

From: LGOIMA
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LGOIMA Request - Long term planning for climate disruption - Reference 1944 Thursday, 6
Date: June 2024 9:11:42 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora [REDACTED],

We refer to your official information request dated 17 April 2024 for information about Long-term planning for climate disruption. The Tasman District and Nelson City Council have consulted on your request, our joint response to the information you have requested is below:

- 1. It is many years since a climate crisis was declared. Since then virtually nothing has happened at the central government, local government or community levels to address what we all face. The physics and risks have greatly increased since then. I would like to ask council what the main risks it seeks to avoid are and what planning has been done?**

At a national level there is a range of information, advice and guidance that has been, or currently is, being prepared to address climate change. This includes the national Emissions Reduction Plan (2022), National Adaptation Plan (2022), NZ SeaRise platform, Ministry for the Environment's draft National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards Decision-making (2023) and Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance (updated 2024), and the government's 10th May 2024 announcement to undertake an inquiry to develop a national 'adaptation framework'.

Local Government plays a key role in climate change mitigation and adaptation and is required to implement national direction (such as those listed above) at the local level. The impacts of sea level rise and coastal hazards is both nationally and locally a significant climate change risk. Since 2019, the Tasman District Council has been working on a project to develop a long-term adaptation strategy on coastal management. More information can be found on our website: [Coastal Management – responding to climate change | Tasman District Council](#)

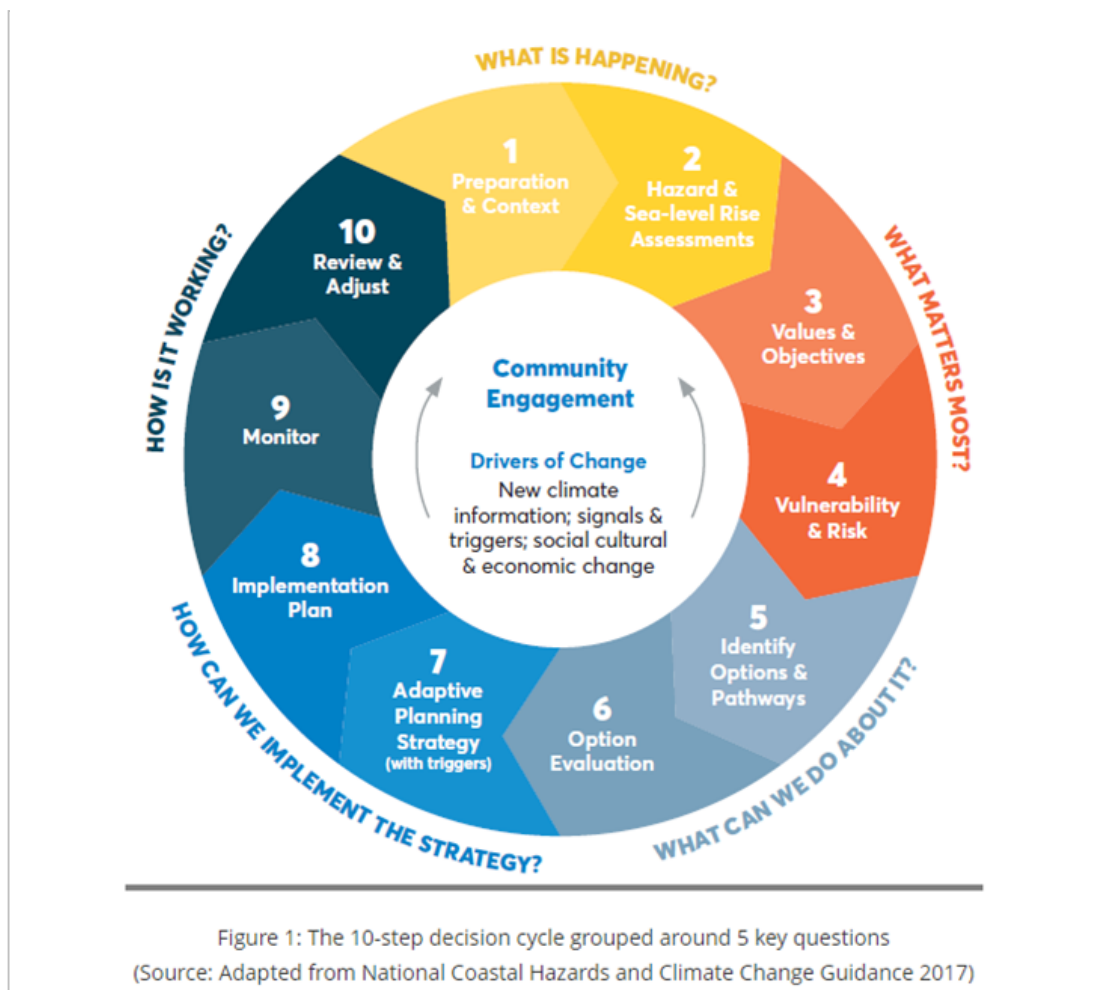
Due to ongoing uncertainty regarding the resource management system reform, the project has been on hold since mid-2022. However, staff are now seeking funding through the Long Term Plan process to develop a climate adaptation strategy and 'community adaptation plans' for individual communities. This proposed work programme will build on previous work completed to date. Council also considers climate change effects in decision-making and a range of work programmes, including asset management, environmental policy, resource and building consent processes, and civil defence. Additionally, the Environmental Policy team have started background work to inform a future plan change to the Tasman Resource Management Plan to address natural hazards and climate adaptation (see: [Natural Hazards | Plan Themes | Resource Management Reform | Shape Tasman](#))

