

Snapshot
of the
Consultation

**Kia urutau, kia ora:
Kia āhuarangi rite
a Aotearoa**
**Adapt and thrive:
Building a climate-
resilient New Zealand**

Draft national adaptation plan • Managed retreat



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

We're consulting on a national adaptation plan to help Aotearoa New Zealand adapt to and minimise the harmful impacts of climate change

This is New Zealand's first national adaptation plan. It aims to build the foundation for adaptation action so that all sectors and communities are able to live and thrive in a changing climate.

Together, we can adapt to the locked-in impacts of climate change, protecting our homes, businesses, livelihoods, and natural and cultural taonga. By understanding the risks we face we are able to adapt.

The sooner we act, the more effective that action will be.

The draft national adaptation plan outlines the actions the government will take over the next six years to build climate resilience. It's a response to the priority climate-related risks identified in the National Climate Change Risk Assessment, released in August 2020.

How our climate has changed

Over the last 110 years, Aotearoa New Zealand's climate has warmed by 1.1°C. These changes have been gradual, but we're starting to feel the effects. We're seeing rising sea levels, more frequent flooding, erosion and drought, and more turbulent and unpredictable weather events.

We must change how we do things so we can thrive in a changing and different climate to the one we've had in the past. We need to prepare for future impacts, rather than respond to events as they occur.



Adapt and reduce

The national adaptation plan focuses on the actions New Zealand will take over the next six years to address the impacts of climate change that can't be reversed. At the same time, reducing emissions and limiting the severity of future climate change is just as important. This work is set out in the first emissions reduction plan, to be released in May 2022.

The first step in a clear direction

The draft national adaptation plan is the first step in a clear direction for how we'll adapt to the irreversible impacts of and manage the uncertainty that comes with climate change.

It includes a mix of current actions and proposed programmes ranging from providing access to information to assess climate risk, to supporting climate resilience in community housing, to developing mātauranga Māori climate indicators. Several actions involve substantial legislative reform.

The actions within the national adaptation plan aim to help you, your organisation and your community understand the risks you face from climate change

and actions you can take to adapt and build resilience. Collectively the actions will help you understand your risks from climate change, what it means to adapt, and explain what information and tools are available to help. This includes ensuring governance frameworks are fit for purpose and ensuring coordination among government, iwi/ Māori, communities and businesses.



Climate impacts affect all New Zealanders – but some people may be more affected and face greater barriers to adapt. These include:

- ▶ Māori, Pasifika peoples, and ethnic minority groups
- ▶ rural communities, and people whose livelihoods are based on industries such as agriculture, horticulture, fishing, tourism or forestry
- ▶ people living in remote or disadvantaged areas, or areas that are prone to flood or drought, especially along the coast
- ▶ older and young New Zealanders
- ▶ disabled people or people with long-term illnesses.

What's in the plan: New Zealand's first national adaptation plan focuses on three areas

1



Reform institutions to be fit for a changing climate

Existing systems and institutions that underpin how we plan for and manage hazards, resources and infrastructure were designed for a climate of the past. They need to better reflect increased and changing climate impacts.

We will reform institutions to fit a changing climate. These changes will be designed to ensure decisions about how we manage our resources and consider the future climate. Doing this now will mean we have the right foundation in place to address climate risks. Actions related to this focus include system-wide reforms.



2



Data, information and guidance to enable everyone to assess and reduce their own climate risks

All New Zealanders need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The first step is to understand and assess the risks you face. Critical actions within this plan include developing an Adaptation Information Portal and delivering a programme of targeted guidance across different sectors.



3



Embed climate resilience across government strategies and policies



Natural environment addresses the pressure climate change is putting on our land, marine and freshwater ecosystems, and the impacts on our cultural, economic and spiritual wellbeing. Critical actions include implementing the Department of Conservation's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and delivering a collection of actions run by Biosecurity New Zealand.



