



29 April 2024

OIAD-1037

9(2)a

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a ,

Thank you for your email of 6 April 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Your web site states "Advances in sea-level rise science and updated global projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report".*

What checks, if any has MfE done to show the information provided by IPCC is in fact based on science and related evidence that MfE has then certified as correct.

2. *Who is responsible for preparing and certifying the "new relative sea-level rise projections and vertical land movement estimates from the NZ Sea Rise Programme"?*

3. *What progress has been made with the draft Climate Adaption Plan that was being proposed by the previous Labour/Green Government.*

4. *Are you still using the IPCC RCP8.5 as your preferred modeling for advice to MPs? If not, what RCP model are you using.*

The Ministry has provided a response to each of your questions:

Your web site states "Advances in sea-level rise science and updated global projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report". What checks, if any has MfE done to show the information provided by IPCC is in fact based on science and related evidence that MfE has then certified as correct.

The IPCC Assessment Reports and the conclusions within them are built on an extensive literature base, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of scientific evidence of climate change. The science of climate change is clearly explained in a number of peer-reviewed papers following trusted scientific methods. Hundreds of scientists around the world participate in the IPCC working groups to review thousands of these papers. This is summarised in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report providing a comprehensive summary of the state of scientific, technical, and socio-economic knowledge of climate change, its impacts and future risk and options for adaptation and mitigation. The Ministry does not need to do additional auditing of this extensive and intensive process.

Who is responsible for preparing and certifying the "new relative sea-level rise projections and vertical land movement estimates from the NZ Sea Rise Programme"?

The NZ SeaRise project is a research programme funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and hosted by the Antarctic Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington. Information on who is responsible for this project and its projections can be found on the NZ SeaRise website (www.searise.nz).

What progress has been made with the draft Climate Adaption Plan that was being proposed by the previous Labour/Green Government.

I am refusing this question under 18(d) of the Act, as information about progress on New Zealand's National adaptation plan (NAP) is publicly available. You can read more about it using the links below:

<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/aotearoa-new-zealands-first-national-adaptation-plan/>

<https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/cab-paper-national-adaptation-plan-scope-and-approach.pdf>

<https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/cab-paper-publishing-the-national-adaptation-plan.pdf>

<https://environment.govt.nz/assets/what-government-is-doing/climate-change/2023-08-30-CCCEB-pack.pdf>

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fenvironment.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fpublications%2Fclimate-change%2FImplementing-the-emissions-reduction-and-national-adaptation-plans.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

<https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/news/monitoring-progress-on-adaptation/>

Are you still using the IPCC RCP8.5 as your preferred modeling for advice to MPs? If not, what RCP model are you using.

The Ministry's first *National adaptation plan* and *Coastal hazards and climate change guidance* recommend the use of the SSP5-8.5, or RCP8.5, in coastal planning to identify areas potentially affected and to allow high-end stress testing of adaptation options. This is to reflect the response time of sea-level rise to historical emissions as well as the deep uncertainty about future emissions and tipping points. Using the scenarios in the range we've suggested – including the fossil fuel intensive development scenario (SSP5-8.5) – means councils are making good, robust risk assessments and planning for a range of outcomes, all of which are plausible. Further explanation of the use of SSP5-8.5 in coastal planning can be found in Box 3 of the [Coastal hazards and climate change guidance](#).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has

been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Heighway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sophie Heighway
Manager – Climate Impacts
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao