# National Adaptation Framework

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

# An enduring adaptation approach

## New Zealand faces growing risks from floods, storms and other natural hazards.

We need our country and economy to be resilient. That's why we're introducing the National Adaptation Framework.

The Framework sets out our approach to build an enduring system that prepares New Zealand for climate change, supports economic growth and keeps the overall costs to our society as low as possible.

Preparing for climate change doesn't happen in isolation. We're acting across the system with flood mapping, community-level adaptation, land-use planning and our emergency response. Together, these actions form the building blocks of the Framework.

Over time, we'll keep building on these foundations to:

- improve the ways we share information about climate risks
- ensure support for property owners and responses to risks are predictable and fair
- support market confidence and enable markets, such as housing and insurance, to reflect climate risks
- ensure people have the incentive and ability to manage risk.

In our Climate Strategy, we committed to ensuring infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared. The Framework helps us put strategy into action.

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**Hon Simon Watts**
Minister of Climate Change

# We are bringing together new and existing work across government to deliver an enduring National Adaptation Framework built on four pillars:

## Risk and response information sharing

Information about the risks from natural hazards like floods and storms is readily available, regularly updated and nationally consistent.

With access to information, people and businesses can plan ahead and make informed decisions and investments in response to these risks so that property, insurance and other markets can function well.

### Actions

1. Develop a National Flood Map that unifies national and local data, and is readily available for everyone to use.
2. Develop new hazard datasets and risk standards with the private sector.
3. Update the Natural Hazards Portal to provide information about risks to people and properties from natural hazards like floods and storms.
4. Invest in high-quality risk information to support planning and consenting decisions in the reformed resource management system.
5. Deliver science, innovation and technology reforms to ensure the system is more responsive to government priorities such as adapting to natural hazards.

## Roles and responsibilities

As well as information about the risk, people know what the plan is to address it. Individuals and private companies manage their risks. Councils lead local responses. Central government establishes standards, and regulatory and institutional settings.

### Actions

6. Establish new national direction under the Resource Management Act to support councils to take a more robust approach to managing risks from natural hazards for new development.
7. Identify areas with natural hazard risk, and areas for future growth and development, through new spatial plans in the reformed resource management system.
8. Amend the Climate Change Response Act to clarify requirements for local government by requiring adaptation plans in priority areas.
9. Invest in New Zealand's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from all types of emergencies with the Emergency Management Investment and Implementation Roadmap.
10. Focus local authorities on core services including managing natural hazard risk through improvements to the local government system.

*"We're building on cross-party work to establish an enduring, long-term approach to adaptation for New Zealand."* Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change

## Investment in risk reduction

Communities and businesses know what investment will happen in their areas. Spending shifts towards reducing risk before climate-related events like floods or storms happen, so people feel more confident to invest in our country and grow our economy.

### Actions

11. Regulate to ensure councils weigh up the costs and benefits of adaptation options for their communities.
12. Use the Funding and Financing Framework to guide decisions on investment that protect Crown assets or realise broader national benefits.
13. Invest in the resilience and economic prosperity of the regions through the $1.2 billion Regional Infrastructure Fund.
14. Proactively manage risk to Crown assets such as schools, public buildings or major infrastructure over time.

## Cost-sharing pre- and post-event

The expected costs from natural hazards like floods and storms, and the costs of adapting to them, are shared across society and over time.

New Zealand transitions towards a state that incentivises risk reduction and allows markets to adjust as risks change.

### Actions

15. Introduce a new development levy system as part of Going for Housing Growth, to ensure councils charge developers a proportionate amount of the total costs of capital expenditure necessary to service growth over the long term.
16. Deliver new tools to support government recovery decisions following significant severe weather events.

The actions in this framework align with wider work under the National Risk and Resilience Framework to strengthen New Zealand's resilience and proactively manage serious risks that could impact our safety, security and prosperity.

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