

11 REPORTS | NGĀ PŪRONGO

11.1 PORIRUA CITY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

Author: Angela Sutherland, Senior Climate Resilience Advisor

Authoriser: Nicola Etheridge, General Manager Policy Planning and Regulatory Services
Pouwhakahaere Whakamahere Kaupapahere me ngā Raton

KAUPAPA

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to seek Council approval of Porirua City Council's proposed three-phased approach to climate change adaptation which was discussed at a workshop of Council on 16 November 2023.

NGĀ TŪTOHUTANGA

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council | Te Kaunihera o Porirua:

1. Receive the report.
2. Agree to approve the proposed three-phased approach to climate change adaptation, Porirua City Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
3. Agree to approve the initiation of Phase 1 of the proposed adaptation programme: Climate change impact asset management planning.

Reports contain recommendations only. Refer to the meeting minutes for the final decision.

HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

BACKGROUND

1. Porirua City has committed, through the Climate Change Strategy *Rautaki o te Ao Hurihuri* to engage with communities vulnerable to sea level rise and flooding in order to prepare for and build resilience to climate change impacts. This work has been committed to in the LTP 2021 - 2051.
2. The proposed Adaptation Programme is aligned with the Strategic Priority *Proactively responding to the climate crisis* and with Principle Ono in the refreshed Growth Strategy 2053 *A low carbon and resilient city*. Nationally it is aligned with the National Adaptation Plan and Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Strategy, and internationally with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.
3. Climate hazards are affecting the community now. Porirua City will experience more frequent and extreme weather events. Approximately 1,100 homes in Porirua will be vulnerable to 1m sea level rise by the end of the century. Just under 600 homes are currently vulnerable to coastal erosion and inundation.
4. Council's largely reactive approach to severe weather events so far is a significant cost to Council: \$30m capex has been spent on clean-up after floods, slips and other storm damage in the last 10 years. This is a costly and inequitable response to climate hazards affecting Porirua City.

5. As part of Council's Proposed District Plan, a coastal hazards assessment was undertaken. Council engaged with eight of the City's most hazard vulnerable coastal communities: Pukerua Bay, Hongoeka, Karehana Bay, Plimmerton, Tītahi Bay, Pāuatahanui, Golden Gate Beaches, the Central Business District and vicinity. It was agreed that council would engage with these communities to develop site-specific adaptive management plans.
6. There is an ongoing reallocation of risk that is impacting and exposing the community and council, including increasing threat of insurance retreat.
7. New Zealand's first National Adaptation Plan 2022 sets the national direction for adaptation. While adaptation planning is not mandated, local authorities are expected to take the lead as part of their natural hazard management role. The Parliamentary Environment Committee has launched an inquiry into climate adaptation which Council has submitted on. This is intended to feed into the Climate Adaptation Bill in 2024 and may provide more direction and funding.
8. The recently elected coalition government has created some uncertainty regarding the political direction on climate issues, although to date, there has been no indication of changing government direction on adaptation by the incoming government. It is advisable to position Council to meet possible future government mandates to undertake adaptation planning and be prepared for government funding if it becomes available. Being ready in advance will provide a strategic edge in accessing potential funding streams.
9. Council is working with councils across the Wellington region on the Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment. This will lead into a Regional Adaptation Plan that Council will want to influence and align with.
10. The proposed three-phased approach to climate change adaptation was workshopped with Council in November 2023.

NGĀ MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA

DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

11. A three-phased approach to climate change adaptation is proposed to ensure that, before engaging with communities, Porirua City Council would have a clear picture of:
 - i. The impacts of climate hazards on Council assets, potential adaptation options and the costs of implementing those options;
 - ii. The implications for local government of the Parliamentary Environment Committee Inquiry into Climate Adaptation (which Porirua City Council has submitted on) and Climate Adaptation Bill proposed to be drafted in 2024; and
 - iii. The impact of the newly elected coalition government on legislation relating to adaptation.
12. The proposed phases are as follows:

Phase 1: Climate change impact asset management planning

It is proposed that Phase 1 gathers information to form the basis of future direction and options. It will involve:

- i. Internal engagement with asset managers about assets at risk across the city.
- ii. Addressing any gaps in risk or asset data.
- iii. Collating all asset and risk information into a GIS tool.
- iv. Cost benefit analysis of adaptation options for key assets at risk including protection, accommodation, retreat, avoidance.
- v. Reporting and recommendations.

