

Climate Change Working Party
Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 9.30am

AGENDA

Climate Change Working Party Agenda

Meeting to be held remotely via zoom link
on Wednesday 25 May 2022, commencing at 9.30am

Please note: working parties and working groups carry NO formal decision-making delegations from council. The purpose of the working party/group is to carry out preparatory work and discussions prior to taking matters to the full council for formal consideration and decision-making. Working party/group meetings are open to the public to attend (unless there are specific grounds under LGOIMA for the public to be excluded).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY

Chairperson, Councillor Amy Macdonald

Councillor Joce Yeoman	Councillor Jack Craw	Councillor Marty Robinson
Councillor Penny Smart	TTMAC representative Thomas Hohaia	TTMAC representative Rowan Tautari
TTMAC representative Nora Rameka	Te Rūnanga o Whāingaroa Rihari Dargaville	

KARAKIA

RĪMITI (ITEM)

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Opening Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.
Kia mākinakina ki uta,
Kia mātaratara ki tai.
E hī ake ana te atākura he tio,
he huka, he hauhunga.
Tuturu whakamaua kia Tina (Tina)
Haumi e! Hui e! Tāiki e!

Closing Karakia

Unuhia, unuhia
Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui
Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i
te ara tangata
Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga
Kia tina! TINA! Hui e! TĀIKI E!



TITLE: **Record of Actions – 23 February 2022**


From: Nicky Hansen, PA to GM Community Resilience

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 18 May
Group Manager/s: 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 23 February 2022 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: CCWP_20220223_MINUTES [↓](#) 

Climate Change Working Party
23 February 2022

Climate Change Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Remotely via Zoom link
on Wednesday 23 February 2022, commencing at 9.30am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Joce Yeoman
Councillor Jack Crow
Councillor Marty Robinson
Councillor Penny Smart
TTMAC representative Rowan Tautari

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC CEO, Malcolm Nicholson
NRC Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, Victoria Harwood
NRC Rivers & Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso
NRC Climate Change Manager, Tom Fitzgerald
NRC Strategic Policy Specialist & Deputy GM, Justin Murfitt
NRC Natural Hazards Advisor, Jan van der Vliet
NRC Working Party Secretariat, Erica Wade

The meeting commenced at 9.31am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

TTMAC representative, Thomas Hohaia

Record of Actions – Minutes from 10 October 2021 (Item 4.1)

Presented by: Victoria Harwood, NRC Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Agreed action points:

- No actions required

Climate Change Working Party
23 February 2022

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

Presented by: Victoria Harwood, NRC Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Agreed action points:

- Action #2: Victoria has raised a service ticket with the IT department as there may be an opportunity to have a Microsoft Teams working space for councillors and TTMAC members.
- Action # 31: Cr. Jack Craw to feedback to the Climate Change Working Party what projects in the Biodiversity and Biosecurity implementation plan can be included in the work plan for year 2.
- Action #32: Victoria currently in conversation with Auriole, NRC Pou Manawhakahaere, regarding TTMAC members not able to attend working party meetings. Long term solution required. This action is to stay on schedule of action sheet until resolved.

Recruitment update and introduction of new staff (Item 4.3)

Presented by: Victoria Harwood, NRC Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Agreed action points:

- No actions required

Progress Year 1 of Ngā Taumata o Te Moana (Item 4.4)

Presented by: Victoria Harwood, NRC Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Agreed action points:

- Website link to 'He Waka Eke Noa' to be distributed to the working group.
- Year 2 project #38: There is potentially an opportunity for NRC to work with DOC in this space. Amy to send Jono and Vic the contact details for the lead worker at DOC.

Electric vehicle survey report summary (Item 4.5)

Presented by: Joseph Camuso, NRC Rivers & Natural Hazards Manager

Agreed action points:

- Future plans for our EV network needs to be embedded with our Northland council transport teams, working groups and agencies.

Climate Change Working Party
23 February 2022

Funding Business Cases for Pilot Adaptation Projects (Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy) at District Councils (Item 4.6)

Presented by: Jan van der Vliet, NRC Natural Hazards Advisor

Agreed action points:

- No actions required

New vessel update (Item 4.7)

Presented by: Victoria Harwood, NRC Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Agreed action points:

- No actions required

EV - Bus update (Item 4.8)

Presented by: Victoria Harwood, NRC Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Agreed action points:

- Calvin Thomas, General Manager Northland Transportation alliance (NTA) to be invited to next working party to give further information regarding the strategic advances that the NTA are working towards for carbon reductions, more broadly in the transport sector.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 11.10am.

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Nicky Hansen, PA to GM Community Resilience

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 18 May
Group Manager/s: 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to enable the meeting to receive the current action sheet.

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Action Sheet [!\[\]\(e1c624d4757f08486e89482c18364c17_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(fd44bd93e945cfa8875a8962f08e5b64_img.jpg\)](#)

Climate Change Working Party Schedule of Actions							
as at 12/05/2022							
Action #	Meeting date	Agenda Item	Action	Responsible staff	Status	Date completed	Notes
2	17-Jun-20	NRC CARBON FOOTPRINT (Item 9.0)	Investigate online area to store meeting documents to enable access for Councillors and TTMAC members.	Group Manager - Community Resilience	In Progress		17/06/2020 - Raised again re access of documents for councillors and TTMAC 23/02/2022 - Victoria has raised a service ticket with the IT department as there may be an opportunity to have a Microsoft Teams working space for councillors and TTMAC members. 23/02/2022 - IT have updated that no new Teams groups will be made for external parties access until after Enterprise is in place sometime 2023 onwards
23	Sep-21	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 report update (Item 4.6)	IPCC report update to be presented to council workshop and to TTMAC.	Natural Hazards Advisor Monitoring Manager	In Progress		02/11/2021 - NRC staff are applying for Environ Link funding to organise NIWA to update the report using the latest IPCC figures.
27	Nov-21	Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)	GM Community Resilience to catch up with NTA Transport Manager regarding electric buses and provide an update at the next Climate Change Working Party meeting.	GM Community Resilience	Completed		23/02/2022 - Agenda item presented on electric buses
28	Nov-21	Update on NRC Climate Change Strategy Implementation (Item 4.3)	GM Community Resilience to provide an update at the next Climate Change Working Party meeting so we know how we are progressing with Year 1 deliverables, and whether we will be able to meet the KPIs and deadlines of the Annual Plan.	GM Community Resilience	Completed		23/02/2022 - Agenda item presented on year 1 deliverables and that all expected work was on target and some Yr 2 and Yr 3 projects had also begun.
29	Nov-21	Update on NRC Climate Change Strategy Implementation (Item 4.3)	GM Community Resilience to communicate to the Working Party whether we have a contingency plan in place in case we can't recruit the staff we need.	GM Community Resilience	Completed		14/01/2021 - Group Manager - Community Resilience will provide a recruitment update at the next hui (23 February 2022). 23/02/2022 - New Manager Climate Change will look at next phase of recruitment for mid-2022
30	Nov-21	Update on NRC Climate Change Strategy Implementation (Item 4.3)	Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager to circulate the student pre-feasibility study for EV charging station requirements, received November 2021.	Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager	Completed		23/02/2022 - The study was included as an agenda item in February 2022 Working Party meeting
31	Feb-22	Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)	Cr. Jack Craw to feedback to the Climate Change Working Party what projects in the Biodiversity and Biosecurity implementaion plan can be included in the work plan for year 2.	Cr. Jack Craw	In Progress		
32	Feb-22	Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)	Victoria Harwood currently in conversation with Auriole, NRC Pou Manawhakaheere, regarding TTMAC members not able to attend working party meetings. Long term solution required. This action is to stay on schedule of action sheet until resolved	GM Community Resilience	In Progress		12/05/2022 - Discussion with Auriole, and met with Rihari Dargaville and Thomas Hohaia - an agenda item planned to go to TTMAC requesting an alternate representative for Thomas Hohaia as he is unable to attend due to work commitments.- Rihari requires some eupport with dates and agendas.
33	Feb-22	Progress Year 1 of Ngā Taumata o Te Moana (Item 4.4)	Website link to 'He Waka Eke Noa' to be distributed to the working group	GM Community Resilience	In Progress		12/05/2022 - GM Community Resilience emailed out link
34	Feb-22	Progress Year 1 of Ngā Taumata o Te Moana (Item 4.4)	Year 2 project #38: There is potentially an opportunity for NRC to work with DOC in this space. Amy to send Jono and Victoria the contact details for the lead worker at DOC.	Cr Amy MacDonald	In Progress		
35	Feb-22	Electric Vehicle Survey Report Summary (Item 4.5)	Future plans for our EV network needs to be embedded with our Northland council transport teams, working groups and agencies..	Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager / Zero carbon Transition Advisor	In Progress		12/05/2022 - Northland Transportation Alliance is aware of the need for EV planning, plan to raise awareness through Emission Reduction work programme.
36	Feb-22	EV - Bus update (Item 4.8)	Calvin Thomas, General Manager Northland Transportation alliance (NTA) to be invited to next working party to give further information regarding the strategic advances that the NTA are working towards for carbon reductions, more broadly in the transport sector.	GM Community Resilience	In Progress		12/05/2022 - GM Northland Transportation Alliance to be invited to the 31 August 2022 meeting

