



National Adaptation Plan: Scope and structure – updated CRMG slides

Date Submitted:	13 September 2021	Tracking #: BRF-560	
Security Level	Policy and Privacy Confidential	MfE Priority:	Not Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
Hon James SHAW, Minister of Climate Change	Forward Appendices 2-4 to your CRMG colleagues by 16 September	13 September

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	Return the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices and attachments #4	Appendix 1: Updated National Adaptation Plan slide pack for Climate Response Ministers Group Appendix 2: National Climate Change Risk Assessment – Priority Risks Appendix 3: Recommended Chapter Structure for the NAP Appendix 4: Talking points - NAP agenda item for the CRMG meeting on 21 September

Ministry for the Environment contacts

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National Adaptation Plan: Scope and structure – updated CRMG slides


Key Messages

1. This briefing provides you with the updated National Adaptation Plan (NAP) slide pack for the Climate Response Ministers Group (CRMG) meeting on 21 September (Appendix 1). These slides have been updated based on your feedback on 25 August.
2. The slide pack now reflects your preferred options to:
 - prioritise investment in adaptation and include all 43 priority risks identified in the National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA) within scope (slides 9-10). The details of priority risks from the NCCRA are included in Appendix 2.
 - take an outcome- based approach to the structure of the NAP and integrate case studies to create relevance of the NAP for the public (slides 11-12). The detailed draft Chapter structure is included in Appendix 3.
3. Talking points relating to these papers are included in Appendix 4.

Recommendations

4. We recommend that you:
 - a. **Approve** the attached *Updated National Adaptation Plan slide pack for Climate Response Ministers Group* (Appendix 1) **Yes/No**
 - AND
 - b. **Agree** to circulate the slide pack to your CRMG colleagues ahead of the 21 September meeting
 - OR
 - c. **Provide** additional feedback on the attached *Updated National Adaptation Plan slide pack for Climate Response Ministers Group* (Appendix 1) to officials by 13 September **Yes/No**
 - d. **Agree** this briefing and appendices will be released proactively on the Ministry for the Environment's website once consultation on the National Adaptation Plan has started. **Yes/No**

Signature

Katherine Wilson Director - Climate Adaptation and Evidence	
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Hon James SHAW Minister of Climate Change	
Date:	

Purpose

5. This briefing provides the updated National Adaptation Plan (NAP) slide pack for the Climate Response Ministers Group (CRMG) meeting on 21 September (Appendix 1). These slides have been updated based on your feedback from our adaptation deep dive conversation on 25 August.
6. The September CRMG meeting is also an opportunity for you to test thinking on adaptation initiatives for Budget 22.

Context

Direction from CRMG is needed in September for the NAP to meet its statutory deadline and be published by 3 August 2022

7. Decisions needed from the CRMG in the September meeting relate to scope and structure of the NAP. CRMG decisions are needed now so drafting can commence. Consultation on the draft NAP is needed in the first part of 2022 to meet the statutory deadline for publishing the NAP by August 2022. Further direction from the CRMG will be needed in December on actions to be included in the draft NAP.
8. The decisions on risk scope and structure are the first in a series of decisions Ministers will need to make on the NAP (refer Figure 1).

Figure 1: National Adaptation Plan - Key upcoming decisions for Ministers



Analysis and Advice

The updates we've made to the NAP slide pack for CRMG Ministers

9. On 25 August you provided feedback on the draft NAP slide pack for CRMG [BRF-100 refers]. Resulting changes reflected in the updated slide pack include:


NAP Risk scope (slides 9 and 10)

10. Your preferred option is to prioritise upfront investment to reduce risks over time to the CRMG. The benefits and challenges of this recommendation are illustrated on slide 9. The other options considered are described on slide 10, along with benefits and challenges.

