

Appendix 10: Suggested talking points for Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Overview of proposed Government responses

Finance and Expenditure Committee report

- The Finance and Expenditure Committee completed their inquiry into climate adaptation on 1 October. The inquiry was an important stage to develop cross party support for the adaptation framework.
- The Government response is due in January. The proposed Government response outlines the intention to consider the Committee's recommendations as part of policy development on the adaptation framework.
- Other work programmes with linkages to the adaptation framework will also be important vehicles for implementing the Committee's recommendations. These include developing RMA National Direction on natural hazards, the Critical Infrastructure Resilience work programme, Science System Reforms, Local Government reforms the Emergency Management Improvement Project and the Risk Financing System project.
- The Finance and Expenditure Committee has written to the Business Committee to request a debate on the inquiry report. I will work with the Chairs of these committees to consider this request.

Climate Change Commission report

- In August, I received the Climate Change Commission's (the Commissions) first progress report on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The Climate Change Response Act 2002 requires the Commission to produce these reports two, four and six years following the publication of a NAP.
- The Government response is due by 2 February. Our proposed response focuses on our climate strategy and the priority work programmes that will deliver resilient infrastructure and well-prepared communities. The adaptation framework will also address many of the recommendations set out in the Commission's report.
- Our response also reconfirms this Government's commitment to the adaptation process set out in the Climate Change Response Act and the NAP's long-term adaptation goals and four priority areas. I believe this will foster cross-party support for future adaptation decisions.
- New Zealand's long-term adaptation goals as set out in the NAP are to:
 - reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change
 - enhance adaptive capacity and consider climate change decisions at all levels
 - strengthen resilience.
- The four priority areas of the first NAP are:

- Enabling better risk-informed decisions
 - Ensuring our planning and infrastructure investment decisions drive climate resilient development at the right locations
 - Adaptation options including managed retreat
 - Embedding climate resilience in all government strategies and policies.
1. The Government's response also includes an updated table of actions for the NAP. This includes the new actions we are delivering. Updating the table of actions was one of the recommendations made by the Commission.
 2. *[If required]* Through this update I have introduced 4 new actions to the NAP, and adjusted 17 actions to reflect changes in milestones, delivery timelines, and government direction since NAP publication.
 3. Four new actions were added. An example of one that we've added is action 3.30, which will scope options for voluntary and mandatory information sharing and collection within and between government and critical infrastructure entities. This will promote a shared understanding of risks and leading management approaches to improve the resilience of the critical infrastructure system.
- The updated table of actions also provides transparency on progress, including the actions have been completed since NAP was published, and what has been removed from the plan. Nineteen actions have been discontinued due to a change in government direction.
 - I am confident the updated table of actions meets the requirements under the CCRA.

Next steps for the adaptation framework

4. I intend to return to Cabinet in Quarter 2 2025 to seek final policy decisions on the legislative elements of the adaptation framework.
 5. This will support my intention to introduce a Bill to the House by the end of August 2025.
- I will work closely with the Minister of Finance and Ministers responsible for related work programmes. I also intend to use the Climate Priorities Ministerial Group meeting in February to test policy choices for the adaptation framework.
 - Negotiations with opposition parties will also be an important stage in policy development to continue building on the cross-party consensus achieved through the inquiry.