TITLE: Emissions Reduction Work Programme Update

From: Natalie Newson, Zero Carbon Transition Advisor

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 18 May
Group Manager/s: 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the emissions reduction work programme. The key development to date has been the engagement of Toitū Envirocare with the intention to commission the provision of a corporate carbon footprint, audit, and verification service. This is an important step to establish our baseline carbon inventory and then identify emissions reduction options to set us on a path to net zero by 2050.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommended actions

1. Upon completion of the carbon footprint audit an optimised greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan will be developed and shared.
2. As part of the development of the above plan, a framework will be developed for regular reporting on organisational emissions internally and externally (public facing).

Background/Tuhinga

Implementing the Strategy – the ‘stocktake’

The Implementation Programme that was developed to support and deliver on *Ngā Taumata O Te Moana – Our strategy for tackling climate change*, is being worked through to establish a priority order of implementation.

There are multiple emissions reduction workstreams outlined in the implementation programme, and this piece of work has been identified as a priority – to develop a corporate carbon footprint, audit and verification for the organisation. This is an important step to establish our baseline carbon inventory and identify emissions reduction options to set the organisations path to net zero by 2050. The report specifically focusses on the progress around actions 18 and 26 of the implementation plan as shown below:

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description
18	Internal climate change planning	Corporate climate positive transition plan	Development of corporate climate positive transition plan including an optimised greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan and carbon removal/offset investment plan. Will define organisational GHG emissions reduction and carbon removal targets using standard approach (UN Race to Zero criteria) and set out prioritised actions for council to become net-zero emissions before 2050, with an end goal of reaching climate positive.
26	Emissions reduction	Corporate carbon footprint audit and emissions reduction options	Commissioning of corporate carbon footprint audit and verification using accredited provider. Investigate corporate emissions reduction options across major emissions sources. Implement consistent and verifiable emissions reporting and forecasting methodology across organisation, using standard protocols (e.g., UNFCCC Race to Zero criteria).

One of the three pou in *Ngā Taumata O Te Moana – Our strategy for tackling climate change* is to reduce emissions and endeavour to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris

Agreement targets by transitioning to a net-zero emissions organisation. To do this an accurate emission measuring and reporting framework must be first established. Then set emissions reductions targets by investigating direct emissions reduction and emissions removals options. This makes action 26 the priority focus.

Selection of Toitū Envirocare as service provider

Toitū Envirocare's Carbon Reduce Certification Programme provides assurance that the organisation has prepared its greenhouse gas emissions inventory in conformance with ISO 14064-1, developed an emissions management plan, set emissions reduction targets, and made progress in reducing emissions. Their CarboNZero certification is the world's first internationally accredited greenhouse gas certification scheme under ISO 14065. They also manage carbon offsetting and have a partnership with the New Zealand Green Building Council for building certification.

As part of the Climate Change Working Party meeting on 10 March 2021 Matt de Boer presented a report titled "NRC Zero Carbon Transition" of which the recommendation was to investigate options to progress proposals for a supplier for the commissioning of our corporate carbon footprint, audit and verification and to obtain quotes. Toitū was approached initially and in February 2021 a quote for approx. \$24K was received. However, nothing was progressed further at the time due to lack of budget.

A request was made and granted to approach a sole supplier to speed up initiating a robust carbon accounting and auditing system. This work is anticipated to commence in May 2022 and is the critical first step in developing a detailed Corporate Climate Positive Transition Plan described in action 18.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Progress of Ngā Taumata o Te Moana Implementation Plan

From: Tom Fitzgerald, Climate Change Manager

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 18 May
Group Manager/s: 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This update outlines the progress made to date of the Ngā Taumata o Te Moana Implementation Plan which can be read in conjunction with the implementation plan and its associated notes.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommended actions

1. An update on the implementation plan will be presented at each reporting cycle.


Background/Tuhinga

The implementation plan, Attachment 1 outlines in the notes section the status of each priority action.

Climate change staff are working to review the 43 priorities outlined in the implementation plan and assessing the work required under each priority action. The review enables thorough planning; the identification of outcomes being sought, and resources required to achieve each priority.