NAP document structure (slides 11-12)

11. Your preferred option is an outcomes-based document structure with integrated case studies to help make the NAP more tangible. The benefits and challenges of this recommendation are described on slide 11. The other options considered are described on slide 12, along with the other options considered. The more detailed outline chapter structure is included within Appendix 3.
12. You also mentioned your preference for a strategy map for the NAP, similar to the one produced for the Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP). We are working on this and will provide you with a draft in the coming weeks.

s 9(2)(g)(i)




Exploring an indigenous worldview as the leading worldview for the NAP (Slide 14)

15. In March Cabinet agreed to us exploring the indigenous worldview as the leading worldview for the NAP. Advice from Ihirangi on what an indigenous worldview could look resulted in their proposal of the Rauora framework. The Rauora framework is focused on the concept of inter-connectedness and abundance. We will provide you with further advice on the potential application of the Rauora framework ahead of the December CRMG meeting. An overview of the Rauora framework and proposed next steps is provided on slide 14.

Defining the costs and benefits of actions

16. You requested the costs of action be reframed so to emphasise the potential return on investment (slide 4). We have updated the slide to indicate there are adaptation investment opportunities with significant benefit-cost ratios.

17. s 9(2)(f)(iv)



s 9(2)(f)(iv)

NAP risk scope choices have resourcing implications

- 18. The Government has a full work programme across climate change and other major reform initiatives. Resourcing is stretched across government and agencies need clear direction on priorities from Ministers.
- 19. s 9(2)(g)(i)

Timeframes for public consultation

- 20. In our previous advice on the timing for public consultation on the draft NAP [BRF-100 refers], you asked whether it was possible to launch public consultation during early February (Waitangi week).
- 21. We do not consider this to be a feasible timeframe as this would require the National Adaptation Plan to be essentially drafted by the end of December. Resources are stretched across agencies due to the COVID policy response, and in many instances, the same people are working on the Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) as well as the NAP. We recommend maintaining the March date for Cabinet decisions to consult.

Next Steps

- 22. The proposed next steps ahead of the 21 September meeting with the CRMG include:

14 September	You provide any final comments to officials on these papers
14 September	You circulate CRMG papers to Ministers
21 September	CRMG meets

Appendix 2: National Climate Change Risk Assessment – All Risks

Natural	Human	Economy	Built	Governance
N1 Risks to coastal ecosystems, including the intertidal zone, estuaries, dunes, coastal lakes and wetlands, due to ongoing sea level rise and extreme weather events.	H1 Risks to social cohesion and community wellbeing from displacement of individuals, families and communities due to climate change impacts.	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.	B1 Risk to potable water supplies (availability and quality) due to changes in rainfall, temperature, drought, extreme weather events and ongoing sea level rise.	G1 Risk of maladaptation across all domains due to the application of practices, processes and tools that do not account for uncertainty and change over long timeframes.
N2 Risks to indigenous ecosystems and species from the enhanced spread, survival and establishment of invasive species due to climate change.	H2 Risks of exacerbating existing inequities and creating new and additional inequities due to differential distribution of climate change impacts.	E2 Risks to the financial system from instability due to extreme weather events and ongoing, gradual changes.	B2 Risks to buildings due to extreme weather events, drought, increased fire weather and ongoing sea level rise.	G2 Risk of exacerbating impacts across all domains because current institutions, legislation, decision-making frameworks, funding mechanisms are not fit for climate change.
N3 Risks to riverine ecosystems and species from alterations in the volume and variability of water flow, increased water temperatures, and more dynamic morphology (erosion and deposition) due to changes in rainfall and temperature.	H3 Risks to physical health from exposure to storm events, heatwaves, vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, water availability and resource quality and accessibility due to changes in temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events.	E3 Risks to land-based primary sector productivity and output due to changes in mean rainfall and temperature, seasonality, weather extremes and changes in the distribution of invasive species.	B3 Risks to landfills and contaminated sites due to extreme weather events and ongoing sea level rise.	G3 Risks to governments and businesses from climate change related litigation due to inadequate or mistimed climate change adaptation.
N4 Risks to wetland ecosystems and species, particularly in eastern and northern parts of New Zealand, from reduced moisture status due to reduced rainfall.	H4 Risks of conflict, disruption and loss of trust in government from changing patterns in the value of assets and competition for access to scarce resources primarily due to extreme weather events and ongoing sea level rise.	E4 Risks to tourism from changes to landscapes and ecosystems and impacts on lifeline infrastructure, due to extreme weather events and ongoing, gradual changes.	B4 Risk to wastewater and stormwater systems (and levels of service) due to extreme weather events and ongoing sea level rise.	G4 Risk of a breach of Treaty obligations from a failure to engage adequately with and protect current and future generations of Māori from the impacts of climate change.
N5 Risks to migratory and/or coastal and river-bed nesting birds due to reduced ocean productivity, ongoing sea level rise and altered river flows.	H5 Risks to Māori social, cultural, spiritual and economic wellbeing from loss and degradation of lands and waters, as well as cultural assets such as marae, due to ongoing sea level rise, changes in rainfall and drought.	E5 Risks to fisheries from changes in the characteristics, productivity, and spatial distribution of fish stocks due to changes in ocean temperature and acidification.	B5 Risks to ports and associated infrastructure due to extreme weather events and ongoing sea level rise.	G5 Risks of delayed adaptation and maladaptation due to knowledge gaps resulting from under-investment in climate adaptation research and capacity building.
N6 Risks to lake ecosystems due to changes in temperature, lake water residence time, and thermal stratification and mixing.	H6 Risks to Māori social, cultural, spiritual and economic wellbeing from loss of species and biodiversity due to greater climate variability and ongoing sea level rise.	E6 Risks to the insurability of assets due to ongoing sea level rise and extreme weather events.	B6 Risks to linear transport networks due to changes in temperature, extreme weather events and ongoing sea level rise.	G6 Risks to the ability of the emergency management system to respond to an increasing frequency and scale of compounding and cascading climate change impacts in New Zealand and the Pacific region.
N7 Risks to terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems due to increased extreme weather events, drought, and fire weather.	H7 Risks to mental health, identity, autonomy and sense of belonging and wellbeing from trauma due to ongoing sea level rise, extreme weather events and drought.	E7 Risks to businesses and public organisations from supply chain and distribution network disruptions due to extreme weather events and ongoing, gradual changes.	B7 Risk to airports due to changes in temperature, wind, extreme weather events and ongoing sea level rise.	G7 Risk that effective climate change adaptation policy will not be implemented and sustained due to a failure to secure sufficient parliamentary agreement.
N8 Risks to oceanic ecosystem productivity and functioning due to changes in sea surface temperature, ocean mixing, nutrient availability, chemical composition and vertical particle flux.	H8 Risks to Māori and European cultural heritage sites due to ongoing sea level rise, extreme weather events and increasing fire weather.		B8 Risks to electricity infrastructure due to changes in temperature, rainfall, snow, extreme weather events, wind and increased fire weather.	G8 Risk to the ability of democratic institutions to follow due democratic decision-making processes under pressure from an increasing frequency and scale of compounding and cascading climate change impacts.
N9 Risks to sub-alpine ecosystems due to changes in temperature and a reduction in snow cover.				
N10 Risks to carbonate based, hard-shelled species from ocean acidification due to increased atmospheric concentrations of CO ₂ .				
N11 Risks to the long-term composition and stability of indigenous forest ecosystems due to changes in temperature, rainfall, wind and drought.				
N12 Risks to the diverse range of threatened and endangered species that are dependent on New Zealand's offshore islands for their continued survival.				

10 most significant risks



Appendix 4: Talking points - NAP agenda item for the CRMG meeting on 21 September

1. I recommend taking action to adapt to all 43 risks in the Risk Assessment
 - Investment costs will be felt upfront, but will reduce future costs of increasing impacts
 - In prioritising some risks over others, we ignore their interconnected relationship.
 - It will require additional work by a range of agencies to ensure all risks are adequately addressed.
 - In many instances significant work programmes to achieve other outcomes are already in progress. Embedded climate outcomes within these work programmes is most likely to deliver the system change we need.

2. I recommend the NAP document structure follows a future-focused, outcome-based approach
 - This approach provides a positive and inspiring vision for building resilience and enabling action
 - I propose to use case studies to create connection and relevance of the NAP for the public
 - Ministers and agencies will be responsible for developing and implementing actions

3. We are under a statutory deadline to publish the NAP by August 2022.
 - Decisions on scope and structure are due now from CRMG so drafting can commence ahead of consultation from March 2022.
 - Actions in the NAP will be drafted in the last quarter of 2021 for your review in December.