

Supplementary Information by

Hamilton City Council

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL'S 2 JULY 2019 SUBMISSION TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE (ZERO CARBON) AMENDMENT BILL

8 August 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 2 July 2019, Hamilton City Council (HCC) made a submission to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill – refer Appendix 1.
- 1.2 As noted in its submission, HCC is committed to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change and supports the intention and direction of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill (the Bill).
- 1.3 HCC's submission also outlined a number of initiatives that it is actively engaged in which contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 1.4 We also noted in the submission that HCC:
 - Wishes to be heard by Parliament's Environment Committee in support of its 2 July 2019 submission to the Bill.
 - Will provide supplementary information at the hearings (as part of its 2 July 2019 submission) after a report on various climate change issues is considered at the 8 August 2019 Council meeting.

2.0 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - KEY POINTS

- 2.1 The following outlines a number of the key points HCC wishes to table and speak to Parliament's Environment Committee about at the hearings for the Bill.
- 2.2 **Climate Change Commission Requirements**
- 2.3 HCC supports the purpose and establishment of a Climate Change Commission as outlined in the Bill, noting that the Commission will provide independent expert advice on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as monitor and review progress towards both these components.
- 2.4 We look forward to working with the Commission and to ensuring that HCC is in a position to provide key information that will be required as part of the Commission's ongoing monitoring and reporting requirements around mitigation and adaptation information to Government.
- 2.5 HCC believes it is imperative that the Commission establish clear, concise and standardised criteria/guidelines when seeking information around mitigation and adaptation information from councils and other organisations.

2.6 Support for LGNZ's Submission to the Bill

2.7 HCC is supportive of LGNZ's submission to the Bill, with their key themes being:

- Local government will be critical to the progress New Zealand makes on both adaptation and mitigation. The Bill must therefore more explicitly recognise local government as a key partner in enabling New Zealand to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Local government needs to be provided with guidance, tools and resources to enable it to meaningfully contribute to emissions reductions, and deliver adaptation action at the local level, where it is best-suited to take place. This recognises that the effects of climate change are by definition local and will vary from place to place.
- The Government needs to substantively and substantially increase its focus on, and resource dedicated to, climate change adaptation as a matter of urgency.

2.8 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

2.9 As noted in our 2 July 2019 submission, HCC is actively engaged in a number of actions which contribute to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

2.10 Such actions, in tandem with the actions of other key partners/stakeholders, will be further evaluated as to their impact/effectiveness on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions for both HCC and Hamilton.

2.11 There will be a focus on identifying those actions that are demonstrated to produce the largest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

2.12 Similarly, various climate change adaptation measures being undertaken by HCC and those of other key partners/stakeholders will also be evaluated and investigated.

2.13 Potential mitigation and adaptation measures will also be explored and evaluated.

2.14 Such work will be undertaken in partnership with Waikato Tainui, other key stakeholders and the community.

2.15 HCC also strongly supports LGNZ's view around central government partnership and support for local government around addressing climate change. As noted in LGNZ's submission:

- As a matter of urgency, considerable additional work needs to be done to support local governments to, along with their communities, undertake adaptive action at the local level.
- Local government needs central government to work in partnership with it to allocate roles and responsibilities for climate change adaptation; apportion risk between central government, local government and communities; develop a legal framework that supports councils to take adaptive action, and reduces their liability risks; develop consistent national direction on how to approach adaptation; and to address issues related to funding and financing of the costs of climate change adaptation.

2.16 New Zealand Productivity Commission's View on Climate Change

2.17 The view of HCC and LGNZ advocating central government partnership and support for local government in climate change matters is also shared by the New Zealand Productivity Commission in its recently released draft report on Local Government Funding and Financing.

2.18 In particular, HCC supports the following observations and recommendations by the Commission:

- As the impacts of climate change unfold over coming decades, local authorities will face a significant and growing challenge. **Future sea-level rise and increased flood risk from climate change directly threaten local government infrastructure** such as roads and bridges, as well as stormwater, wastewater and flood-protection assets. Moreover, councils are responsible for planning and regulating development on at-risk land.

- To help local government prepare for the impacts of climate change, **central government should take the lead on providing high-quality and consistent science and data, standard setting, and legal and decision-making guidance.** Institutional and legislative frameworks also need to move from their current focus on recovery after an event towards reducing risk before an event.
- **Government should extend the role of the NZ Transport Agency in co-funding local roads** to include assistance to councils facing significant threats to the viability of local roads and bridges from climate change (*Note: HCC supports this initiative, so long as such funding is also available to build resilience into at-risk roads and bridges, and that it is 'new' funding and doesn't divert funding away from the NZ Transport Agency's funding of existing and planned projects*).
- The Commission also recommends that the **Government creates a climate-resilience agency and associated fund to help at-risk councils** redesign, and possibly relocate and rebuild, wastewater, stormwater and flood-protection infrastructure threatened by the impacts of climate change.

3.0 CLARIFICATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION POINTS

- 3.1 Should Parliament's Environment Committee require clarification of the above supplementary information points, or additional information, please contact Sean Hickey (General Manager, Strategy and Communication) on 07 838 6432, email sean.hickey@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Appendix 1

Submission by

Hamilton City Council

CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE (ZERO CARBON) AMENDMENT BILL

2 July 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hamilton City Council (HCC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.
- 1.2 HCC is committed to adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change and supports the intention and direction of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2016, Hamilton City Council adopted a set of sustainability principles which underpin how sustainability is considered in the Council's decision-making processes and operations. This includes the principle: *"HCC works with central government to deliver on national greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and supports resilience to climate change in our communities"*.
- 2.2 As such, HCC is actively engaged in a number of initiatives which contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Major initiatives include:
 - A significant investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, including \$52m of biking plan projects and a doubling of the footpath maintenance and repair budget.
 - A Mass Transit Plan for the city, produced with Waikato Regional Council, the NZ Transport Agency and neighbouring districts, to enable the movement of more people more efficiently.
 - Working with the Government and other partners on progressing a passenger rail service between Hamilton and Auckland.
 - Replacement of Hamilton's streetlights with new energy efficient LED lanterns (with a 50% reduction in energy usage over standard streetlights).
 - The development and extension of Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park.
 - The introduction of a new kerbside rubbish and recycling service in 2020, which aims to significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
 - An Energy Management Programme, which includes a Carbon Emissions Reduction Programme and has resulted in millions of kilowatt hours of energy saved since 2001.
 - A draft Biodiversity Strategy that aims to significantly increase the level of indigenous vegetation in Hamilton and restore the region's biodiversity.

3.0 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION AND HEARINGS

- 3.1 Hamilton City Council is due to meet on 8 August 2019 to consider wider issues relating to climate change, including consideration of the implications and obligations of declaring a 'climate change emergency'.
- 3.2 **Please note that HCC will be providing supplementary information to this submission after the report on climate change issues is considered at the 8 August 2019 Council meeting.**
- 3.3 HCC **does wish to speak** in support of this submission at the hearings for the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.
- 3.4 Should Parliament's Environment Committee require clarification of the above points, or additional information, please contact Sean Hickey (General Manager, Strategy and Communication) on 07 838 6432, email sean.hickey@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.

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