



Briefing: Changes to the Government's response to the Climate Change Commission's report on the National Adaptation Plan ahead of publication

Date submitted: 16 January 2025

Tracking number: BRF-5784

Sub Security level: Classification

MfE priority: Urgent

Actions sought from Ministers

<i>Name and position</i>	<i>Action sought</i>	<i>Response by</i>
To Hon Simon WATTS Minister of Climate Change	Agree to provide an oral update to Cabinet that the proposed new NAP action 3.30 is no longer proceeding, and the Government response will be updated to reflect this change.	17 January 2025

Actions for Minister's office staff

Return the signed briefing to the Ministry for the Environment (ema.pct@mfe.govt.nz and advice@mfe.govt.nz).

Appendices and attachments

1. Appendix 1 – Talking points to support an oral update to Cabinet as part of the ECO Report of Committee

Key contacts at Ministry for the Environment

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Cell phone</i>	<i>First contact</i>
Principal Author	Alexandra James		
Responsible Manager	Kate Whitwell	022 137 5939	
General Manager	Emma Corbett (Acting)	022 360 5691	✓
Executive Director – Climate IEB Unit	Jane White (Acting)	027 275 7836	

Minister's comments


Changes to the Government's response to the Climate Change Commission report on the National Adaptation Plan ahead of publication

Key messages

1. On 18 December 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO) approved the Government's response to the Climate Change Commission's 2024 'Progress report: National Adaptation Plan' (NAP) (the Government's NAP response). It also approved the Government's response to the Finance and Expenditure Committee report on the inquiry into climate adaptation (the Government's FEC response) [ECO-MIN-0309].
2. The responses included reference to the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Programme (CIRP) led by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), including a proposed new NAP action (action 3.30).¹ DPMC has since advised officials that the CIRP is being rescoped at the Prime Minister's instruction. As a result, the work programme associated with the related new NAP action 3.30 is no longer proceeding.
3. Both the Government's responses and the updated NAP Table of Actions will be edited to remove references to the CIRP and action 3.30 prior to publication (due to occur before 2 February 2025).
4. We consider these changes are more than minor editorial changes that ECO delegated authority to you to make to the Government's responses. The Cabinet Office has recommended that you provide an oral update to your colleagues as part of the ECO Report of Committee. Talking points have been provided in Appendix 1.
5. Of note, this new action was intended to contribute to addressing four significant risks from the National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA):
 - i E1: Risks to governments from economic costs associated with lost productivity, disaster relief expenditure and unfunded contingent liabilities due to extreme events and ongoing, gradual changes.
 - ii B1: Risk to potable water supplies (availability and quality) due to changes in rainfall, temperature, drought, extreme weather events and ongoing sea-level rise.
 - iii B2: Risks to buildings due to extreme weather events, drought, increased fire weather and ongoing sea-level rise.
 - iv G2: Risk that climate change impacts across all domains will be exacerbated because current institutional arrangements are not fit for adaptation. Institutional arrangements include legislative and decision-making frameworks, coordination within and across levels of government, and funding mechanisms.

¹ Scope options for voluntary and mandatory information sharing and collection within and between government and critical infrastructure entities to promote a shared understanding of risks and leading management approaches to improve the resilience of the critical infrastructure system.

9(2)(f)(iv)



7. However, given the NAP is a six-year plan with actions across a range of Government agencies, changes to the actions over the lifespan of the plan is expected. The Climate Change Interdepartmental Executives Board (IEB) will continue to monitor and report on NAP progress regularly. We are currently 2.5 years into implementation. There will be ongoing opportunities to add or amend actions if there are significant gaps in addressing NCCRA risks.
8. The adaptation framework may fill any gaps in NCCRA risks being addressed. Decisions on the adaptation framework will determine the extent of some of these gaps, and therefore the extent to which the risks will be addressed.
9. Officials will provide amended versions of the Government's responses and the updated NAP Table of Actions to the office in clean and tracked versions ahead of publication. Officials will also provide updated analysis of the overall sufficiency of NAP actions, identifying any significant gaps in addressing NCCRA risks.

Recommendations

We recommend that you:

- a. **agree** to provide an oral update to Cabinet as part of the ECO Report of Committee that proposed new NAP action 3.30 is no longer proceeding, and both of the Government's responses and the NAP Table of Actions will be updated to reflect this change.

Yes | No

- b. **note** that officials will report back to you with the updated Government responses, NAP Table of Actions, and analysis of the overall sufficiency of NAP actions addressing NCCRA risks before the Government's response is published.

Signatures



Emma Corbett
General Manager – Adaptation (acting)
16 January 2025



Jane White
Executive Director – Climate IEB Unit
(acting)
16 January 2025

Hon Simon WATTS
Minister of Climate Change
Date

Appendix 1 – Talking points to support an oral update to Cabinet as part of the ECO Report of Committee

- Since Cabinet considered this paper at ECO in December, DPMC has advised officials that work on the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Programme is no longer proceeding as originally proposed. The narrower scope means the related new NAP action 3.30 needs to be removed from the Government response to the Commission's NAP Progress Report and the Government response to the FEC report.
- Because this change is broader than my delegation to change the Government response for minor editorial reasons, I am informing Cabinet that reference to this action will be removed from both of the Government responses, and the updated NAP Table of Actions prior to publication.