Progress has been made across the implementation plan actions since the last reporting cycle, but time is now being taken to pause and review the priority actions as this is vital to the future monitoring, evaluation, and achievement of the desired outcomes in the longer term.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Copy of latest update to Ngā Taumata o Te Moana Implementation Plan [↓](#) 

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Ongoing programmes

Not started In progress Completed

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
1	Internal climate change planning	Governance support	Support and provide technical advice to NRC and regional governance, including Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee and Climate Change Working Party. Includes preparing agendas, presentations, reports, workshops etc.	Ongoing programme	Climate Change Manager (CCM)	Existing resourcing	Staff currently undertaking a stocktake of all activities included in this Strategy – including roles, responsibilities, tracking and monitoring progress. Revised Strategy implementation monitoring programme to be presented at next CCWP meeting.
2	Internal climate change planning	Climate change communications	Support ongoing public engagement on climate change, outlined in a rolling 12-month communications plan, highlighting the work we are doing around climate change, publicising milestones, and supporting engagement with various projects that arise from the implementation plan. Also supporting the development of community initiatives to reduce emissions through providing website information, environmental awards and promoting successes.	Ongoing programme	CCM + Comms Manager	Existing resourcing	Meeting to plan comms and engagement activities on 23 May 2022 Note staff turnover in comms team and new climate change comms personnel will be required
3	Internal climate change planning	Review of external-facing RMA policies and plans	Review of key NRC external plans and policies such as the Regional Plan and Regional Policy Statement, to ensure alignment with legislative requirements and updates, and any new information on climate risks and emissions reduction requirements. Also to test alignment with NRC's climate change strategy, find areas for improvement and identify areas of potential inconsistency. Potential to embed rules and policies enabling better adaptation, emissions reduction and carbon removal across the region. Existing resources to undertake initial reviews, but may require additional funding depending on scale of revision required.	Ongoing programme		Policy	RPS Review initiated. Staff exploring external engagement to support this work and work around governance
4	Adaptation	River flood management infrastructure	Continue to deliver flood-risk reduction programme across the region, using a prioritised approach. Continue working with WDC on aligning projects in the Whangārei Blue-Green Network programme.	Ongoing programme	Rivers and Natural Hazards Team	Existing resourcing	Work is ongoing
5	Adaptation	Water resilience project	Water-tank assistance programme delivered to support communities to catch, store and treat water for domestic use, to improve water resilience during drought. Potential to align with projects being delivered by the new hapū-focused climate change programme.	Ongoing programme	Contractor	FY21-24 LTP funding	Presented to Council on 22 February 2022. NRC have established a \$500k per year fund for grants to community-based providers to improve water resilience for the most vulnerable communities. Process and priorities are under development.
6	Adaptation	CoastCare programme	Improved alignment of the CoastCare programme with regional adaptation planning programme. Identify areas of high erosion risk and develop natural solutions as interim measures during adaptive pathways planning process.	Ongoing programme		FY21-24 LTP funding	Work is ongoing

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
7	Adaptation	Community resilience coordination	Coordinating and engaging with a range of community resilience-building programmes including multiple agencies, e.g. CDEM, FENZ, water resilience group, marae resilience (DIA, TPK), remote rural communities resilience (MPI), also funding partners and NGOs.	Ongoing programme	All agencies	Existing resourcing	Ongoing – refer to CDEM work programme.
8	Adaptation	Adaptation community engagement - technical support	Coordination and technical support for the regional adaptation programme, delivered with district councils as proposed in the Te Taitokerau Joint Adaptation Strategy. May include development of engagement methodology and materials/resources, support for technical hazards investigations where required, and assistance with adaptation community engagement, options development and analysis, and adaptation plan drafting.	Ongoing programme	Rivers and Natural Hazards Team	FY21-24 LTP funding	Work ongoing. Project underway working with Raupo drainage board and KDC to improve flood maps for Ruawai. Ruawai/Raupo tangata whenua led adaptation planning pilot initiated by KDC.
9	Adaptation	Hapū-focused climate resilience programme	Development of the hapū-led adaptation planning facilitation programme. Will likely include identification of community needs, partnership with hapū, development of engagement methodology, facilitation of adaptation/resilience plans, and identification of potential funding opportunities.	Ongoing programme	Hapū and Iwi Climate Change Coordinator	FY21-24 LTP funding	Recruitment ongoing.
10	Adaptation	On-farm adaptation support	Promote activities that enable adaptive management in a changing climate, while meeting goals of soil conservation, water resilience, freshwater management and animal welfare. This may include targeted hill-country soil conservation programmes, building demand for poplars and willows for integrated farm forestry, encouraging resilient pasture, aligning with NES-FWM farm plan implementation, and encouraging the provision of stock shelter and shade.	Ongoing programme	Climate Change Manager Land Management Team	Existing resourcing	Work ongoing. Further definition of programme required. Work being undertaken by land management team.
11	Adaptation	Rain radar and flood forecasting	Access to rain radar data to provide high-resolution rainfall records in near real-time, increasing spatial coverage currently missed by existing rain gauges. Will enable three-hour 'now-casting' to assist flood hazard management and civil defence responses, as well as improving river flood models and improving projections for engineering standards for infrastructure planning, etc.	Ongoing programme	Monitoring Manager	Existing resourcing	Rain radar project progressing. Contract arranged and staff workshops planned.
12	Adaptation	River flood hazards	Complete region-wide river flood modelling and develop a community flood-hazard risk assessment that identifies future prioritised work programme.	Ongoing programme	Rivers and Natural Hazards Team	Existing resourcing	Work ongoing
13	Adaptation	Coastal hazards	Ongoing development of coastal hazard assessment, including the development of hydrodynamic models for Whangārei and other large harbours and estuaries, as well as developing a region-wide coastal erosion risk assessment. Ongoing technical support for regional adaptation planning programme with districts and communities, including additional local hazard assessments where required.	Ongoing programme	Rivers and Natural Hazards Team	Existing resourcing	Work ongoing.

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
14	Adaptation	Coastal aquifer saline ingress	Installation of additional monitoring sites and long-term monitoring of salinity levels in coastal aquifers. Investigations and improvements to our understanding of at-risk aquifers and community supplies from sea level rise-related saline ingress. Commissioning of a research report with climate scenario projections may require external funding.	Ongoing programme	Science team	Existing resourcing	Work ongoing.
15	Emissions reduction	NRC buildings	Continue to include LED lighting, solar power and other 'easy' low-carbon drivers in new builds. Investigation of further options for reducing embodied carbon in new buildings, such as using structural timber. Continue to invest in renewable energy infrastructure, efficiency and investigate efficiencies of alignment with EV charging. Align emissions reporting and forecasting methodology with UN Race to Zero criteria.	Ongoing programme	Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager	Existing resourcing	All council owned office buildings include low-carbon options (LED lighting, solar power inclusion and/or expansion planned, vehicle fleet charging, etc).
16	Emissions reduction	NRC bus fleet	Investigation of options for improvements in bus fleet efficiency and delivery modes; further develop optional analysis, business cases and timelines for complete transition to e-buses in alignment with emissions reduction targets. Align emissions reporting and forecasting methodology with UN Race to Zero criteria.	Ongoing programme	Group Manager – Community Resilience NTA Transport Manager	Existing resourcing	Work ongoing. No specific plans for bus fleet replacement – expect replacement with e-buses at end of current contract (2027) Central government approached for funding support.
17	Carbon removal	On-farm carbon removal support	Providing advice to landowners to support on-farm carbon removal activities such as afforestation, soil carbon and wetland restoration. This may include: - supporting and promoting appropriate private native afforestation projects that provide co-benefits such as biodiversity and soil conservation - helping landowners understand options for afforestation that support good land management practices, and providing information on opportunities to access the ETS - help build demand for poplars and willows for integrated farm forestry - ensuring council's land and catchment management programmes align with government and industry programmes (e.g. He Waka Eke Noa) to document and reduce on-farm emissions - using spatial planning to identify land with high potential for afforestation to reduce erosion risk and capture carbon.	Ongoing programme	Zero Carbon Transition Advisor Land Management Team	Existing resourcing	Work ongoing. Further definition of programme required specifically around ETS enquiries, advice and roles

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Year 1

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
18	Internal climate change planning	Corporate climate positive transition plan	Development of corporate climate positive transition plan including an optimised greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan and carbon removal/offset investment plan. Will define organisational GHG emissions reduction and carbon removal targets using standard approach (UN Race to Zero criteria) and set out prioritised actions for council to become net-zero emissions before 2050, with an end goal of reaching climate positive (i.e. net negative emissions). Dependent on completion of NRC emissions reduction projects.	Deliverable Year 1	Climate Change Manager	FY21-24 LTP funding	Awaiting Toitu contract
19	Internal climate change planning	Annual Plan business cases	Development of Annual Plan business cases following adoption of NRC's climate change strategy, recognising that some projects may require additional funding outside the Long Term Plan process. Annual Plan business cases will be coordinated to align with the corporate zero-carbon plan and prioritise those requiring urgent investment in zero-emissions technology or investigations.	Deliverable Year 1	Climate Change Manager	Existing resourcing	No annual plan business cases required year 2022-2023. Will reassess 2023-2024 during LTP process.
20	Internal climate change planning	NRC policy review - internal	Review of key NRC internal policies to test alignment with NRC's climate change strategy, find areas for improvement and identify areas of potential inconsistency to embed adaptation, emissions reduction and carbon removal policies and standards across the organisation	Deliverable Year 1	Climate Change Manager	Existing resourcing	Staff exploring external engagement to support this work and work around governance
21	Internal climate change planning	Zero-carbon procurement policy	Develop/amend policy to require all business cases involving significant investments that have associated emissions to show evidence that zero-emissions options or other alternatives have been sufficiently considered. Investigate potential for including cost of high-quality carbon offsets in procurement lifecycle cost forecasts, where emissions-generating purchases are being considered against zero-/low-emissions options.	Deliverable Year 1	Zero Carbon Transition Advisor	FY21-24 LTP funding	Draft procurement policy under review, with new inclusions around sustainability and climate change being worked through.
22	Adaptation	Te Taitokerau Joint Adaptation Strategy	Coordination and drafting of Te Taitokerau Joint Adaptation Strategy and associated reports with joint staff group Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau. Includes reports such as climate risk overview; coastal community profiles; adaptation toolbox; adaptive pathways engagement framework; and the adaptation strategy's implementation plan. Strategy to be presented to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee in August 2021.	Deliverable Year 1	Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau Working Group members	Existing resourcing	Strategy adopted by all Councils
23	Adaptation	Te Taitokerau Joint Adaptation Strategy - climate risk and Māori engagement report	Commissioning of research report to improve council's understanding of appropriate and successful engagement approaches when working with hapū and iwi on climate change issues. Will involve literature review and interviews. Outputs will provide guidance for hapū-focused climate change programme. Conducted by local tangata whenua researcher.	Deliverable Year 1	Contractor	Existing resourcing	Draft report received and under review.

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
24	Adaptation	Te Taitokerau Joint Adaptation Strategy - communications and engagement plan	Communications and engagement plan for the Te Taitokerau Joint Adaptation Strategy, to help promote conversations with our communities about developing adaptive pathways plans.	Deliverable Year 1	Joint Communications Group (Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau Working Group members)	FY21-24 LTP funding	Progress on joint comms and engagement plan presented to next JCCAC meeting in May
25	Adaptation	Coastal habitat and sea level rise	Investigation of threats to coastal habitats, especially limits to landward migration with sea level rise. GIS analysis of existing mangrove, saltmarsh and seagrass habitat and expected impacts of sea level rise. Identification of potential areas for migration, and investigation of potential policy framework to enable land use change to allow landward habitat migration under sea level rise. (Also see Carbon removal - coastal blue carbon project.)	Deliverable Year 1	Staff exploring external engagement to support this work and work around governance	FY21-24 LTP funding	Being scoped by external parties, Natural Hazards Advisor NRC supporting. Waiting on Climate Change Manager to commence work.
26	Emissions reduction	Corporate carbon footprint audit and emissions reduction options	Commissioning of corporate carbon footprint audit and verification using accredited provider. Investigate corporate emissions reduction options across major emissions sources (see below projects in emissions reduction section). Implement consistent and verifiable emissions reporting and forecasting methodology across organisation, using standard protocols (e.g. UNFCCC Race to Zero criteria).	Deliverable Year 1		FY21-24 LTP funding	Awaiting contract from Toitu
27	Emissions reduction	NRC vehicle fleet	Investigate options to decarbonise NRC's vehicle fleet in line with zero-carbon transition plan and emissions reduction plan. Includes identification of viable alternatives, life-cycle assessments, options assessments and development of business cases. Possible short-term options may include transition of some vehicles toward EVs and hybrids; options for alternatives to replace some/all 4WD Hiluxes; optimising vehicle use behaviour; considering a shared EV fleet with WDC. Implement consistent and verifiable emissions reporting and forecasting methodology.	Deliverable Year 1	NRC Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager	Existing resourcing	Sustainable vehicle fleet strategy and fleet lifecycle plan complete. Planning for full transition of fleet to EV's, excluding utility vehicles
28	Emissions reduction	NRC maritime fleet	Investigation of options for improving the efficiency of vessels, transition of vessels to high-performance hulls and electric/hybrid engines as well as fuel-saving trip programming and behaviour. Improvements in monitoring and reporting of vessel emissions. Implement consistent and verifiable emissions reporting and forecasting methodology.	Deliverable Year 1	Maritime Manager	FY21-24 LTP funding	Investigation concluded replacing the engine with a full electric or hybrid is not viable at present. Progressing the design phase with a modern, high spec engine and improved hull design to reduce emissions.
29	Emissions reduction	Consents and GHG emissions	Professional development and training to support resource consent team to develop capacity to assess new consent requirements re: GHG emissions in RMA from 2022. May include improving technical literacy for consent considerations such as process heat standards and processes, alternative low-carbon heat methods, greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans, etc.	Deliverable Year 1		Existing resourcing	Not started

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
30	Carbon removal	Coastal blue carbon	Undertake a carbon stocktake of coastal blue carbon ecosystems using existing GIS data (including mangroves, saltmarsh, seagrass, kelp beds). Develop a risk assessment of the impact of sea level rise on these ecosystems and investigate the carbon removal potential of coastal blue carbon ecosystems, considering projected landward migration potential and limitations such as physical or planning barriers. Investigate options for conservation, restoration and re-establishment of blue carbon habitats, and estimate future carbon storage potential under different policy settings. Consider blue carbon ecosystem carbon values in adaptation planning programmes (see above adaptation engagement project - Awanui stopbanks).	Deliverable Year 1		FY21-24 LTP funding	Work underway

