



Māori-led climate resilience

July 2026



**Ministry for Cities, Environment,
Regions & Transport**

New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa



Opening message from Hon. Minister Simon Watts and Marama Royal

The Māori Climate Platform supports Māori-led, marae-based solutions that strengthen resilience, reduce emissions and support climate adaptation. More than \$12.1 million of Māori Climate Platform funding has supported initiatives across 77 marae throughout the motu, helping to build resilience and protect what matters most.

This includes initiatives that are delivering:

- enhanced resilience for communities
- infrastructure that reduces climate risks and helps protect marae, taonga and culturally significant sites
- renewable energy for marae.

Māori communities, businesses, infrastructure and land are disproportionately affected by climate change, with 80 percent of marae vulnerable to climate change. We need responses that help build resilient communities and are led by those most affected.

We only have to look at recent weather events to understand the nature of devastation to marae and surrounding communities.

Marae play a vital role as community hubs and places of refuge. Investment through the Māori Climate Platform helps to maintain the essential services required to continue supporting their communities during severe weather events, power disruptions and other emergencies.

The Māori Climate Platform is supported by Pou Take Āhuarangi of the National Iwi Chairs Forum to ensure climate action is practical, grounded in local needs, and shaped by Māori solutions, knowledge, and leadership.

Climate adaptation and emissions reduction are mutual priorities for the Minister of Climate Change and the Chair of Pou Take Āhuarangi.



Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change



Marama Royal
Pou Take Āhuarangi Chair,
National Iwi Chairs Forum

How we work together

The Government works in partnership with Pou Take Āhuarangi, the Climate Pou of the National Iwi Chairs Forum, through a joint work programme focused on shared climate priorities. This includes engaging with marae, hapū and iwi on climate change impacts, and how to mitigate those impacts where possible.

The joint work programme has delivered:

A marae climate risk and readiness stocktake that assessed vulnerabilities across
1,062 marae
around New Zealand

225
detailed marae
climate risk
assessments

Climate adaptation
and emissions
reduction hui for
hapori, hapū, iwi
and marae

An Emissions Trading
Scheme Toolkit to support
Māori to understand and
engage with the ETS

Government engagement with Māori has
helped ensure Māori perspectives and
aspirations are embedded in climate action



Why we're investing in resilience

Aotearoa New Zealand continues to face increasing pressures from climate-related weather events. Marae and Māori communities are at the forefront of those effects with approximately 80 percent of marae vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

There is strong demand for Māori-led climate resilience initiatives, and proven benefit. Investing in resilience before severe weather happens can be more effective and less costly than responding after damage has occurred. Practical, locally led solutions help communities prepare for future challenges by ensuring they have the tools, infrastructure, and preparedness needed to respond effectively.



Where we're heading

Marae-led responses to recent severe weather events highlighted the value of Māori-led and marae-centered resilience, which the Pou Take Āhuarangi joint work programme and Māori Climate Platform projects continue to build on.

What we've achieved

Project locations

Projects are completed or underway at 70 marae across New Zealand, with more planned for the coming year.



Stage 1 projects

The Māori Climate Platform is being delivered in stages to ensure funding is targeted towards investment-ready projects that will deliver tangible climate outcomes. The first stage of the Māori Climate Platform made \$3.58 million available for five initial projects, benefiting 13 marae, as a pilot for the programme. The first project began in April 2025.

Opureora 3 Trust – Bay of Plenty

This coastal erosion mitigation project at Opureora Marae on Matakana Island will build coastal protection to help safeguard the marae, surrounding Māori land, and culturally significant sites from coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

Toitū Tairāwhiti Builtsmart Ltd – Gisborne

This project is delivering a community solar microgrid in Te Karaka to provide reliable backup power for critical services during severe weather events. This includes the school, health centre, emergency services, local homes, and two marae.