Homes, buildings and places addresses the risks climate change presents to the durability, safety, and cultural and personal value of our homes, marae, urban environments, community spaces and sites of significance such as urupā. Critical actions include building resilience at the property level by supporting households and businesses to assess and respond to climate-related risks; and supporting kaitiaki communities to adapt and conserve taonga/cultural assets.



Infrastructure addresses risks to services we depend on such as energy, telecommunications, transport, water and waste to help asset owners manage climate risks and continue to deliver the services we depend on as our climate changes. Critical actions include integrating adaptation into the Treasury's investment decision-making processes for infrastructure.



Communities addresses the risks climate change presents to communities, who may be impacted in different ways. Some are more exposed because of where they are, while others are less able to take action to adapt. Critical actions include ensuring information and advice on disaster resilience is available, accessible, and usable to everyone in our communities, including Māori and Pasifika, disabled people, people with English as a second language, and people in hard-to-reach areas. Another critical action is developing a Health National Adaptation Plan.



Economy and financial systems addresses the potential economic cost of climate change to Aotearoa New Zealand, and the risks presented to sectors and businesses, particularly our primary industries, tourism, and distribution networks. Actions to address these issues include supporting high-quality implementation of climate-related financial disclosures and delivering fisheries system reform.





Related work:
managed retreat

Managed retreat enables people to carefully plan the relocation of homes and other assets, activities and sites of significance away from at risk areas. It is one option communities may need to consider when deciding how to adapt. Work to develop a legislative framework for managed retreat is a critical action within the national adaptation plan and will help local and central government and communities deal with the complex issues that are part of deciding to retreat.



Related work:
flood insurance

Insurance currently plays an important role in supporting New Zealand's resilience and recovery from natural hazards, including through post-event payments and by sending risk signals through premiums and availability. However, climate change poses challenges for the insurability of assets, such as residential buildings and homes. Climate change will make floods more severe, frequent and costly, while the availability and quality of information, data, and modelling regarding flood risk and climate change is increasing over time. The Government has choices about how it responds to these challenges. As flooding is New Zealand's most frequent hazard, our primary focus is on flood insurance for residential buildings.

Working with Māori as Treaty partners

In developing this plan, the Government acknowledges an indigenous worldview of climate change. As a government plan, the national adaptation plan draws on key concepts of the indigenous worldview.

Whenua ora, tangata ora, mauri ora recognise that the land, people and associated life forces are interconnected. In this way, a well land is a well people and so too are the life forces of these

components of the world. Kaitiakitanga is implicit within this approach, where Māori continue to strengthen their stewardship role within the environmental space.

These concepts will support and strengthen the Crown-Māori relationship as the national adaptation plan is implemented. Actions in the plan to support Māori to adapt include establishing a foundation to work with Māori on climate actions.

Make your voice count

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We want your views on the draft national adaptation plan

Please share your thoughts on this draft plan. It's important that we're all engaged and involved in the work to adapt and thrive in a different climate.

- ▶ Read the [draft national adaptation plan](#)
- ▶ Read the [full consultation document](#)
- ▶ Attend an [online workshop](#)

You can provide a submission through [Citizen Space](#), our consultation hub, by either following the feedback form or by uploading your own written submission.

We request that you don't email or post submissions as this makes analysis more difficult. However, if you need to, please send written submissions to National adaptation plan, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

If you are emailing your feedback, have pātai, or require additional information, email adaptation@mfe.govt.nz.

Submissions are open from 27 April and close at 11.59 pm, 3 June 2022.

What happens next

This consultation starts on 27 April 2022 and closes on 3 June 2022.

The Ministry for the Environment will consider submissions as it finalises the national adaptation plan. The final plan will be published in August 2022.

Reporting on this plan

Every two years, the Climate Change Commission will provide the Minister of Climate Change with a report on the implementation and effectiveness of the plan. The Minister must respond to the Climate Change Commission reports within six months of receiving the reports. This provides an opportunity for the government to adjust the actions and manage changing uncertainty and risk. We also have international commitments to report on New Zealand's progress building resilience.