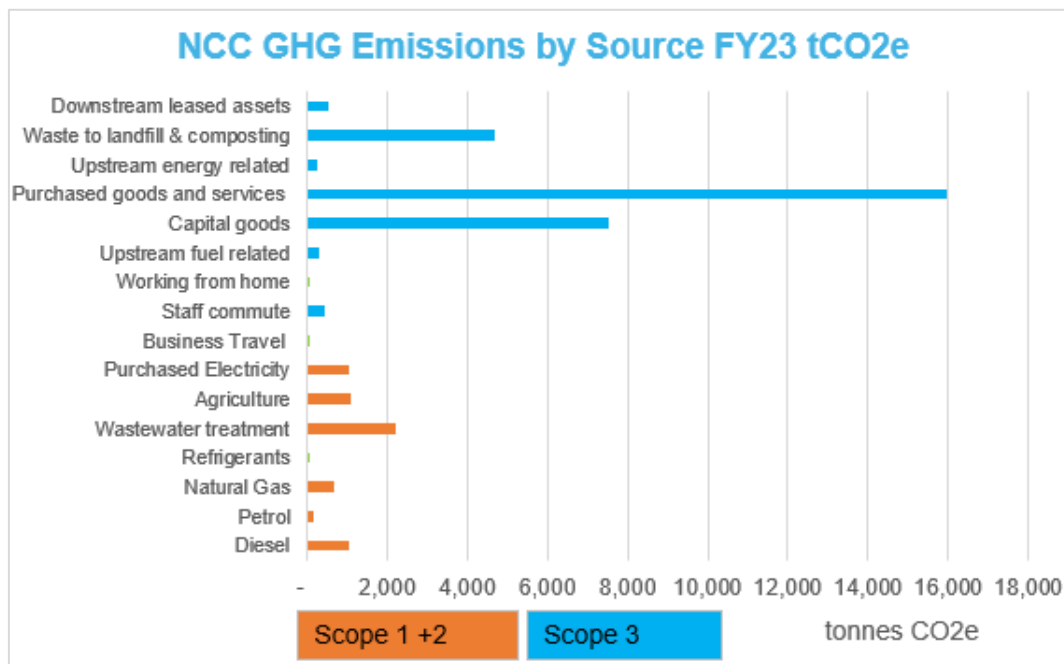
National targets, emission reduction plans and previous NCC commitments

6. In 2016 Aotearoa New Zealand ratified the Paris Climate Accord along with 189 other countries committing to keep global temperatures to 1.5 degrees of warming. In 2020, the Climate Change Response Act committed in legislation the following national emission reduction targets:
 - 6.1. net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (with the exception of biogenic methane)
 - 6.2. 24-47% reduction in biogenic methane by 2050 including a 10 per cent reduction below 2017 biogenic methane emissions by 2030.
7. In 2017, NCC signed the Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration declaring an urgent need for responsive leadership and a holistic response to climate change.
8. In 2021, NCC adopted a Climate Position Statement with one of the objectives to commit to an emissions reduction target in its next Long-Term Plan. The Statement also committed NCC to:
 - 8.1. lead urgent action to address local climate change risk
 - 8.2. ensure climate solutions are equitable

- 8.3. support an evidential science-based approach
 - 8.4. value mātauranga and te ao Māori in their approach
 - 8.5. align with national direction and commitments
 - 8.6. factor carbon footprints into its decision making.
9. In May 2022 the Government published New Zealand’s first national emissions reduction plan. This sets the direction for climate action for the next 15 years through to 2035, laying out targets and required actions for every sector of the economy. A draft second emission reduction plan is currently out for consultation and will be adopted by the end of 2024.

Napier City Council’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions

10. Under NCC’s Three-Year Plan (2024-27) and Financially Sustainable strategic priority a comprehensive organisational greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory was prepared using 2023 data and in alignment with the ISO14064 reporting standard. This inventory was independently verified, ensuring it was accurate and included all material emission sources, and now forms NCC’s baseline for reporting purposes. These results were presented to the June meeting of the Prosperous Napier Committee.
11. NCC’s activities in 2023 resulted in 36,112 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, approximately 8% of the total emissions across Napier.
12. As outlined in Figure 1 (below), this includes the energy NCC uses in its facilities, buildings and streetlights, the petrol and diesel used by vehicles and equipment, wastewater treatment, agricultural activities at Lagoon Farm, waste going to landfill, emissions associated with building and maintaining infrastructure, delivering services like kerbside waste and recycling collections, staff commuting and the procurement of goods and services.



Discussion

NCC’s approach to setting an Emission Reduction Target

13. The approach to setting emission reduction targets for NCC is aligned with the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) methodology and the ISO Net Zero Guidelines. Science-based targets must be measurable, actionable and time bound and set in line with the goals of the global Paris Climate Agreement limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
14. A science-based target is also one of the key criteria for Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) Climate Action Loans. While NCC does not meet the requirements for this funding yet, it

is logical to make sure we set targets aligned with this future funding opportunity.

15. Any credible long-term net zero target must also be complemented by an interim target with a clear plan of action on how to meet those targets. Reducing gross emissions in the next decade is critical if we are to avoid locking in the most catastrophic impact.
16. Achieving a target of net zero carbon emissions requires aspirational change, and the sooner we get started the more time we have to make the fundamental behavioral and operational changes that are needed to achieve this goal. Setting a target delivers on the commitment NCC already made in the 2021 Climate Position Statement.

NCC's Emission Reduction targets

Long term target

17. Reduce NCC's Scope 1+2 greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050
18. Facilitate a reduction in Napier City's community greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero by 2050.

Interim term target

19. Reduce NCC's Scope 1+2 emissions by 63% by 2035
20. Facilitate a reduction in NCC's Scope 3 emissions by 63% by 2035
21. The interim target year of 2035 is recommended as it recognises NCC is only just starting out on its emission reduction journey and it will take time to embed this into all of NCC's functions. It also aligns with the Government's emission reduction plan and first three emission budget periods. A 2035 target aligns with NCC's strategic planning timeframes covering the current Three-Year Plan (2024-27) and the next Long Term Plan (2027-2037).
22. In line with SBTi requirements, if Scope 3 emissions are 40% or more of the total emissions, they must be included in the interim science-based targets. NCC's Scope 3 emissions were calculated at 82% of the total baseline emissions.

Process to develop the Napier City Council Emission Reduction Plan

23. The Emission Reduction Plan was developed via a thorough process including:
 - 23.1. calculation of the baseline GHG inventory to understand emission sources across the NCC
 - 23.2. independent verification of the GHG inventory ensuring accuracy and completeness
 - 23.3. engagement with NCC officers to understand the emission reduction potential for each source of GHG emissions, current and future plans
 - 23.4. research into potential emission reduction actions applicable to NCC's assets
 - 23.5. developing relationships with EECA, Meridian, Water NZ, Aotearoa Council Climate Network, LGNZ, Mott MacDonald and selected suppliers to understand emission reduction opportunities
 - 23.6. reviews of selected other councils' targets and emission reduction plans
 - 23.7. draft ERP sections and proposed actions reviewed by NCC officers, with feedback incorporated
 - 23.8. cross referencing the actions with the capital budgets in the recently adopted NCC three-year plan and 10-year infrastructure plan to confirm budget provisions
 - 23.9. presentation and detailed review of the draft ERP to NCC ELT on 2/07/24 and 6/08/24
 - 23.10. NCC ELT feedback incorporated into plan presented to Prosperous Napier 29/08/24
 - 23.11. NCC elected members approved ERP at the Prosperous Napier Committee 29/08/24.

The Napier City Council Emission Reduction Plan

24. The attached Emission Reduction Plan (ERP) outlines 30 tangible and measurable actions that will start NCC on the journey to reduce NCC’s operational emissions to net zero by 2050 and facilitate a reduction in Napier City’s community emissions.
25. It brings together many projects NCC is already doing for other good reasons – actions to demonstrate leadership and embed this work as a priority across council, to scope future opportunities and deliver projects in partnership with others.
26. It should be recognised that this is an initial plan to get NCC started, while they set themselves up for success. The plan will need to be revised over the coming years, as NCC improves their understanding of emissions associated with the infrastructure they invest in, the services they deliver and take account of new technologies, government initiatives and respond to community priorities.
27. The next steps for NCC are to progress the 30 actions with a focus on those in the leadership category. Staff are also making progress with energy audits at 7 facilities with EECA support, plans to replace gas boilers at two sites, installing EV chargers in partnership with Meridian, Workride, updating NCC’s Code of Practice for Subdivision, specifying lower carbon concrete and other materials, adding waste diversion KPIs to projects – to note just a few examples.
28. Napier City Council’s Emission Reduction Plan is being shared with the Climate Action Joint Committee to provide an example of how NCC is approaching its emission reduction journey. It is primarily an inward-looking plan, with NCC taking responsibility for the emissions that are under its direct control or it can influence, before asking its community to also make the changes that will be required by all of us as we transition to a low carbon future.

Emission reduction work underway across other Hawke’s Bay councils

29. **Hawke’s Bay Regional Council (HBRC)** has had three carbon inventories completed for the previous five years (FY 19-20 (baseline year) through 23-24). Given HBRC’s emissions exceed 1000 tonnes, independent carbon footprint audits have also been completed to verify our emissions.

Financial Year	Scope 1 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Scope 2 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Scope 3 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Total Emissions (tonnes of CO ₂ e)
2020	787.52	37.90	275.29	1,100.71
2021	898.56	44.24	273.91	1,216.71
2022	855.69	49.22	247.71	1,152.62
2023	1,179.10	31.85	367.06	1,578.01
2024	980.74	34.54	291.47	1,306.75

30. For context, the latest regional gross emissions for 2021-22 was 4,340,000 tonnes.

Net/Gross Emissions	2018/19 (ktCO ₂ e)	2019/20 (ktCO ₂ e)	2020/21 (ktCO ₂ e)	2021/22 (kt CO ₂ e)
Total Net Emissions (including forestry)	1,702	1,277	1,437	1,489
Total Gross Emissions (excluding forestry)	4,343	4,019	4,299	4,340

31. The 2023-24 emissions decreased by 17% from 2022-23. The majority of emissions (73%) come from mobile combustion (fleet), with 18% from bulk diesel storage (for HBRC’s heavy mechanical plant in Guppy Road), natural gas (2.8%), electricity (2.6%), and domestic air travel (3.85%) are the remaining main contributors. All other (recorded) activities make up the remaining emissions.
32. The 17% reduction in 2023-24 is considered by staff to be very likely connected to the HBRC Cyclone Gabrielle response in 2022-23 and our heavy reliance on diesel through this period. The 2023-24 year is considered more likely to be a true baseline reflection of HBRC business operations.

33. HBRC does not have a formal ERP, however, emission reduction initiatives are underway, including:
- 33.1. exploration of 'Green loans' through the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA). HBRC has undergone a review of implementation and compliance costs in order to meet SBTi (Science Based Targets) which form the basis of the loan requirements
 - 33.2. ongoing replacement of building lighting with LED
 - 33.3. engaging external review of our current fleet to review private commuting and utilisation with an aim to reduce our mobile combustion emissions
 - 33.4. increasing staff awareness sustainable practices and initiatives, at work and at home, through the HBRC Green Group and regular internal communications
 - 33.5. regular fleet reporting to highlight and surface trends and to influence driver behaviour change
 - 33.6. roll out of Liftandgo, our carpooling app for HBRC staff.
34. **Hastings District Council (HDC)** has had their first two carbon data inventories (covering FY ending June 2022 and FY ending June 2023) independently audited, with the final reports received late October 2024. These reports can be used by HDC staff to guide the development of an Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP).

Financial year	Scope 1 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Scope 2 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Scope 3 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Total Emissions (tonnes of CO ₂ e)
2022	4,255.00	1,814.30	6,182.21	12,251.51
2023	4,543.30	1,280.14	6,590.35	12,413.79

35. While work to produce an ERP is still in early development, other actions are being investigated to reduce HDC emissions. These include:
- 35.1. energy audit trial in progress at the Lyndon Road Central Administration Building (CAB)
 - 35.2. business case planning for solar power systems at various HDC sites
 - 35.3. development of an energy transition (decarbonisation) policy for HDC facilities
 - 35.4. increasing waste diversion streams via new initiatives at Henderson Road Transfer Station
 - 35.5. investigations into low-carbon active transport options
 - 35.6. assessing feasibility of no-mow and wild-flower trials in some parks and public spaces.

Next steps

36. The Climate Action TAG will consider how to best share knowledge and learnings about work undertaken to date with each other, including potential options for supporting all five councils and PSGEs to understand their organisational emissions profile and mitigation options. This is indicated in the updated Climate Action work programme as likely to commence in April 2025, following public release of the regional climate change risk assessment report.

Decision-making considerations

37. 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 *Napier City Council Emissions Reduction Plan* staff report.

Authored by:

Michelle Duncan
Carbon Emissions Advisor, NCC

Approved by:

Stephanie Murphy
Manager Strategy and Development, NCC

Attachment/s

- 1 NCC Emission Reduction Plan 2025-2035 Under Separate Cover

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Climate Action Joint Committee

18 November 2024

Item 8

Subject: Deputation - Sustainable Hawke's Bay

Reason for report

1. This item introduces Emma Horgan-Heke from Sustainable Hawke's Bay.

Decision-making considerations

2. 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 - Sustainable Hawke's Bay*.

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.