Below is a summary of the work that Nelson City Council has been doing since the Climate Emergency was declared:

Adaptation Planning:

As recommended by the Ministry for the Environment, Nelson City Council has

adopted the Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning Approach to respond to climate-related impacts and risks (See figure below and [Council website](#)).



Steps 1 and 2 have been completed in 2021, please see coastal inundation maps [here](#), and river flood maps [here](#). Step 3 was completed in 2022, find information [here](#). Step 4 is the Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment and it is in its final stages. For this step, TDC and NCC ran series of workshops between September and November 2023 involving more than 200 experts and representatives from iwi, the private sector, government agencies, and the community. The findings from the risk assessment are estimated to be available by September 2024.

- The Whakatū Nelson Climate Change Strategy:
In 2023, Nelson City Council developed a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy through a collaboration with the Climate Change Advisory Group. The Advisory Group members brought expertise from across various fields relevant to climate change including Te Ao Māori, science, biodiversity, education, transport, and waste management. A key step in the development process was engaging with our iwi governance partners, and a range of stakeholders including government entities, businesses, and community groups to ground the strategy in local expertise and experiences.

The Strategy draft is close to completion and public consultation is estimated to commence in August.

The re-development of the Whakatū Nelson Climate Action Plan:
Informed by the Climate Change Strategy, the Action Plan is being re-developed and integrated to the strategy.

- Future work - Step 5 of the 10-step decision cycle: identifying adaptation options and pathways
Nelson City Council will develop an Adaptation Roadmap that will define how adaptation options and pathways are created and assessed.
2. **Clearly there is difficult debate at the moment around the damage from 2022, this has only a limited bearing on what I would like to know. Let us consider just sea level rise, this is locked in now and relatively predictable as far as risks go. For example these are the sort of questions the community needs answers to in the plan:**

- a. **At what point of sea level rise does SH6 Atawhai, Rocks Rd, Whakatu Drive become no longer tenable as our northern and southern outlets?**

Assessing thresholds beyond which critical asset fails or is no longer fit for purpose will be done as part of step 5 of Nelson City Councils adaptation planning. The Regional Risk Assessment will support council in identifying priority areas and assets for adaptation. (For SH6, Waka Kotahi will lead the adaptation work).