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Year 2

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
31	Adaptation	Adaptation community engagement - Awanui coastal stopbanks	Adaptive pathways planning project with FNDC, as per Te Taitokerau Joint Adaptation Strategy. Scoping, data collection, hazard analysis and pre-engagement during 2022, with community engagement beginning 2023 once additional adaptation staff are on board.	Deliverable Year 2		FY21-24 LTP funding	Not started.
32	Adaptation	Climate impacts - scientific review	Revision and update of Northland's climate change impact report (NIWA 2017) following release of the upcoming IPCC AR6 report in 2022.	Deliverable Year 2		Existing resourcing	Not started
33	Adaptation	Drought vulnerability	Development of further information on drought risk to community and rural water supplies with climate change. Development of climate vulnerability assessment of community and primary industry water supplies, drawing on information from Three Waters review process. Investigation of approaches for communicating drought as a natural/climate hazard.	Deliverable Year 2		Existing resourcing	Not started.
34	Adaptation	Freshwater resilience	Resilience of Northland's freshwater ecosystems in response to climate change, including maintaining/improving resilience of freshwater environments in Northland, including highly vulnerable areas; ensuring we are meeting NPS-FM and NES-FW objectives regarding accounting for climate change aspects; a study in the form of guidance/monitoring strategy by investigating historic information for identifying the risks associated with climate change on Northland's freshwater environments, and associated ecological and human health implications; continuous long-term water quality monitoring is undertaken in at least two reference river sites and one outstanding dune lake.	Deliverable Year 2		FY21-24 LTP funding	Not started.
35	Adaptation	Ecosystems, habitat and biodiversity	Commission literature review of at-risk ecosystems (e.g. lakes, terrestrial, freshwater and marine communities, coastal/estuarine habitats) and species threatened by climate impacts. May need to separate topics, limit scope and stage reports over time. (Funding likely to be both externally through Envirolink funding (research support grants) with some support via the new adaptive pathways LTP budget.)	Deliverable Year 2		Requires external funding	Not started
36	Adaptation	Biosecurity threats	Preliminary review of high-risk sleeper and offshore biosecurity threats under future climate change scenarios, potentially including human health, agricultural and environmental threats. Project will support and align with a nationwide regional sector programme aiming for consistent methodology, and provide a gap analysis and identify areas requiring further investigation.	Deliverable Year 2		Requires external funding	Not started. Requires external funding. Also waiting on national review work by Biosecurity SIG

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
37	Emissions reduction	Regional economy and industry leadership	Investigation of options to support the transition to a zero-carbon economy in Northland, including working with regional economic development partners, industry and the primary sector alongside government agencies and research groups. Investigate alternative funding possibilities to incentivise uptake of zero-emissions technologies and R+D.	Deliverable Year 2		FY21-24 LTP funding	Not started.
38	Carbon removal	Peatland/wetlands carbon storage	Commission a carbon stocktake of wetlands and peatlands using existing GIS data, with the objective to understand the carbon emissions and removal potential of peatlands/wetlands in Northland; also investigate possible approaches to enable conservation, restoration and re-establishment including changes to land management practices.	Deliverable Year 2		Requires external funding	Initial conversations with Manaaki whenua re research project to investigate wetlands and carbon storage in Northland

NRC Climate Change Strategy Nga Taumata o te Moana – CCWP update

Year 3+

Project #	Area	Project	Brief project description	Timeframe	Responsible	Funding source	Status notes
39	Internal climate change planning	NRC policy review - external	Review of key NRC external plans and policies such as the Regional Plan and Regional Policy Statement, to test alignment with council's climate change strategy, find areas for improvement and identify areas of potential inconsistency to embed adaptation, zero emissions and carbon removal rules and policies, in line with legislative requirements, other updates and new information on climate risks and emissions reduction requirements.	Deliverable Year 3+		Requires future AP/LTP funding	Not started.
40	Adaptation	Wildfire hazards	Understand council's responsibilities and the availability of data regarding increase in wildfire risk under climate change scenarios.	Deliverable Year 3+		Existing resourcing	Staff working with SCION on wildfire research
41	Adaptation	Geotechnical hazards	Understand council's responsibilities and the availability of data regarding increase in risk of slips and landslides under climate change scenarios.	Deliverable Year 3+		Existing resourcing	Not started.
42	Emissions reduction	Regional EV charging network	Investigation of options for how NRC can support the development of a comprehensive regional EV charging infrastructure alongside other agencies, district councils and industry partners.	Deliverable Year 3+	Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager Zero Carbon Transition Advisor	Requires future AP/LTP funding	Report presented in February 2022 CCWP meeting
43	Carbon removal	NRC carbon removal and emissions offset programme	Investigate approaches for emissions offsetting and carbon removal for council, including biological options such as wetland and coastal blue carbon restoration and afforestation projects. Consider options for measuring, reporting and verifying carbon removal including co-benefits such as biodiversity, water and social. Adopt best-practice approach for carbon offsets such as the 'Oxford principles for net-zero aligned offsetting'.	Deliverable Year 3+	Zero Carbon Transition Advisor	FY21-24 LTP funding	Not started.

TITLE: Tracking Progress on Ngā Taumata o Te Moana

From: Tom Fitzgerald, Climate Change Manager

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 18 May
Group Manager/s: 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

At this point in time, we have no way of knowing if our actions to address the climate crisis are getting us any closer to 'success'. This paper starts that kōrero and points to new work the Climate Change team are commencing on tracking progress under the umbrella of Ngā Taumata o Te Moana | Our strategy for tackling climate change.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommended actions

1. Note that staff will be undertaking a stocktake of the current implementation plan and bring an updated version to the next CCWP meeting.
2. Note that in parallel to that process, staff are also investigating options for tracking progress against actions identified in the Implementation Plan.

Background/Tuhinga

Ngā Taumata o Te Moana | Our strategy for tackling climate change sets us on a path toward a resilient region and a thriving zero-carbon society before 2050. But how are we going to get there? Or even more critically, how are we tracking toward that goal?

The Implementation Plan that was produced alongside Ngā Taumata o Te Moana lays out specific projects or areas where actions to address the climate crisis will be undertaken. The plan is a living document and comprises 43 actions across four (4) key areas – climate change planning, adaptation, emissions reduction and carbon removal.

The Implementation Plan notes a review (of both the Strategy and the Implementation Plan) is scheduled to occur in conjunction with the Long-Term Planning process in 2024. It also identifies the frequency of reporting on progress:

1. to the CCWP every three months
2. the Executive Leadership Team (every six months)
3. to full Council every year

Why Measure Progress?

Measuring progress is critical to support our ongoing work in a number of ways, it provides:

1. *Improved communication and public engagement:*
 - a. Communicating hope and desirable goals to work towards
 - b. Defining a common vision among diverse stakeholders
2. *A foundation for deliberate planning and decision-making:*
 - a. Setting clear goals, aligning means and ends (internal consistency)
 - b. Best fit with other policy goals (external consistency)
3. *Justification of expenditures*

4. *Accountability/good governance*
5. *Support for learning and adaptive management*

Challenges

But there are no standard set of metrics. We will need to carefully consider methodological challenges, conceptual challenges, practical and empirical challenges, and political challenges (e.g., differing values). Our own particular context in Tai Tokerau also provides its own unique set of challenges. This will require a bespoke set of progress and success indicators to be developed.