Developed in response to lessons from Cyclone Gabrielle, this project strengthens community resilience while lowering energy costs. Pehimana Brown, Chair of Te Aitanga a Māhaki, believes the solar farm project will give the Te Karaka community greater peace of mind for the future.

Taranaki Mounga Project – Taranaki

This project is restoring native ecosystems and expanding revegetation around Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. Funding is supporting the planting of more than 10,000 native trees and weed and pest control.

Taranaki Mounga Project Independent Director Jamie Tuuta said everyone was thrilled with the funding. "It allows us to continue the extension of Taranaki Mounga into important biodiversity corridors through collaboration with iwi, hapū, private landowners and community to restore and improve biodiversity and provide habitat for the return of taonga species such as kākā."

Mātihetihe Marae Trust – Northland

The first Stage 1 project upgrades the water reticulation system serving Mātihetihe Marae, the kura, public facilities and 57 properties in the Mitimiti community, to maintain safe drinking water during and after severe weather.



Māori Climate Platform site visit, Mātihetihe Marae, 2025.

Te Kotahi o Te Taihu Charitable Trust – Nelson and Marlborough

This project sees the installation of solar power and water storage infrastructure across the nine marae of Te Taihu. It will strengthen marae resilience during severe weather, helping ensure the marae can continue serving their communities when essential services are disrupted.

Stage 2 projects

A further \$7.25 million is supporting 18 Māori-led climate initiatives, benefiting 57 marae across the motu. The first stage 2 projects began in December 2025, and the majority of these projects are expected to be completed in June 2026. The rest are expected to be finished later in the next financial year.

Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust Limited – Hawke’s Bay

Installing solar power systems across four marae in the Wairoa region will help offset approximately 29,000 kWh per year in energy usage. The project will improve resilience during power outages, reduce emissions, and help marae continue serving their communities during severe weather and emergencies.

Ngāti Manawa Custodian Limited – Bay of Plenty

The project is building climate-ready water infrastructure and solar energy systems at two marae in the Whakatāne region. Water treatment and storage for up to 180,000 litres of drinking water will be available, and solar energy systems will help offset 23,000 kWh per year in energy usage.

Ōnuku Rūnanga Incorporated – Canterbury

The Manaaki Marae project will reduce flood risk to Ōnuku Marae in Akaroa, Canterbury through hard engineering solutions, helping ensure continued access for whānau and the community while protecting an important cultural and community hub. Works include installing a retaining wall, field drainage system, swale, and sub-surface drainage system.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua – Auckland and Northland

The Whātua Wai Māori project will upgrade drinking water infrastructure to meet Taumata Arowai drinking water regulations across 15 Ngāti Whātua marae in Auckland and Northland. By strengthening access to safe and reliable water supplies, the project helps marae and their communities prepare for the increasing impacts of climate change. Upgrades include filtration, UV units, pump systems, and waterproof housings.

Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa Incorporated – Greater Wellington

Waiwhetū Marae in Wellington is at the heart of the Waiwhetū papakāinga, and a hub for the broader community. Funding is supporting the installation of 60,000 litres of water storage, a pumping facility, and a solar system that will contribute towards offsetting approximately 92,000 kWh per year in energy usage.

“Our wharenuī/marae building is named ‘Aroha ki te tangata’ (Goodwill to all). This funding and additions enable our iwi to deliver practically and in times of need to our wider community on this promise,” Kura Moeahu, Chairman of the Marae and Rūnanganui says.

Te Runanga o Arowhenua Limited – Canterbury

Arowhenua Marae acts as a community emergency hub for South Canterbury, and this project upgrades solar power capability to provide reliable and sustainable energy. The upgrades will help offset approximately 46,000 kWh per year in energy usage.

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust Ltd – Whanganui

Supporting the installation of 300,000 litres of water storage and treatment systems, along with roofing, stormwater and septic system upgrades across six Ngāti Rangi marae in the Whanganui region. The upgrades will strengthen drought, storm and fire preparedness, while helping to ensure clean water and reliable energy supplies.