The Tasman District Council does not hold this information as SH6 Atawhai, Rocks Road and Wakatu Drive are within the Nelson City district and are therefore outside of the Tasman District.

Part 2a of your request has been partially transferred to NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi for response as they manage state highway roads.

- b. **At what level does our sewage system (ponds and the like) start to fail?**

With regards to Nelson City Council's sewage systems, the response is the same as above, understanding thresholds is part of Step 5.

The Tasman District Council region's wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and networks (both public and private) are likely to be impacted over time by climate change effects in the Tasman region. The wastewater treatment plants and networks of concern are Collingwood, Motueka With Tākaka to a lesser degree. Riwaka and Ruby Bay wastewater pipe network is also vulnerable. The wastewater network pipes (both public and private) and Wastewater Treatment Plant will be impacted by climate change progressively over the next years. The issues arise from low lying infrastructure becoming progressively and more frequently inundated.

Coastal hazards map indicate the impacts of impacts of sea level rise in different scenarios. . are publicly available on our website:

[Coastal hazards map viewer | Tasman District Council](#)

<https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/projects/coastal-management-responding-to-climate-change/coastal-hazards-project/>

c. At what level will the airport no longer be able to function reliably?

We have consulted with Nelson Airport; they have advised that the information you have requested with regards to part 2c is not held by them.

The Airport has engaged in voluntary [Climate-Related Disclosures](#) which involves assessing climate-related risks. As part of this voluntary disclosure, assessment results will be made available to the public once the work has been completed.

d. At what level of sea water intrusion does the Waimea plain start to no longer support agriculture?

The extent of seawater intrusion risk was considered by the Tasman District Council in the plan change hearings for the Waimea Plains. There are provisions in the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) for water restrictions to reduce this risk via restrictions. There is a coastal margin zone provided for in the Tasman Resource Management Plan for the coastal aquifer extent that could be at risk from seawater intrusion. Effect of salinity varies from crop to crop – but Council has set a limit of 1.0 milli siemens per centimeter in the plan as a trigger for risk to users of groundwater in the coastal monitoring bore.

3. At what level does the port infrastructure and boulder bank no longer provide shelter and reliable service?

The Port has engaged in voluntary [Climate-Related Disclosures](#) which involves assessing risks. As part of this voluntary disclosure, assessment results will be made available to the public once the work has been completed.

4. These questions relate only to the most predictable and inexorable risks. An extension of the questions would involve costing estimates for managing these risks.

Nelson City Council has maps for coastal inundation and river flooding. These show us the exposure of people, environment and assets to flood-related hazards, but do not tell us about persistent failure thresholds or possible damage costs should climate-related persistent failure occur. However, the Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment will give us and the community more information about risks from failure and damage. This assessment is in its final stages, with a completion date estimated around July. After that, council will prioritise adaptation work and begin adaptation planning for most at risk areas, estimating damage costs for various scenarios will be part that work.

5. All of these are the purview of a regional/unitary council. Storms, fires, droughts and so on are another part of the picture as you know, inevitable but not so predictable.

These hazards have been considered in the risk assessment.

- 6. The failure of your Crisis declaration to change anything is partly due to the costs of risk management never being publicised. Council seems busily occupied with such relative trivia as Bridge St traffic management which perhaps could be left to traffic experts once a policy is determined.**

The attention of the public would be obtained by publishing a list of guesstimate costs of managing these situations as well as an indication when retreat might be the only option.

This is what council is working towards and we are working at pace and in line with other councils facing similar challenges.

- 7. It seems sadly, that money is what gets attention. This information in turn may get people to stop driving huge, usually empty vehicles, regarding international travel and other profligate generators of greenhouse gases as an entitlement and so on. In addition these are the matters - perhaps including food security that should be the context of any long term plan. They are what really matter for the future of our city and its residents and which should guide our present and future expenditure.**

Food security is considered in Nelson City Council's Climate Change Strategy

If you are not satisfied with Council's response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi
Legal Services Officer