For some areas this will be easier than others e.g., our carbon footprint. However, tracking our progress with other, less well-defined actions will be trickier – such as Action 33 in the Implementation Plan:

33	Drought vulnerability	Development of further information on drought risk to community and rural water supplies with climate change. Development of climate vulnerability assessment of community and primary industry water supplies, drawing on information from Three Waters review process. Investigation of approaches for communicating drought as a natural/climate hazard.
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This action speaks about developing new information to highlight drought risk and vulnerability and investigating approaches for communicating drought risk. The above statement requires some ‘unpacking’ – what is drought risk? To whom? What scale is appropriate? Who gets to decide? Is communication of drought as a natural hazard sufficient to address risk and vulnerability? What would ‘success’ look like when it comes to drought vulnerability?

Work planned

Whilst some of these questions may appear esoteric or academic, they are crucial. They highlight that each action in our Implementation Plan needs further definition. The stocktake new staff are undertaking presently will help in this regard.

Staff are also investigating what additional work could be completed to lay out a sufficiently detailed Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) matrix. This will include further discussions with our Science team on State of Environment reporting, discussions with our corporate team on things like Long-Term Plans and Annual Reports and some key decisions on just how much to integrate climate reporting across sectors, departments, policies, programmes and scales.

Other elements such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals¹, Treasury’s Living Standards Framework², He Ara Waiora, the new Te Ao Māori Framework for decision-making being developed by Whangarei District Council as a key action under the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy will also be considered. We will also investigate how other organisations are undertaking M&E, including but not limited to other councils, and identify current and potential future reporting requirements under the Local Government Act 2002, the Climate Change Response Act 2002 and others.

¹ See <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

² See <https://lsfdashboard.treasury.govt.nz/wellbeing/>

Staff will also look to the market to procure additional guidance and support on this and expedite progress.

Key questions will include decisions on the appropriate scale and frequency of reporting, where it sits and how publicly accessible it will be, how practicable it is to support on an ongoing basis and ultimately how much will it help us know if we are tracking in the right direction.



Figure 1 The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: **Climate Change Governance Review**

From: Tom Fitzgerald, Climate Change Manager

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 18 May
Group Manager/s: 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

In July 2021 NRC adopted *Ngā Taumata o Te Moana | Our strategy for tackling climate change* – including an ambitious programme of 43 actions. Since then budgets to support the climate change work programme have been confirmed and two new staff members have started.

The finalisation of the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy (TTCAS) in April 2022 is also significant milestone for our region and illustrates both the importance and challenges of regional collaboration.

As we progress toward local government elections in October 2022 and begin implementation in earnest of critical actions identified in *Ngā Taumata o Te Moana* and the TTCAS – it is an opportunity to reflect on current governance arrangements for climate change within NRC and work toward a more robust and streamlined approach immediately post-election for the next Triennium.

This paper highlights some key challenges with existing climate governance structures and seeks to clarify and engender discussion on the nature of those arrangements and how they can best support adaptation and other climate change action over the long-term. Greater clarity of role and function will help determine the governance needs (democratic and operational), allow for rationalisation, and greater focus on delivery.

This paper is for discussion on *governance structures* only and no recommendations are made.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommended actions

nil

Background/Tuhinga

Climate governance

The importance of climate governance is identified and reinforced in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report:

“Climate governance, acting through laws, strategies and institutions, based on national circumstances, supports [climate action] by providing frameworks through which diverse actors interact, and a basis for policy development and implementation. Climate governance is most effective when it integrates across multiple policy domains, helps realise synergies and minimize trade-offs, and connects national and sub-national policy-making levels. Effective and equitable climate governance builds on engagement with civil society actors, political actors, businesses, youth, labour, media, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”

The IPCC further defines ‘governance’ as: *The structures, processes and actions through which private and public actors interact to address societal goals. This includes formal and informal institutions and the associated norms, rules, laws and procedures for deciding, managing, implementing and monitoring policies and measures at any geographic or political scale, from global to local.*

Climate governance in this context is therefore broader than that defined by the *Local Government Act 2002*. For us though, it can be understood simply as referring to the circular connection between democratic, representative decision-making at the strategic level all the way round to on-the-ground action and our commitment to our communities.

Ensuring we have the appropriate arrangements in place will meet our requirements under the *Local Government Act 2002* but also ensure that our ability to address the climate crisis is enhanced.

Current climate governance in Te Tai Tokerau

Northland Regional Council is a key factor in supporting and shaping climate governance in Te Tai Tokerau and New Zealand. To support discussion of climate governance arrangements in our region, this paper makes a distinction between democratic structures and operational collaboration. Current climate-related governance arrangements can be further split into two frameworks (1) NRC-specific and (2) region-wide collaborative.

Figure 1 below maps out our current climate governance arrangements.

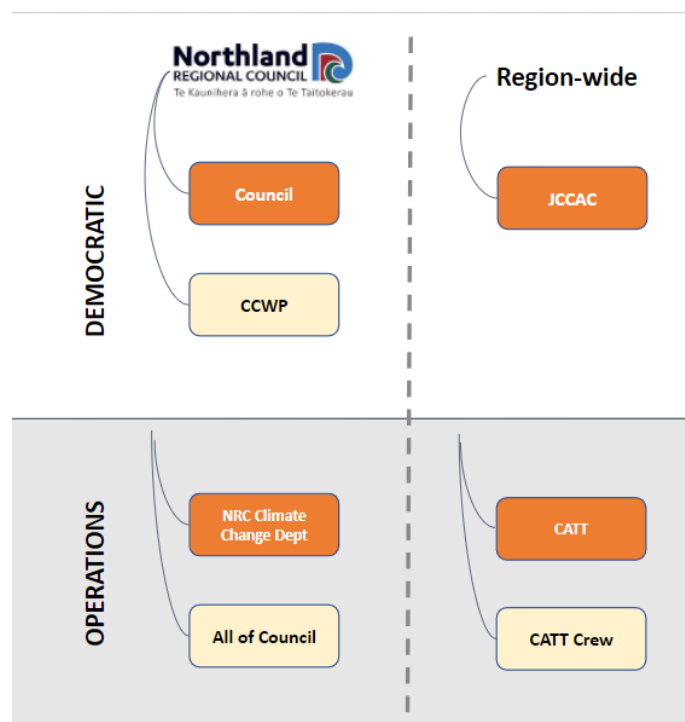


Figure 1 This diagram sets out a simplified model of the current Te Tai Tokerau climate governance arrangements, noting a split between NRC-specific to region-wide (left and right) as well as the split between democratic arrangements and operations (top and bottom).

Democratic climate governance

Each council makes its own decisions about how it will structure or organise itself to work for and on behalf of its community. The *Local Government Act 2002* sets out how a council can delegate decision-making, including delegations to a committee or sub-committee of the Council, or other bodies that it considers appropriate.

Aside from full council, there are two (2) specific bodies established that contribute to climate change decision-making – **(1) the NRC's Climate Change Working Party and (2) the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.**

(1) Climate Change Working Party

The Climate Change Working Party (CCWP) was established for the 2019-2022 Triennium (see Council paper of 19 November 2019) with the first meeting taking place on 11 March 2020. The initial remit of the CCWP was to oversee council's climate change work programme with a key focus being on adaptation planning and development and implementation of a regional adaptation strategy.