Ngā Tāngata Tiaki Custodian Trustee Limited (fund holder for Te Whawhaki Trust) – Whanganui

The project is supporting greater energy resilience and sustainability across eight marae in Whanganui by building independent energy systems that can operate in times of power scarcity.

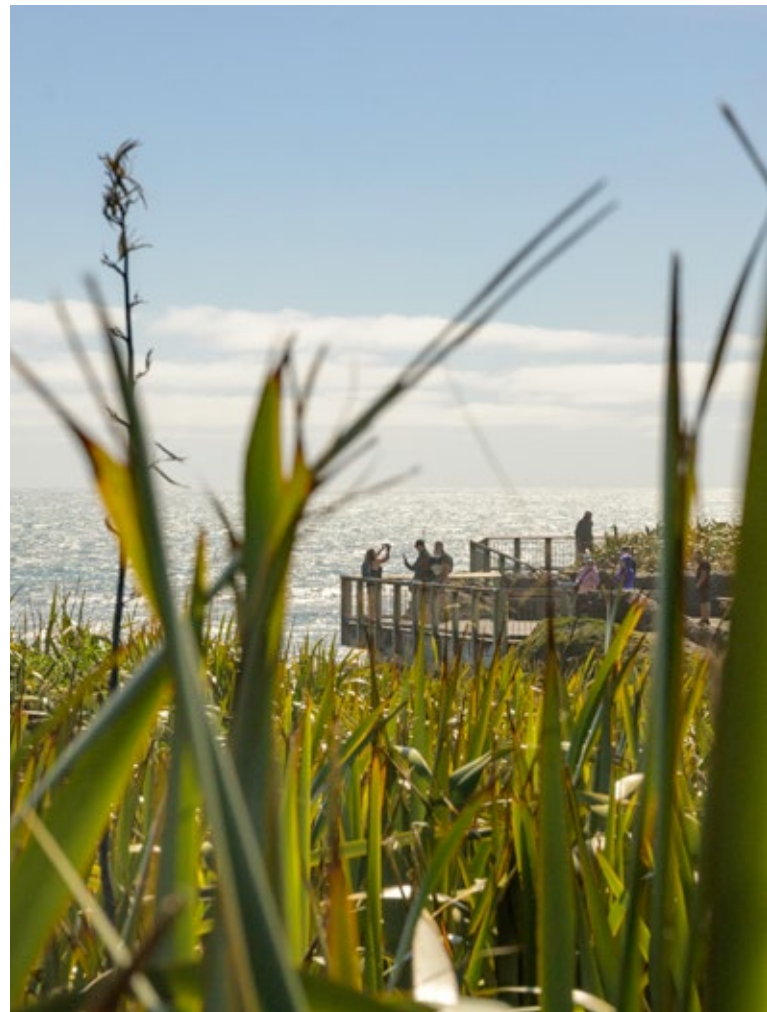
Power network infrastructure and access is vulnerable for parts of the Whanganui River and wider region that are impacted by flooding, landslides and snow.

The project will contribute towards offsetting 96,000 kWh per year in energy usage.

Hokonui Research and Development Ltd – Southland

The project will dismantle, relocate and reinstate O Te Ika Rama Marae, upgrade essential services, and prepare a new site out of harm's way. The marae, near Gore, is on a low-lying floodplain that is increasingly exposed to climate-related risks, leaving it uninsurable following repeated floods.

Hokonui Rūnanga's Treasurer, Terry Nicholas says Māori Climate Platform support has been instrumental in supporting the local community build resilience. "This relocation ensures the intergenerational continuity of our whakapapa, tikanga, and cultural identity within our community".



Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua – Northland

Kia Tau te Wai, Kia Tau te Ora is a flood resilience project, providing upgrades to drainage culverts and floodgates at Te Houhanga a Rongo Marae

Cyclone Gabrielle caused extensive flooding and damage to this marae, exposing weaknesses in the site's drainage and stormwater infrastructure. These improvements will help protect cultural assets and ensure the marae can serve as a safe, resilient refuge for its community.

Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust – Gisborne

The Turanga Waewae Pakura solar project will strengthen the resilience of the Manutuke and Gisborne communities and three marae. The project will help contribute towards offsetting approximately 13,000 kWh per year in energy usage.



Turanga Waewae Pakura solar project.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu – Canterbury and Otago

Four marae across Canterbury and Otago are installing solar energy systems that will contribute towards offsetting approximately 267,000 kWh per year in energy usage. This will also support the marae to operate reliably during crises and provide critical support to whānau and the wider community.

Tūhourangi Marae Trust – Bay of Plenty

Tūhourangi ki Ōtūkawa Marae in Bay of Plenty will secure long-term energy and water independence through the installation of a solar system, roofing and electrical upgrades and 50,000 litres of water storage. This project will ensure the marae can operate off-grid during disasters.

Hongoeka Settlement Incorporated – Greater Wellington

Flood mitigation works to protect Hongoeka Marae and associated papakāinga in Porirua from severe weather. The project will improve the resilience of local infrastructure, better protect hapori and papakāinga properties from flooding, and reduce the costs and disruption associated with repairs.

Hongoeka has experienced several major rainfall events and the existing culvert is causing flooding upstream. Failure of the culvert could have significant consequences for both the community and the surrounding environment.

Raukawa Charitable Trust – Waikato

Upgrading four marae in the Waikato with solar systems and water storage to protect whānau and taonga, and cut emissions. The project will contribute towards offsetting approximately 78,000 kWh per year in energy use, and provide 240,000 litres of water storage, plus water treatment systems to secure reliable supply during droughts, flooding, contamination or network failures.

Ngati Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust (Incorporated) – Waikato

Te Whare Hauaruru ki Uta Energy Collective is installing solar systems across four marae. The project is about creating a sustainable, scalable and community-led energy system that strengthens tino rangatiratanga and builds long-term climate resilience. It will contribute towards offsetting approximately 19,600 kWh per year in energy usage

Pahipoto Marae Committee – Bay of Plenty

Solar power systems are being installed at Kokohinau and Uiraroa Marae to strengthen energy resilience, reduce emissions and support the role marae play as community hubs during emergencies. The marae are located in flood prone areas. With solar and battery backup, they will always have power for lighting, kai preparation and storage, communications and shelter. The project will contribute towards offsetting 38,000 kWh per year in energy usage.

Ngā Taonga O Ngāi Takoto Trust Board – Northland

This project is the first phase of an iwi-led climate adaptation approach to strengthen long-term resilience across Ngāi Takoto communities. More frequent droughts, flooding, storms and power outages are undermining water security, disrupting energy supply, and putting whānau, marae and taonga at risk.

The Māori Climate Platform is supporting surface flood mitigation works at Mahimaru Marae and Waimanoni Marae in Northland, the highest-priority climate risk sites in the Ngāi Takoto contemporary area, which will help alleviate some of the effects being felt.

Chair of Ngā Taonga o Ngāi Takoto Trust, Taimania Jones, says the project reflects a shared commitment to strengthening marae resilience in Te Hiku.

“For Ngāi Takoto, our marae are places of connection, leadership, and collective responsibility. They are central to how we come together and care for our people.

“This investment supports our marae leadership to work alongside technical experts, in a way that aligns with our tikanga and long-term aspirations for climate resilience and wellbeing of the haukāinga.”

Stage 3 projects

Approximately \$1.363m in further funding, announced in July 2026, is being made available to support Māori-led projects at marae affected by severe storms and flooding in January and February 2026, as well as projects in regions identified as being at high risk from severe weather and climate change.

This is expected to support at least four projects across seven marae, subject to final contract negotiations.

Cover image: Ōrākei marae, photograph courtesy sam.kvisuals



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