Phase 2: Understand implications for Porirua City of the Parliamentary Environment Committee Inquiry into Climate Adaptation and the Climate Adaptation Bill (expected 2024).

- i. Central government has not yet announced any funding for climate adaptation.
- ii. The Parliamentary Environment Committee Inquiry into climate adaptation will feed into the Climate Adaptation Bill and is expected to address adaptation funding and financing and managed retreat.
- iii. The outcomes of the inquiry are likely to have funding implications for local government undertaking adaptation planning.

Phase 3: Engage with communities on adaptation options.

- i. With a sound understanding of adaptation costs, options and the implications of the new legislation, Council would be well-positioned to engage in informed adaptation conversations with the community.
 - ii. This phase would include deepening understanding of the climate hazards Council is facing, the roles and responsibilities of Council and other agencies and practical and affordable options to address climate hazards.
 - iii. This approach would enable expectations to be managed regarding feasible and affordable adaptation responses.
13. It is proposed that a workshop is held with Council on completion of each phase of the proposed adaptation programme to seek feedback and guidance.
14. Note that the district planning team is currently scoping potential future work on geohazards across the city which would likely further inform the proposed adaptation programme.

KŌRERO WHAKAKAPI

CONCLUSION

15. The proposed three-phased approach to Porirua City's Climate Change Adaptation Programme would ensure that community expectations could be effectively managed regarding the feasibility and affordability of adaptation options.

NGĀ MŌHIOHIO TAUTOKO SUPPORTING INFORMATION

E TINO WHAI WĀHI ANA KI TE AHUNGA RAUTAKI A TE KAUNIHERA CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The issues in this report contribute to the strategic priority of *proactively respond to the climate crisis*. The proposed adaptation programme also contributes to the commitment made in the Long-term Plan 2021 – 2051 to start adaptation planning in 2023/ 2024.

NGĀ WHIRIWHIRINGA Ā-PŪTEA FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cost

Costs for Phase 1 of the programme would be paid from the existing Climate and Environmental Planning budget.

Phase 2 would not incur additional costs.

Costs for Phase 3 would be calculated on completion of Phases 1 and 2.

Financial Implications

Costs would be borne by the Climate and Environmental Planning budget. External funding would be sought where possible.

Ongoing Cost

Ongoing engagement costs would be calculated at the completion of Phases 1 and 2.

Funding Source

Climate and Environmental Planning operational budget. Additional funding may be required for the proposed Phase 3. Magnitude of funding will depend on the approach approved by Council.

Additional funding for adaptation may become available through central government.

NGĀ WHAKARITENGA Ā-TURE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

There is currently no legal requirement to undertake adaptation planning.

NGĀ ORANGA E WHĀ FOUR WELLBEINGS

This programme of work contributes to all four wellbeings, in particular, social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

TE WHAKAMANA I NGĀ MĀTĀPONO O TE TIRITI RECOGNITION OF TREATY PRINCIPLES

Māori communities are likely to be disproportionately affected and/ or face specific inequities arising from the impacts of climate change. The views of mana whenua will be central to adaptation planning both in their role as Treaty partner and mana whenua, and as owners of private property and assets in the community.

HIRANGA

SIGNIFICANCE

Community consultation will be required to identify appropriate adaptation options in Phase 3, but the programme will not trigger the special consultative procedure.

TE KÖRERORERO TAHI ME NGĀ WHAKAWHITIWHITI KÖRERO

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A community engagement plan will be developed in Phase 3 of the programme.

NGĀ ĀPITI HANGA

ATTACHMENTS

Nil