Climate Change Working Party

Chair: Cr A Macdonald

Members: Crs J Blaikie, J Craw, J Yeoman

Māori Representation: Four members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council (TTMAC) Working Party

Ex officio: Cr P Smart (full voting rights)

- Provide oversight on the council's climate change activities and make recommendations on climate change matters.
- Oversee council's climate change work programme, with key focuses being on, adaptation planning and the development & implementation of a regional adaptation strategy, improving resilience across Northland.

Figure 2 Extract from Council report establishing new governance arrangements (Item 6.1, 19 November 2019) showing new Climate Change Working Party.

Meeting frequency

The CCWP currently meets four (4) times per year, this year's meeting dates are: 23 February, 25 May, 31 August and 30 November 2022.

Terms of Reference

The CCWP operates under a Terms of Reference current as of July 2021.

Support

The CCWP is an NRC-only group and is hosted and supported by NRC. This function is undertaken by the GM Community Resilience.

Membership

The CCWP is made up of four (4) elected members and four (4) non-elected members of the Te Tai Tokerau Māori and Council Committee (TTMAC) – a 50:50 split.

There is potential for some overlap in membership between the CCWP and the Council's Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC), via NRC's nominated member and alternate on the JCCAC.

Reporting requirements

Agenda items are mailed out the week prior to the meeting. However, the decisions on agenda items, work required to identify relevant items, and completed reports are required from staff at least 2-6 weeks prior to the meeting.

This structure provides little time to allow staff to focus on and undertake specific tasks to implement what is a significant climate change work programme. This also does not allow much flexibility to participate and be responsive to an incredibly dynamic legislative and policy landscape drive by our central government partners (e.g., National Adaptation Plan and Emissions Reduction Plan) and our local government partners (e.g., contributing to and guiding proposed natural hazard District Plan changes).

Role and function

As defined in the Terms of Reference, the role and functions of the CCWP remain relevant – particularly as the climate change work programme is rolled out.

There is some overlap in function between the JCCAC and the CCWP – both currently include adaptation as a focus.

Now that *Ngā Taumata o Te Moana / Our strategy for tackling climate change* has been published, the function of the CCWP has largely shifted to oversight - to monitor and review progress on climate change work programme. It should also be noted that overlaps in reporting occur through the CEOs report attached to every full Council meeting. It would appear to be possible to use this mechanism to provide monthly or bi-monthly reports on climate change progress and undertake that same monitoring and reporting function.

(2) Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee

In 2020 the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) was established.

It is not the intent of this paper to subvert the democratic decision-making processes and the collaborative intent of the JCCAC or any other region-wide collaborative mahi. Rather this is the first step in a broader discussion that new staff have identified as being useful to streamline and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of current governance and reporting requirements. Ultimately any improvements made in governance arrangements should only benefit our communities by allowing greater focus on implementation.

Meeting frequency

The JCCAC is required to meet at least two (2) times per year, but currently meets four (4) times per year. This year's meeting dates are 7 March, 30 May, 29 August and 28 November.

For NRC staff, these dates nearly coincide with meeting dates for the CCWP.

It is recommended that after the adoption of the TTCAS, all members of the JCCAC discuss the frequency of future meetings.

Terms of Reference

A Terms of Reference is required to operate a joint committee. This has been in place since formation and has recently been changed to ensure that the JCCAC is not disestablished post-election.

Support

The JCCAC is hosted, supported and chaired by NRC. This function is undertaken and coordinated by the GM Community Resilience.

Membership

Membership of the JCCAC is 50:50 split between one (1) elected member from each of Northland Regional, Kaipara District, Far North District and Whangarei District Councils as well as one (1) tangata whenua representatives as nominated by each member council. Alternatives are also provided for.

Reporting requirements

Agenda items are mailed out the week prior to the meeting. However, the decisions on agenda items, work required to identify relevant items, and completed reports are required from staff at least 2-6 weeks prior to the meeting.

As this is a collaborative process it requires agreement by members. This takes more time and will require the development of a linear process that links the operational Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau (CATT) group with the JCCAC.

As with the structure of the CCWP process, this structure provides little time to allow staff to focus on tasks at hand, including implementation of a significant climate change work programme. This also does not allow much flexibility to participate and be responsive to an incredibly dynamic legislative and policy landscape drive by our central government partners (e.g., National Adaptation Plan and Emissions Reduction Plan) and our local government partners (e.g., contributing to and guiding proposed natural hazard District plan changes).

Role and function

As defined in the Terms of Reference, the role and functions of the JCCAC remain relevant – particularly as the climate change work programme is rolled out across the region and by each partner.

The Terms of Reference are clear, the focus of the group remains adaptation. This narrow focus was specifically decided at formation as it was thought there would be little benefit in sharing work on emissions reduction and carbon removal. However, it may be worth considering broadening out the focus of the JCCAC to include all climate change mahi as there is significant benefit in collaborating across those workstreams also. Many staff in smaller councils like ours are tasked with doing all aspects of climate change work, not just adaptation. There would be benefit in apportioning part of the discussion to allow cross-council, cross-community sharing of efforts that support emissions reduction, carbon removal and may also have adaptation co-benefits (e.g., CoastCare, planting programmes, blue carbon initiatives etc.).

Inter-council networks on climate change have already sprung up in this space to encourage practitioner support, sharing and efficiency (e.g., the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network, Taituarā and LGNZ hosted groups etc.). It would make sense to use our existing region-wide forum to host these important conversations.

Operational Structures

For NRC, climate change implementation work is led by the Climate Change Team under the Community Resilience Group. As climate change touches upon all aspects of council business, every team within council has climate change responsibilities and undertakes work that helps address the climate crisis.

From a region-wide perspective there are two operational climate change groups: **(1) the Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau (CATT) group, and (2) the council staff CATT Crew.**

(1) Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau (CATT)

Meeting frequency

Although no formal arrangements or schedules are in place, the CATT group also meets four (4), sometimes six (6) times per year. Over the last few years, the number of meetings has responded to changing demands, particularly as the joint regional adaptation strategy was in development.

Aside from ongoing reviews to the TTCAS, the function of the CATT will largely shift to monitoring and review of adaptation actions. Specifically, each of the 46 Priority Actions identified in that document. There is a significant workload in each of those actions.

Terms of Reference

A draft Terms of Reference has been in existence since at least 2018, however it has never been finalised or formally adopted. The relationship between this group and the JCCAC requires further clarification (including in each Terms of Reference).

This is a operational level group that provides advice to the JCCAC.

The interaction between each Council's communications and engagement teams and the work of this group requires further clarification.

Support

The CATT is sponsored by KDC, however there is no agreement as to the sharing of administrative support services across councils

There exist gaps in meeting administrative support e.g. logistics, mailing lists, agendas, minutes and easily accessible shared IT systems.

An ad-hoc Microsoft Teams platform has been established, initially to support cross-council communications and engagement teams collaborate on development of a joint regional communications and engagement plan.

