



Regional Planning Committee workshop

Date: Tuesday 23 September 2025
Time: 10.00am
Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Agenda

Item	Title	Page
1.	Welcome/ Karakia/ Apologies	
2.	Natural Hazards draft plan change	3

Parking

There will be named parking spaces for tangata whenua members in the HBRC car park – entry off Vautier Street.

Regional Planning Committee Members

Name	Represents
Tania Hopmans (Co-chair)	Maungaharuru-Tangitu Trust
Tania Eden (Deputy Co-chair)	Mana Ahuriri Trust
Karauna Brown /Mana Hazel	Te Kopere o te Iwi Hineuru
Laura-Margaret Kele	Tamatea Pōkai Whenua
Nicky Kirikiri	Te Toi Kura o Waikaremoana
Michelle McIlroy	Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa
Mike Mohi	Ngati Tuwharetoa Hapu Forum
Jenny Nelson-Smith	Tamatea Pōkai Whenua
Theresa Thornton	Ngati Pahauwera Development & Tiaki Trusts
Hinewai Ormsby (Co-chair)	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Thompson Hokianga (Deputy Co-chair)	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Will Foley	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Xan Harding	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Charles Lambert	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Jock Mackintosh	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Di Roadley	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Martin Williams	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Jerf van Beek	Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Total number of members = 18

Quorum and Voting Entitlements Under the Current Terms of Reference

Quorum (clause (i))

The Quorum for the Regional Planning Committee is 75% of the members of the Committee

At the present time, the quorum is 14 members (physically present in the room).

Voting Entitlement (clause (j))

Best endeavours will be made to achieve decisions on a consensus basis, or failing consensus, the agreement of 80% of the Committee members present and voting will be required. Where voting is required all members of the Committee have full speaking rights and voting entitlements.

Number of Committee members present

18
17
16
15
14

Number required for 80% support

14
14
13
12
11

Subject: Natural Hazards draft plan change

Reason for report

1. This report provides essential background and updates on our Natural Hazards planning work, preparing RPC committee members for the upcoming workshop on the draft Natural Hazards chapter.

Executive summary

2. Due to Cyclone Gabrielle impacts and recent legislative restrictions on plan changes, the Kotahi work program was refocused to prioritise the RPS Natural Hazards chapter – currently one of the only areas where plan changes remain permitted. Working closely with JTOG and territorial authorities, we have developed a draft chapter that provides stronger regional policy direction to support local hazard management decisions.
3. The objective of the workshop is to;
 - 3.1. Review the proposed natural hazards policies
 - 3.2. Seek approval on policy direction
 - 3.3. Focus on policies 5, 6, and 7 addressing activity restrictions within hazard risk areas.

Background

4. Prior to Cyclone Gabrielle, it was intended to develop the Kotahi Plan - a single, integrated document combining the Regional Policy Statement (RPS), Regional Resource Management Plan, and Regional Coastal Environment Plan. A key driver for this work was the regional freshwater planning requirements and the then-December 2024 deadline for notifying new freshwater plans.
5. The impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle significantly disrupted the Kotahi Plan development, as efforts shifted toward supporting the region's response and recovery. Furthermore, the timeline for notifying regional freshwater plans was first extended, delayed, and finally subject to legislative amendments that prohibited notification of regional freshwater plans.
6. At this stage (May 2025), the RPC committee agreed to proceed with a targeted change to the operative RPS. The focus was narrowed to four priority areas: Hazards & Risk, Climate Change, Urban Form & Development, and Energy, Infrastructure & Transport. A supporting work programme was developed accordingly.
7. More recently, the Government announced its intention to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 with two new pieces of legislation and introduced amendments preventing councils from undertaking plan changes, with an exemption for natural hazards. In response, the RPC decided to redirect its work programme once again, this time prioritising the RPS Natural Hazards chapter.
8. Natural hazards, particularly issues and objectives, have been discussed with RPC previously as part of the Kotahi Plan development. The most recent being November 2024, where we held workshops with RPC Governors and received valuable feedback.
9. From early 2025 to now, development of the draft Natural Hazards chapter has involved ongoing engagement and hui with the JTOG and territorial authorities on policy drafting. The JTOG have provided valuable kōrero on matters of importance to mana whenua and this has

been incorporated into draft provisions to date. Territorial authorities' planning staff have also provided valued input, particularly Napier City Council and Hastings District Council, both of which are undertaking natural hazard related plan changes in their respective districts.

10. Territorial authorities have communicated that they are not seeking changes to the current roles and responsibilities in relation to natural hazards. Rather, territorial authorities planning staff have requested stronger policy direction within the RPS to empower and support them to set their rules for the management of natural hazard risk across the region.
11. The approach taken to date was endorsed at the previous RPC meeting in August. This was to continue to develop the draft Natural Hazards chapter together with JTOG and territorial authorities' input, and for HBRC Policy and Planning staff to hold workshops with the RPC on the draft chapter so that committee members can review proposed provisions and provide policy direction.

Discussion

12. The purpose of this Natural Hazards workshop is for RPC committee members to review proposed provisions, and for HBRC Policy and Planning staff to seek approval on policy direction. Given the substantial amount of material to review, the workshop has been designed to focus primarily on policies and policy direction, building on the foundation of work already completed on issues and objectives.
13. To help break down individual policies and potential direction in the workshop, slides have been created that identify:
 - 13.1. The proposed individual policy name, content, and purpose.
 - 13.2. Any questions that relate to policy direction.
 - 13.3. Links to relevant proposed objectives and documents such as the Hawke's Bay Independent Flood Review or Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy.
14. For policies (POL NH) 5, 6, and 7 a qualitative options analysis has been undertaken highlighting potential environmental, social, and economic costs or benefits. These policies relate to new activities within different natural hazard risk levels (very high, high etc.) in relation to varying natural hazards (flooding, tsunami, coastal hazards etc.), therefore form an integral part of the draft chapter. Together with the slides, the options analysis provides a starting point for conversation around confirming the proposed policy direction or developing new options moving forward.
15. The draft Natural Hazards chapter, draft Schedule (risk level methodology and matrix), and options analysis for policies 5, 6, and 7 have been attached to this paper.
16. To maximise the effectiveness of the workshop, committee members are encouraged to review the attached slides and draft material in advance. Additionally, it is requested that any pātai should be submitted prior to the workshop to ensure comprehensive responses can be prepared using the most current and accurate information available.

Next steps

17. Continue to engage with the JTOG and territorial authorities to develop provisions, subject to the direction being approved during the workshop. We will also continue to engage with RPC as we progress towards a final draft for notification.
18. HBRC Policy and Planning staff propose another workshop with RPC committee members to report back draft Natural Hazards chapter updates, including any approved policy direction that has been incorporated into provisions.
19. Finally, national direction in the form of the proposed NPS-Natural Hazards has not yet been made public. There are some key aspects in the proposed NPS, subject to change, that the draft Natural Hazards chapter will need to align with or differentiate from. One key aspect is the risk

matrix and the determination of what is very high, high, medium, or low natural hazard risk. Once the proposed NPS-NH has come into effect, there will need to be a determination whether the risk matrix (and corresponding risk levels) is fit for purpose in Hawke's Bay.

Authored by:

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Policy Planner

Approved by:

Katrina Brunton
Group Manager Policy & Regulation

Attachment/s

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| 1 ➡ | Draft Operative RPA - Natural Hazards | Under Separate Cover | Available online only |
| 2 ➡ | Operative RPS - Natural Hazards Schedule X | Under Separate Cover | Available online only |
| 3 ➡ | Natural Hazards - Analysis of policy options | Under Separate Cover | Available online only |
| 4 ➡ | Natural hazards powerpoint presentation | Under Separate Cover | Available online only |