



BRF-1948 – Lodgement of the draft final national adaptation plan and talking points for Cabinet on 1 August 2022

Date Submitted:	28 July 2022	Tracking #: BRF-1948	
Security Level	In-confidence	MfE Priority:	Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon. James Shaw, Minister of Climate Change	<p>Approve the updated national adaptation plan (appendix 2) for lodgement</p> <p>Read the attached talking points before Cabinet (Monday 1 August)</p>	28 July 2022

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	<p>Return the signed report to MfE.</p> <p>If agreed, lodge the updated papers with the Cabinet office on or before Friday 29 July.</p>
Number of appendices and attachments #4	<p>Appendix 1: Draft final national adaptation plan for publication (tracked)</p> <p>Appendix 2: Draft final national adaptation plan (clean)</p> <p>Appendix 3: Talking points for Cabinet on 1 August 2022 - Publication of the national adaptation plan'</p> <p>Appendix 4: Summary of submissions on the draft national adaptation plan (infographics)</p>

Key contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	Amberley Gibson		
Responsible Manager	Emma Corbett	s 9(2)(a)	
Director	Katherine Wilson	s 9(2)(a)	✓


Recommendations

We recommend that you:

1. **approve** the attached clean version of the national adaptation plan (appendix 2) for lodgement by your office with the Cabinet Office by Friday 29 July

Yes/No

2. **read** the attached talking points before Cabinet on Monday 1 August 2022

Katherine Wilson Director – Climate Adaptation and Evidence	
Date	28 July 2022

Hon. James Shaw Minister of Climate Change	
Date	

Appendix 3: Talking points for Cabinet on 1 August 2022 - Publication of the national adaptation plan'

Climate change is exacerbating the risk of our exposure to many natural hazards and generating new risks

- New Zealand's communities, assets, infrastructure and taonga are increasingly exposed to the risks and impacts of natural hazards and climate change.
- The first National Climate Change Risk Assessment was published in 2020 and identified 43 priority risks New Zealand faces from climate change.
- The Climate Change Response Act requires that I publish a national adaptation plan that responds to the most significant risks identified.

There is a requirement to publish the first National Adaptation Plan by 3 August 2022 - the first step in our planned pathway to climate resilience

- This paper notes my intention as Minister of Climate Change to publish the first national adaptation plan on 3 August 2022, in accordance with the statutory requirements in the Act.
- Together, the national adaptation plan and the emissions reduction plan will drive the changes needed to achieve a climate-resilient and low emissions New Zealand.
- This first Plan also outlines the Government's long-term adaptation strategy - a vision, purpose and goals.

We consulted on the draft Plan and made changes that responded to what we heard

- The final Plan focuses action and reflects submitters' calls for a greater sense of urgency
- It provides greater detail on how the actions drive the whole system to deliver climate adaptation in the short, medium and long term. It prioritises the following areas for the next six years:
 1. enabling New Zealanders to make better risk-based decisions
 2. driving climate-resilient development in the right locations
 3. adaptation options, including managed retreat
 4. embedding climate resilience across Government strategies and policies.

Engagement during consultation

- A total of 17 workshops and webinars took place during public consultation on the draft National Adaptation Plan and managed retreat. These included:
 - o webinars with the public
 - o workshops with local government and businesses
 - o workshops with iwi/Māori and Pacific communities, facilitated by Ihirangi and the Pacific Advisory Group
 - o a workshop on flood insurance with ICNZ flood working group.
- The Ministry for the Environment ran a digital campaign to drive awareness and support engagement for the draft national adaptation plan consultation. The social media campaign generated 315K impressions across a range of posts on Facebook and Instagram. There were more than 20K video views

- We also sent approximately 3.3K emails to stakeholders promoting the public consultation, and utilised the communication networks of agencies across government to raise awareness of different stakeholder groups.

Submissions on the draft Plan

- We received 294 submissions on the draft National Adaptation Plan and managed retreat proposals.
 - 92 were from individuals (31%), and 202 were from organisations (69%).
 - 54 were from local authorities (18%).
- No form submissions were received, unlike the emissions reduction plan consultation. This is not surprising as adaptation is much more place specific.
- The submissions we received provided good representation from iwi/hapū, local government, businesses, industry bodies, NGOs, registered charities, and academic researchers, and several groups that will be disproportionately impacted from climate change (appendix 4).

There are tangible actions to help people feeling the impacts of climate change now, and help drive development in the right places:

- *strengthening the emergency management system* for future events, including the capacity of the emergency management workforce that respond at a national, regional and local level
- the action to *Improve natural hazard information on Land Information Memoranda (LIM)* will help people make well-informed decisions about natural hazard risk when buying a property. It will give councils greater certainty about information to include on land information memoranda
- the action to *Provide access to the latest climate projections data* will give New Zealanders the regional and local climate projections data they need to assess future climate risk and make adaptation decisions
- there was very strong support for the Adaptation Information Portal.

Local government have a critical role in managing climate risk and planning for the future

- Local government already manages natural hazard risk and is well used to this. The Plan highlights these existing responsibilities. But climate change increases the size and uncertainty of their task.
- During consultation, councils asked for stronger direction to support risk-based decision making.
- To support this, the Plan now recommends councils have regard to specific climate scenarios when undertaking planning functions. Councils will have to have regard to these in November 2022 once previous amendments to the RMA come into effect.
- The scenarios recommended for use are the equivalent of those already contained in existing non-statutory guidance.

A partnership approach with Māori will support greater climate resilience

- A number of submitters provided specific examples of how climate change is impacting their rural and coastal Māori communities. I've updated the Plan to highlight the issues being faced by these communities now.

- A key action that will help everyone now is strengthening the emergency management system for future events, including the capacity of the emergency management workforce that respond at a national, regional and local level
- Working in partnership as actions are implemented will be essential to ensuring actions achieve the intended outcomes. A key action to achieving this with Māori is the Māori Climate Platform.

The Plan also sets out a clearer approach to address equity considerations

- Throughout the Plan, detail on how and when actions will deliver for disproportionately impacted groups has been added.
- Vulnerability assessments in year one and two will provide a critical evidence base to target further interventions in later years of the plan.

Cross-government co-ordination and accountability for implementing actions will be important

- Cabinet has agreed to formalise the Climate Change Chief Executives Board as an Interdepartmental Executive Board that oversees the ERP.
- This first Plan responds to the risks and opportunities from the effects of climate change risks through a mix of current and proposed (ie, those not yet funded or where policy work is still needed) actions.
- The Plan has 112 actions owned by 30 central government and statutory entities
- Ministers will be responsible for actions in the Plan that sit under their portfolios.
- I recommend the IEB also oversees implementation of the NAP.

There are further options to address risk of increasing exposure during the transition to a reformed resource management system

- I will be leading an item at the next Climate Response Ministers Group meeting on 16 August. It will cover:
 - insights from current adaptation responses in Buller, South Dunedin and Te Tairāwhiti, and options to address gaps
 - key scoping decisions for the managed retreat system (informed by insights from these examples).
- These examples have reinforced the need for a managed retreat system as part of a suite of land use planning options. The system needs to enabling elements and strong powers to control land use to reduce risk.