Membership

There is an evolving membership list to this group. The draft Terms of Reference outline that membership includes staff from each of the four (4) councils, plus tangata whenua representatives as nominated by each council's own Māori advisory group (e.g., TTMAC, Te Huinga, Te Kahu o Taonui, and KDC's two Trust entities – Te Roroa and Te Uri o Hau). Without a clear mandate and sufficient resourcing, appropriate representation and participation by tangata whenua is a critical but ongoing struggle. Current arrangements do not allow for a clear distinction between democratic and operational functions potentially leading to risks around transparency, accountability and workload. This lack of clarity has the potential to undermine collaborative efforts and our Tiriti partnership.

It is also unclear as to what role Group / General Managers from all four councils should play in this group.

Additional members also include other relevant agencies, although this is done on an ad-hoc basis. Current agencies include Northland Lifelines Group, Northland Transport Alliance, Four Waters Advisory Group and the Northland DHB.

Reporting requirements

There are no set reporting requirements for this group.

Role and function

There is no set role or function of this group. The draft Terms of Reference identify three main areas of focus for this group – data and modelling, planning and engagement.

The role and function of both this group and the JCCAC has been queried by members because of the branding and identity work package that was initiated in 2021 to support the roll out and release of the TTCAS. This initiative has highlighted some of the current challenges around climate governance – in particular the potential for overlap between democratic and operational climate governance arrangements.

(2) CATT Crew – staff operations

This group now meets fortnightly and acts as the engine room of climate change related mahi within each of the four (4) JCCAC member councils. This is an operational, key staff led group consisting of at least two (2) staff from each Council with one role being the climate change or adaptation lead and the other being the communications lead. There is no tangata whenua participation in this group.

Current climate governance structures in the region are presented in Figure 3 and Figure 4 below.

Figure 3 Current configuration of region-wide collaborative climate governance arrangements.

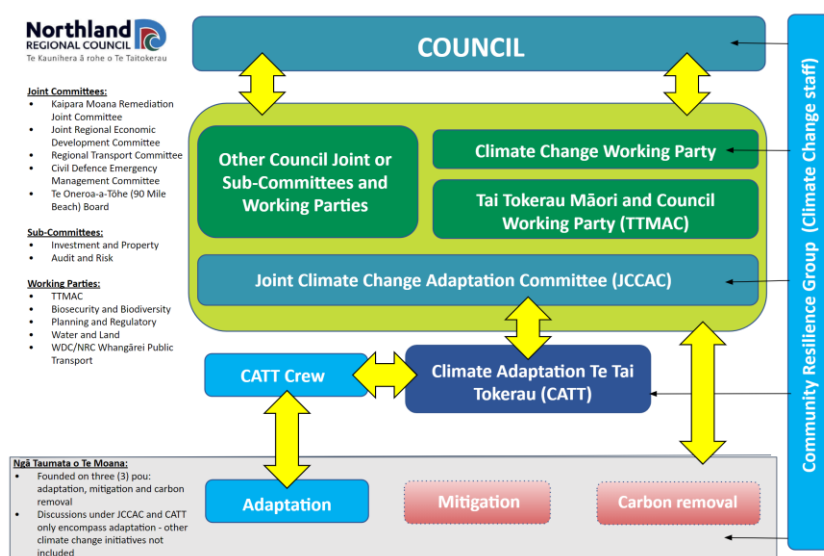
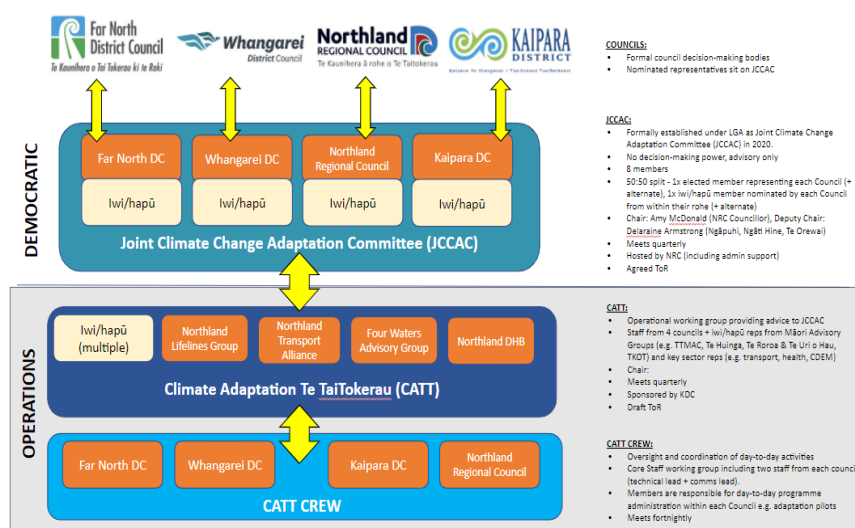


Figure 4 Current climate governance arrangements at Northland Regional Council. Note that Ngā Taumata o Te Moana | Our strategy for tackling climate change includes the three (3) climate change pou of adaptation, mitigation and carbon removal. This sits in contrast with the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy which only focuses on adaptation..

Concluding comments

Getting the right governance arrangements in place to support climate action is critical. It has been recognised as a key risk in the National Climate Change Risk Assessment, the draft National Adaptation Plan (in how it seeks to address system-wide risks), previous and ongoing adaptation efforts in other jurisdictions and in the latest scientific literature (including in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Reports).

Te Tai Tokerau is well positioned already in this space, but more could be done. This paper attempts to highlight existing climate governance arrangements and identify opportunities for improvement and discussion with partners. There are many challenges ahead.

The coming elections also pose a challenge in that the make-up of each council, including the number of councillors and inclusion of Māori wards is changing.

Staff suggest an open discussion begins on the most appropriate governance arrangements to support climate change work (across all three pou – adaptation, emission reduction and carbon removal). This mahi must seek to work against existing patterns of inequity and strive to tackle vulnerabilities at their root.

For adaptation, detailed consideration will need to be given to the respective roles of regional and district councils, including those mandated by legislation (e.g., RMA, LGA, Building Act etc.), funding and financing (refer to the ongoing discussion in the Hawkes Bay that has arisen from their first coastal adaptation project at Clifton to Tangoio), overlapping or conflicting responsibilities (e.g., around the Coastal Marine Area). The sooner these arrangements are finalised and entered into, the better. This will require intensive and robust negotiations between JCCAC partners. Staff are in the process of engaging a governance consultant to build on work the Far North District Council has undertaken for their district, with a focus on NRC led governance and the interactions and tensions between regional and district climate related policies.

The intent of this work is to highlight further opportunities to support each other as partners in our collective climate change work programme. This will support several Priority Actions in Appendix 1 of the TTCAS as well as critical actions under the Ngā Taumata o Te Moana work programme. Further updates can be provided as work progresses.

It is noted that appropriate governance structures will also be critical in supporting and shaping the success of Community Adaptation Planning processes, like that already begun in Ruawai/Raupō.

Consideration should also be given to developing an appropriate delegation for joint committees and enhancing the process for joint regional submissions into new legislative or policy developments from central government.

Following discussions, and in conjunction with partners (including iwi/hapū representatives) staff would be happy to draft up a new potential governance structure for presentation at a subsequent meeting or workshop.

The challenge will be to ensure an appropriate balance of efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability without limiting the organisation's ability to respond proactively to the climate emergency.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil