



Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026-2032 briefing

18 June 2026

ECM 9800899



Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Ngāmotu
New Plymouth
District Council

Agenda

- Purpose and background
- Run through the Draft Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan
- Engagement and consultation
 - Exercise on what questions to ask the community
- Next steps
- Quick update on the Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan
- Recap on the RECAP



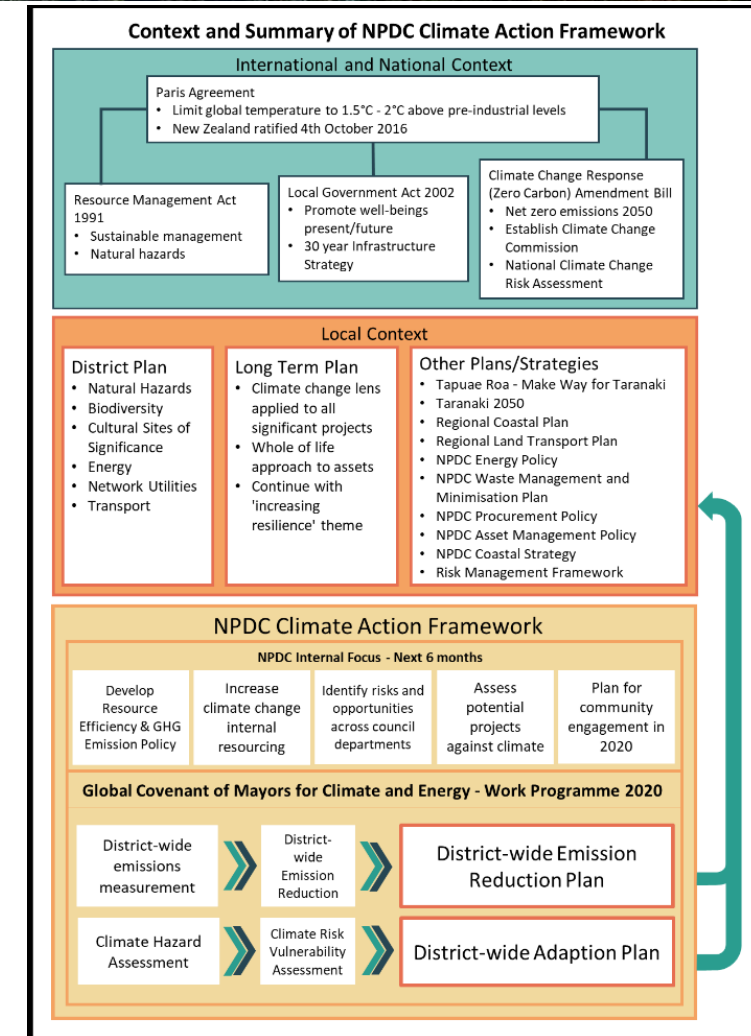
Purpose of today's briefing

- This briefing provides you with a high-level, non-technical overview about what will be coming up at the July Council meeting
 - We are *trying* to avoid getting into too much detail, technical information etc.
- We want to tease out any ideas you have for community consultation



Background

- 2019 – Council declares climate change an “urgent” issue (*not* an emergency) and adopts the Climate Action Framework →
- 2021 – LTP agrees to 3 years of funding for the Climate Action Framework
- 2023 – Council adopts its first District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan
- 2024 – LTP agrees to permanent BAU funding for climate change planning
- 2026 – Refocus and now the RECAP



Draft Resilience,
Energy and Climate
Action Plan 2026-2032



The proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

- The proposed RECAP aims to bring our climate change initiatives together into one Plan
- The proposed RECAP:
 - Reduces duplication and creates efficiencies
 - Provides greater clarity on our roles and responsibilities
 - Better enables prioritisation
- Overall, the proposed RECAP is positioned as grounded, achievable, realistic and focused rather than as aspirational, visionary or expansive



What's in and what's not

In scope:

- Adaptation and resilience
- NPDC energy and emissions
- Wider community support for resilience and energy
- Cross-cutting issues
- Monitoring and accountability

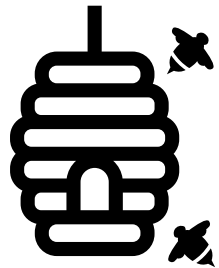
Outside of scope:

- Active transport
- Medium density housing
- Economic decarbonisation
- Etc

BUT improving the integration of climate change outcomes into our plans and strategies (which will impact these) is **IN SCOPE**



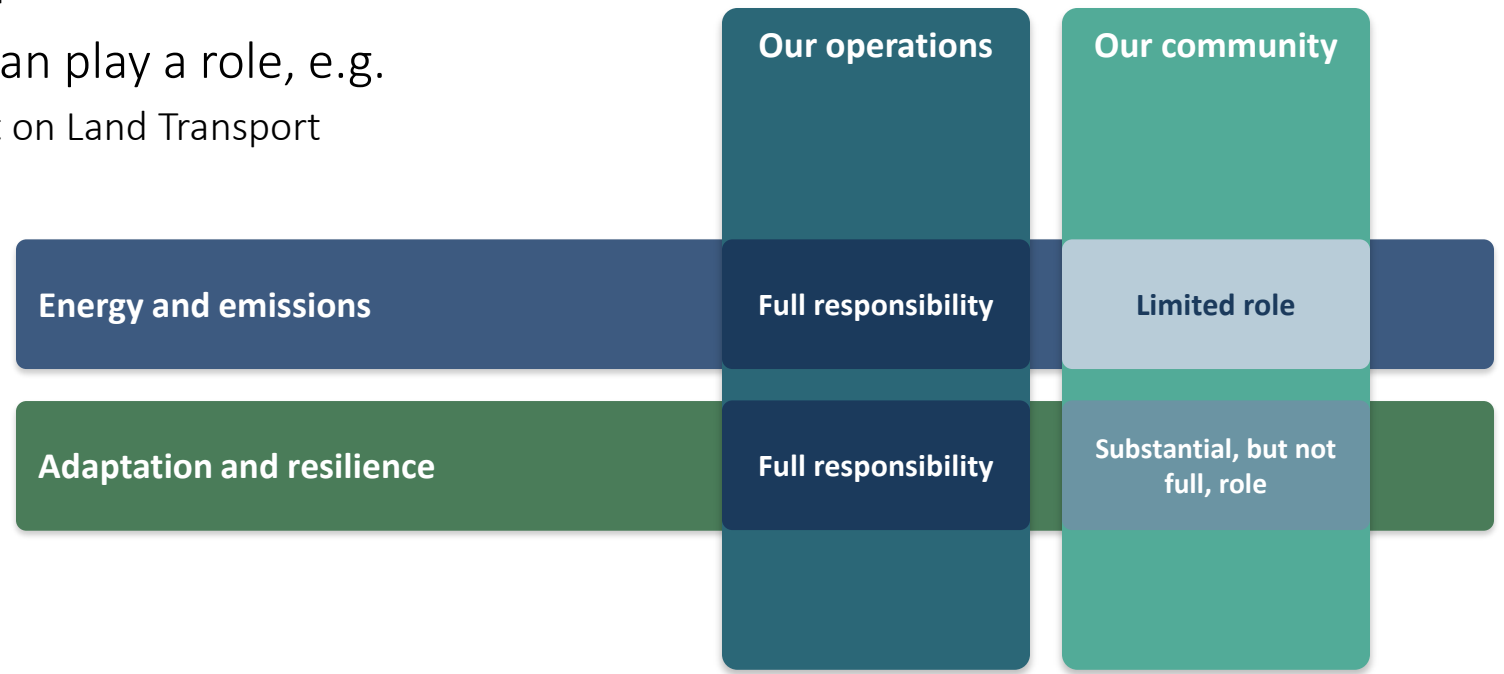
Being clear on roles and responsibilities



Central government sets the national framework through:

- Climate Change Response Act 2002
 - Emissions Budgets, Emissions Trading Scheme, Emissions Reduction Plan
 - National Adaptation Plan, proposed amendments to CCRA
- Other government policies can play a role, e.g.
 - Government Policy Statement on Land Transport
 - Energy policy and strategy

We are fully responsible for our operations
Government policy settings can change our role in the community and economy



This boundary is blurry, particularly with adaptation and resilience



Within this, we need central Government to step up

We have identified three significant systematic issues that the Government needs to resolve to better support our District

(1) The Government needs to support our economy to grow while reducing emissions

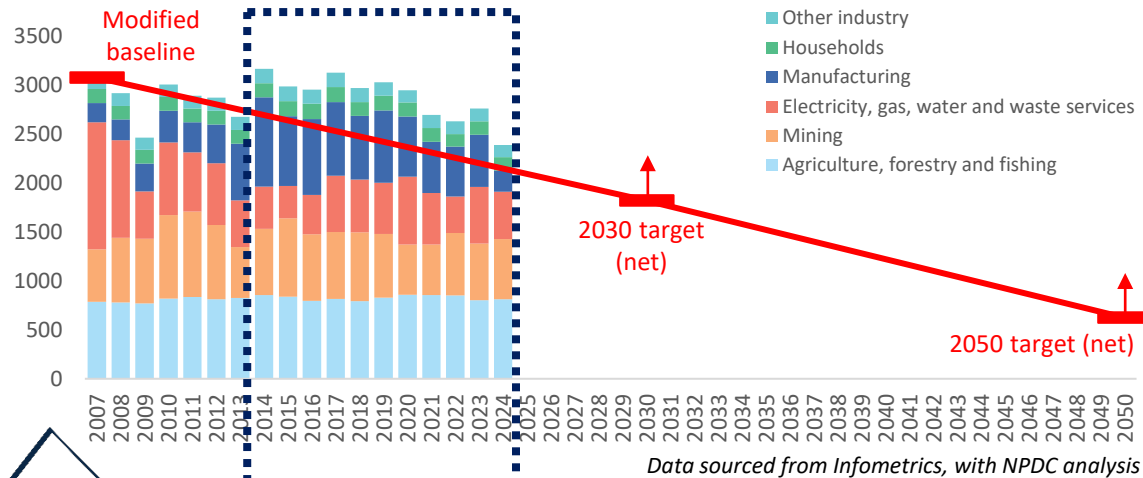
(2) Climate change adaptation responsibilities, powers and funding need to be sorted

We are seeing progress towards responsibilities becoming clear and set, but powers and funding are on a slow track

(3) National policy settings need to be stable

Stable direction and settings creates certainty for investment decisions and minimises further disruption to communities

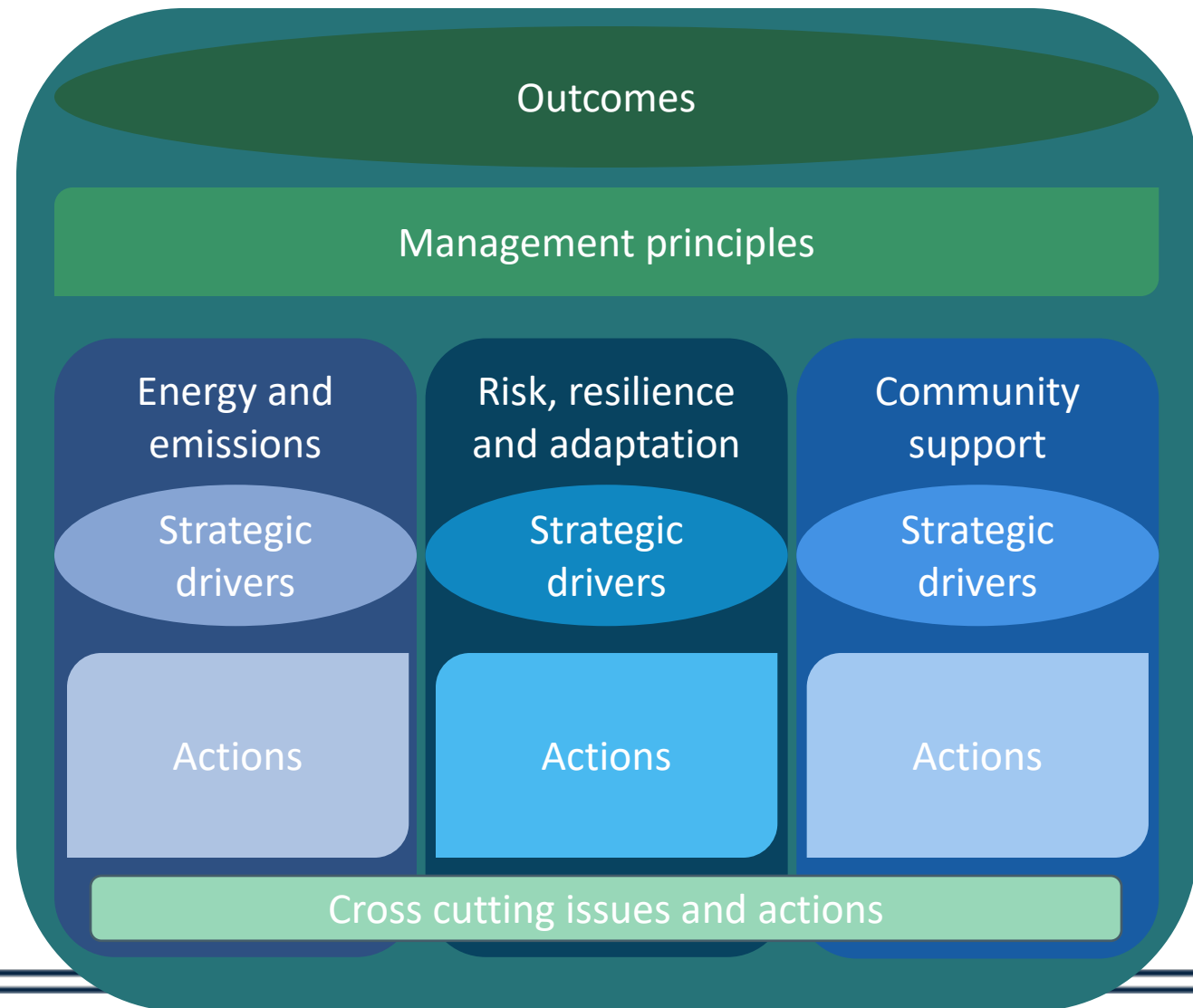
New Plymouth District emissions to downscaled national targets
(kilotonnes of CO₂e)



Our economy (as measured by GDP) has stagnated in this time

Outcomes and principles

- The RECAP needs to work across multiple different subject matters that have different drivers, responsibilities, ways of working etc.
- There is a split of “how do we manage this overall” and then individual “day-to-day how we do this bit”



Objectives and management principles

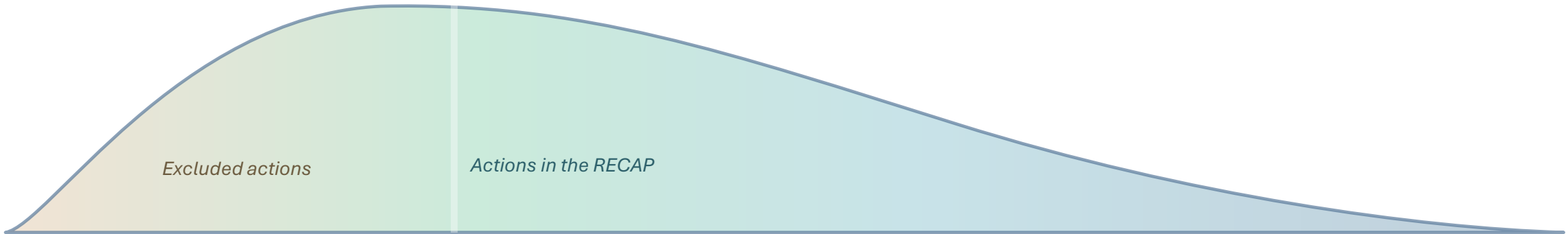
Climate risk management	Council improves knowledge and resources to manage climate and natural hazards and risks to communities, the environment and cultural heritage		
Resilience and Adaptation	Council improves the resilience of the community and environment so the District is better equipped to thrive in a changing climate		
Energy and Emissions	Council reduces its emissions in line with the following targets through prioritised actions that reduce whole-of-life energy and infrastructure costs and support local energy innovation:		
		2030	2040
	Scope 1 and 2	42% reduction (from 2021/22 baseline)	70% reduction (from 2021/22 baseline)
	Scope 3	67% of suppliers engaged (by spend)	79% of suppliers engaged (by spend)
			2050
			Net zero emissions
			90% of suppliers engaged (by spend)
Community support	Council fosters, enables and empowers the community to drive resilience, energy and climate action		

Focused	We will focus on what matters and is in our control
Fiscally-sound	We will manage whole-of-life costs, get ahead of potential climate change cost drivers, and allocate costs fairly and proportionately
Planned and informed	We will use scientific evidence, weigh decisions for both present and future generations, and prioritise our actions based on risks, benefits and costs
Engaged	We will work with communities when our climate change actions may impact their property, their way of living, or the services they receive from Council
Kaitiakitanga	We will enable mana whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga by empowering, partnering and listening in relevant initiatives
Fostering	We will foster actions and initiatives within our community through partnerships, enablement and support
Wider benefits	We will maximise the benefits to our community from our climate change actions
Measured and accountable	We will measure the impacts of our actions to provide accountability and to signal where further actions may be required



Prioritisation of actions

Up-front prioritisation provides clarity on where we make trade-offs for funding and resourcing



Not in RECAP

We've looked widely at possible actions — many didn't make the cut. Some rely on prerequisites not realistic to achieve within the plan's lifespan.

We have also excluded actions that do not provide as much benefit or have too high a cost.

Low

“Low of those that made the cut” — these actions still provide real benefits but aren't immediately pressing or have lower return-on-investment. May move up over time.

Medium

Core initiatives providing substantial benefits. These are the main planned actions to deliver the RECAP.

High

Essential actions: required by law, large cost savings, critical issues, or multiple cross-cutting benefits. Undertaken above all others.



Risk,
resilience and
adaptation



Climate risk, resilience and adaptation

- Climate change is impacting on the frequency and severity of extreme weather events – Taranaki has largely been lucky in the past few years somehow
- New Plymouth District overall has a lower risk profile than many other parts of the country – but there are communities facing higher risks
- Government is progressing with legislation to make local climate change adaptation plans a mandatory role for territorial authorities
 - Regional Spatial Plans will set the mandatory areas, and these must be completed within 5 years of the Regional Spatial Plan being adopted
 - Territorial authorities can decide to have plans for other areas
- There will always be small areas (e.g. a street, a couple of houses) exposed to high risk that sit outside of adaptation plan areas



Strategic drivers

- Local adaptation planning is the primary mechanism for working with at-risk communities
 - This needs to be done with significant community engagement
 - Ultimately, the Government is intending to regulate this, so we will follow whatever the law ends up saying!
- Risk and resilience
 - Utilising natural hazard data and translating that into risk data for our assets and infrastructure
 - Providing the right policy tools and levers for asset and infrastructure owners to make the right decisions



Key actions

- Local adaptation plans
 - Urenui and Onaero – underway, see later in presentation
 - Develop a framework and approach from this work to replicate elsewhere
 - Identify priorities in the Regional Spatial Plan
 - Initiate Waitara in 2027/28 (as our clear top priority for NPDC)
 - Move to an in-house delivery model rather than using consultancy services
- Risk management
 - Risk data and assessment, and integration into NPDC Risk Management Framework
 - Natural hazard management plans for assets at risk
 - Developing & reviewing policies:
 - Loss and Damage Policy; Asset Abandonment Policy; review Coastal Erosion Strategy

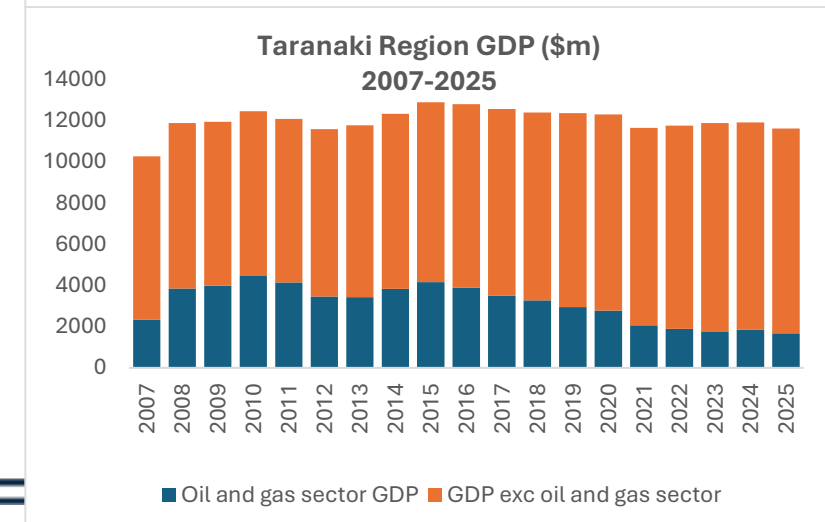
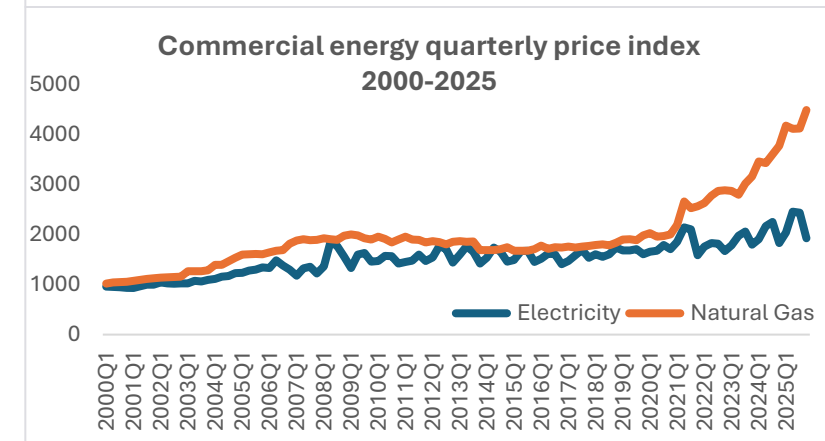
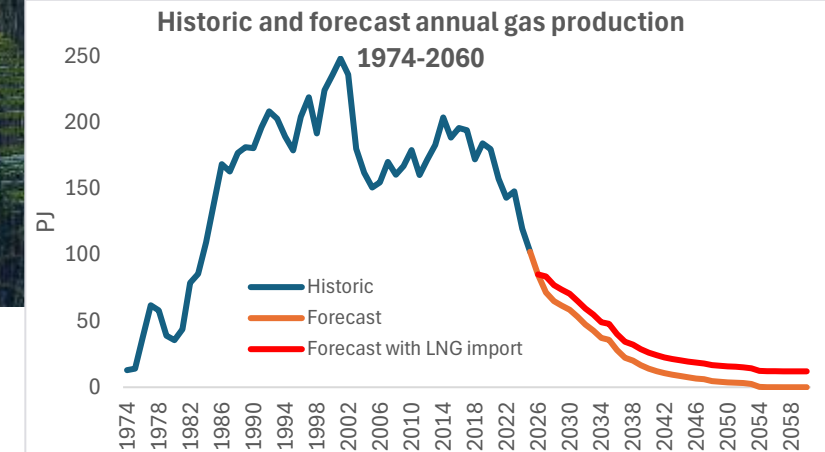


Energy and emissions



Energy and emissions – external influences

- Natural gas supply is shrinking rapidly and prices are increasing
 - LNG imports will not provide sufficient supply to change this
 - This pricing impact is flowing through to the electricity market as well, but is moderated by other factors
 - The Government is now actively supporting businesses to reduce their gas use (Budget 2026 announcement) – this support does not help us
- ETS pricing should increase and decrease based on supply and demand, with a clear pathway that supply will decrease
 - The ETS increases the cost of inaction over time so that action is the more affordable option at some point
- More widely in Taranaki, our energy industry is facing a tough transition into a low-emissions future, constraining our region's economic growth



NPDC energy and emission sources



We are a large gas user across our WWTP, Crematorium, pools and buildings



The PIF has large financed emissions



Capital works and purchased goods and services are also a major emissions source



We use a lot of energy across our portfolio (~\$4m p.a.)



On the plus side, Colson Road landfill emissions (our biggest emission source) are declining

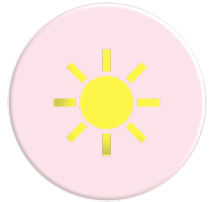


Strategic drivers

- Our approach is to prioritise energy and emission decisions that reduce whole-of-life costs and operational risks
 - This includes carefully monitoring the ETS and its impacts on inputs and goods we use
- We've also historically taken an 'economic development' approach to our assets (i.e. we have a lot of gas assets) and can play a role in supporting our local energy sector with new opportunities so they survive and thrive
- The Colson Rd Landfill closure and landfill gas capture system provides us with the emissions reduction headroom to take this approach while achieving science-based emissions reduction targets



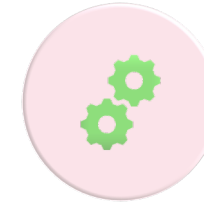
Key actions



Solar energy – identifying key larger sites, and an approach for smaller sites, prioritised to reduce energy costs



Energy management – continue to monitor, manage and reduce energy uses across Council



Construction and purchased emissions – engagement, procurement, whole-of-life costs and ETS impact monitoring



PIF – do nothing *unless/until* low-emissions funds consistently provide the same (or better) returns than the current high-ESG fund approach



Fuel switching – Replacing ~20 gas users across Council, prioritised to reduce energy costs and risks.



Energy innovation – geothermal, bioenergy, energy flex & battery; ecosystem scanning and information sharing



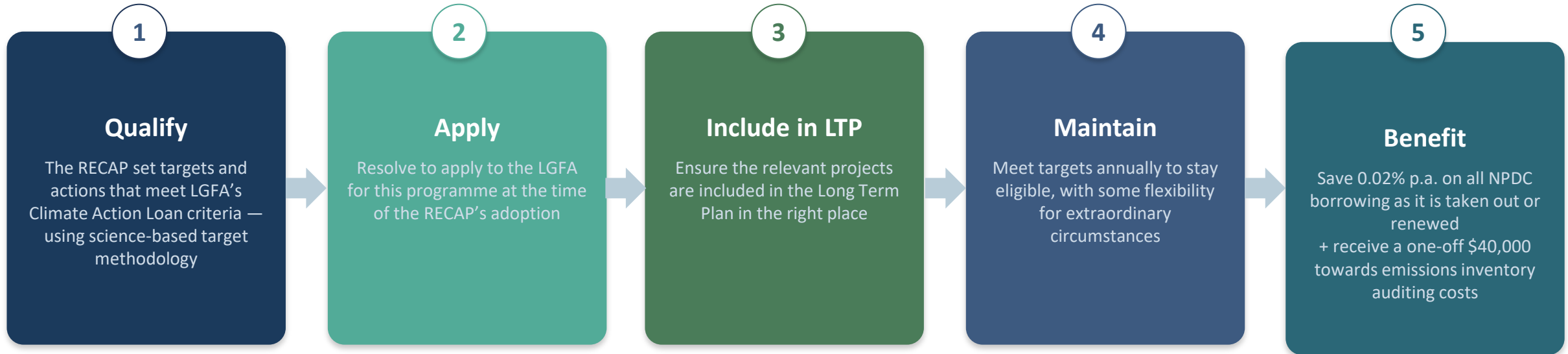
Fleet optimisation – ensure the fleet is the right size, operates appropriately and *then* electrify what is needed

These can be complex projects so a staggered approach is necessary, but will leave us facing energy risk & costs in the meantime

The closure of Ara Ake in Budget 2026 may make this more difficult to achieve as they were providing key connections to innovators and could provide assurance to avoid potential mis-steps



LGFA Climate Action Loans



LGFA Climate Action Loans are a metric designed by and for NZ local government and provides us with an appropriate external view of whether our emissions reduction initiatives are sufficient and 'our fair share'

Current members: Auckland, Dunedin City, Hutt City, Kapiti Coast District, Napier City, Tauranga City, Wellington City & Wellington Regional Councils



Wider
community
support



Community support

- Our community is going to have increasing desire, pressure and costs relating to energy, resilience (insurance) and other climate change issues
- We have a varying role to play in these issues
 - Overall we are *supporting and enabling* rather than leading or doing



Strategic drivers

- Pragmatic and targeted support
- Utilising and fostering community partners to achieve scale and drive action
- Focus on energy efficiency, affordability, resilience and wellbeing issues rather than “climate change” issues
 - This provides broader benefits and is more likely to be taken up by households and community organisations



Key actions – Ratepayer Assistance Scheme

The proposed RAS has three financing schemes within it

Rates
postponement

Deferred Development
Contributions

IMPACT Loans

Provide for property improvement loans where there are both public and private benefits from those improvements
Enables long-term, low-interest loans to keep repayments affordable without any subsidies

Immediate focus on four products for households:

- Solar panels
- Batteries
- Hot water heat pump
- Heat pumps

These all reduce household energy bills and provide immediate financial benefit for households

EECA will be responsible for procurement, accreditation, etc.

Current state of play – holding pattern

- The business case was delivered to the Minister of Local Government late 2025, showing that the RAS will provide significant benefits across the three schemes, is financially viable and requires limited Govt support
- We are (still) awaiting Government decisions to proceed (or not) with legislation and \$6-7m Govt investment
- *Most* signals are positive, and there is wide political support as well
- If there is a **green light** from the Government, then we would need to agree to continue as well
- We would require community consultation on taking a shareholding in a joint CCO and further upfront investment
 - The RAS could be operational within 12-18 months

There are wider options in the medium- to long-term, e.g.:

- Insulation, double-glazing
- Household resilience upgrades
- Supporting water/wastewater connections

These will be more complicated and may require Council-led procurement/accreditation processes

They may also not be net cost savers for households

Flexibility has been built in for these future opportunities, but they are not assumed in the business case's financial modelling



Other key actions

- Leverage and expand the RAS
- Support community-led action
 - Focus the Community Climate Action Grant onto key partners and initiatives
 - Community electrification strategic partnership
- Support builders, developers, architects etc. to deliver innovative energy efficient and resilient homes such as hempcrete →
- Expand our home energy advisory role
 - Widening support for households
 - Provide advice on household climate resilience improvements
 - Partnering for energy hardship
- Wider community resilience initiatives
 - Household rainwater tanks
 - Solar and batteries for community welfare hubs (potential for EECA funding)



Sam Rowlands helping to support hempcrete



Cross-cutting issues



Cross-cutting issues

- There are three issues that go across two or more other areas
- Bringing these together provides for better prioritisation and can obtain management efficiencies



Planning and Strategy

- Reflecting your decision on 30 April, the proposed RECAP commits that climate change issues be considered and included into Council plans and strategies as they are developed or reviewed
- We have already been doing this across many of our recently adopted plans and strategies (such as those listed below), the RECAP proposes to support a *systematic* approach

Tapuae Roa Strategy and Action Plan

- Energy Futures
- Food and Fibre Futures
- Diversification

District Plan

- Hazard zones
- Urban intensification
- Renewable energy
- Environmental protection
- Walking and cycling corridors

Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy

- Huatoki
- Pedestrian & cycling upgrades
- Green initiatives
- Inner city living

Stormwater Vision and Roadmap

- Identification and management of stormwater hazards

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

- Circular economy
- Food waste collection
- Colson Rd landfill gas capture
- Historic landfills at risk

Ngāmotu Integrated Transport Framework

- Bus frequency (TRC)
- Walking, cycling, scooting promotion
- Waiwhakaiho 2nd crossing for resilience

Tiritiri o Mātangi: Waitara Spatial Plan

- Hazard areas
- Climate change adaptation plan
- Stormwater improvements
- Waitara River restoration
- Historic landfill
- Walking, cycling and public transport

- This approach embeds climate change issues into the core of an issue, rather than as a ‘tack-on’

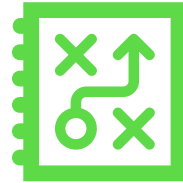


Infrastructure and asset management



Improving climate-related data and information in infrastructure and asset management is a foundational action

This is not an 'interesting' action that gets lots of public interest and excitement



Infrastructure and asset data, management & strategy

Immediate focus – improving hazard and risk data

Future focus – developing action plans for assets subject to natural hazards, improving energy and emissions data and whole-of-life cost data



This is a high priority because it is a foundation for the future

We need to have a solid base of data and information to ensure our actions are prioritised correctly

This information also provides significant other benefits across Council

Improved data and information supports better Asset Management Plans which, in turn, supports better investment decisions



Nature-based solutions

- Nature-based solutions utilise nature to address infrastructure challenges
 - Restoring sand dunes is a prime example
- They often have multiple benefits across reducing natural hazard risks, sequestering carbon, nature and biodiversity, mana whenua kaitiakitanga, tourism, lifestyle, etc. and can be very cost-effective to maintain
- The Govt is promoting voluntary nature and carbon markets that could help fund some of these activities
- Three key actions:

Nature-based
solutions
framework

Planting our
Place

Waiwhakaiho
Wildlink



Monitoring, accountability and review



Monitoring & accountability

- Two monitoring and accountability mechanisms:

Long-Term Plan KPIs

- NPDC greenhouse gas emissions (scope 1 and 2) reduction
- LGFA Climate Action Loans status
- Local Adaptation Plans adopted

These are levels of service statements
October each year
Annual Report, audited by the Audit Office
Tracking in the quarterly performance report

Annual detailed update

- Wider range of detailed KPIs
 - Including scope 3 emissions
- Metrics on wider internal and external influences
- Progress of RECAP initiatives

Not just levels of services
April each year
Internal, report to Council
To be published on the website



Review

- The proposed RECAP's lifespan is 2026-2032, so a review would need to commence in **2031**
- The review will need to plot out:
 - Meeting 2040 emissions reduction targets
 - Finalising off local adaptation plans and looking to their reviews
 - Incorporation of:
 - New science
 - New technology
 - Any greater clarity on likely climate change paths
 - New legal requirements, global agreements etc.



Consultation



We've had numerous engagements on climate change in the past few years, so we are not starting from scratch

Long-Term Plan 2021-2031
consultation in 2021



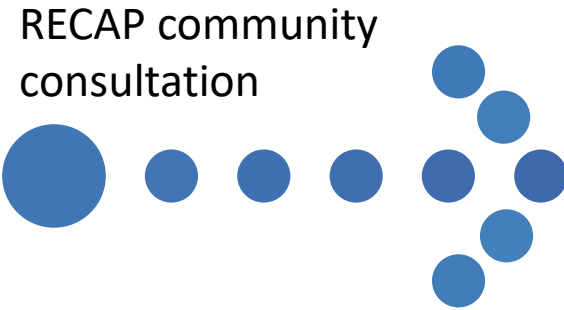
District-Wide Emissions Reduction
Plan consultation in 2022



Long-Term Plan 2024-2034
consultation in 2024

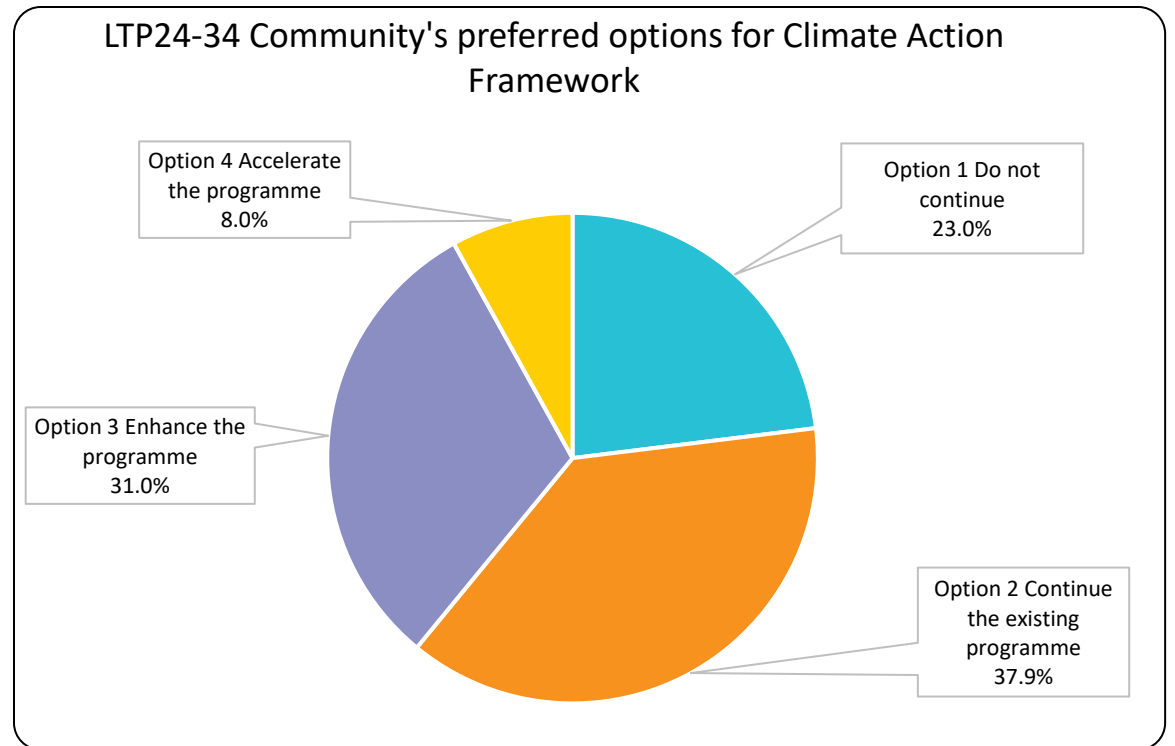
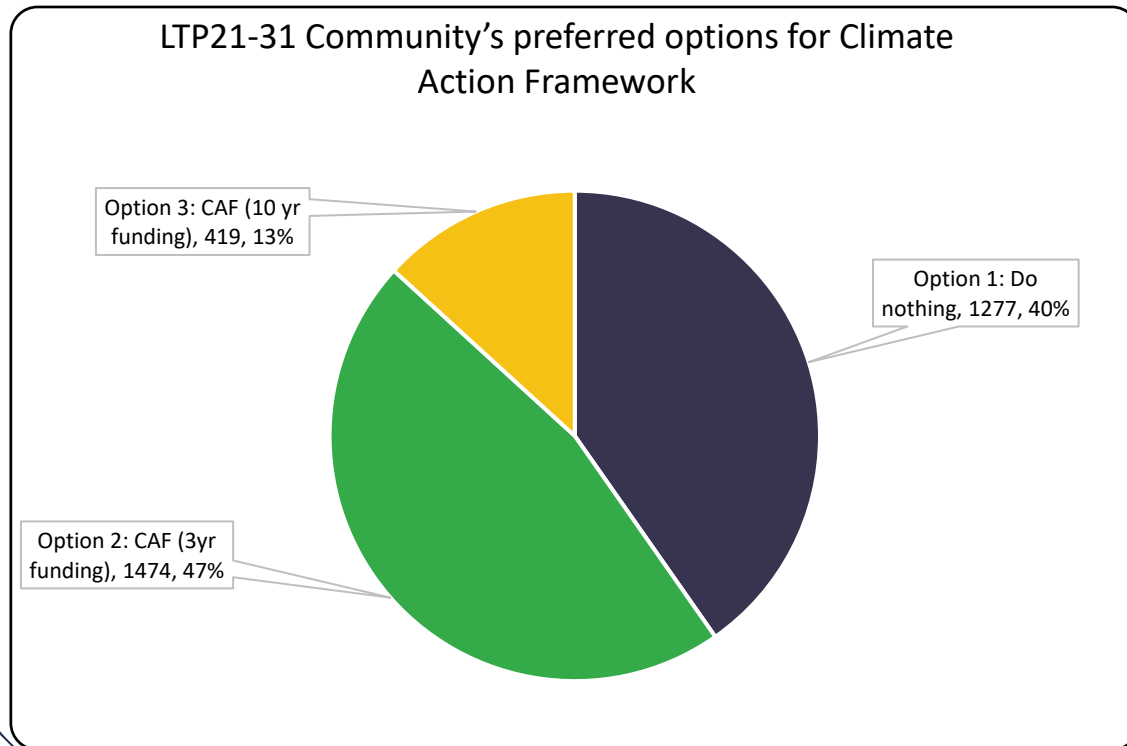


Climate change adaptation survey in
2025



What do previous LTP consultations tell us

- Over the past two LTPs, support for some level of investment has increased by 17% even with more funding being sought



What do previous other engagements tell us

District-wide Emissions Reduction Plan

Consultation 2022

- 63% of submitters thought we should do more
- 37% of submitters thought we were doing enough or should do less
- Strong support for many actions across the spectrum though

Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Survey 2025

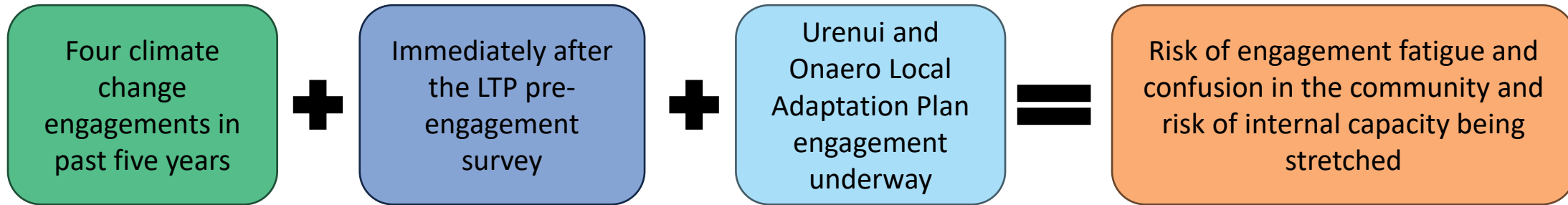
- 65% of respondents were concerned about climate change, with 40% extremely concerned
- Respondents were most concerned about severe weather/storms, flooding, drought and coastal erosion
- Support of potential action areas:

Help communities to be more resilient	71%
Improve data and education on risks and impacts	74%
Make the economy and financial system more resilient	75%
Make infrastructure more resilient	88%
Make homes, buildings and place more resilient	82%
Improve nature's resilience and using nature-based solutions to improve our resilience	81%

Both of these found strong support for proposed actions even with those disagreeing with 'climate change' as an issue



Proposed consultation approach for the RECAP



- We're proposing the consultation be relatively light touch with the focus on advertising rather than events, public workshops etc. as they are unlikely to illicit significant wide community engagement at this time
- Alongside the proposed RECAP document itself, we'll produce a ~4 page summary with the key actions and questions as the main consultation material
- Promotion channels: Taranaki Daily News public notice, Facebook ads, direct notification to iwi, hapū, high schools & relevant community groups, Antenno alert(s), press release, Youth Advisory Group
- We will also be undertaking technical consultation with LGFA to ensure that the RECAP ticks the boxes for the Climate Action Loan eligibility



Exercise on what questions to ask

In small groups discuss:

- (1) What information on community views and preferences do you need or want to help you make an informed decision?
- (2) What questions should we be asking to obtain that information?

Avoid leading questions and language designed to illicit support or opposition

Questions can be quantitative or qualitative – how many versus why

Think about the mental load involved in asking more complicated questions (such as ranking exercises)

Questions have to be on one issue, don't bundle multiple questions together

We need to be able to have an open mind on the feedback and actually be able to do something about it

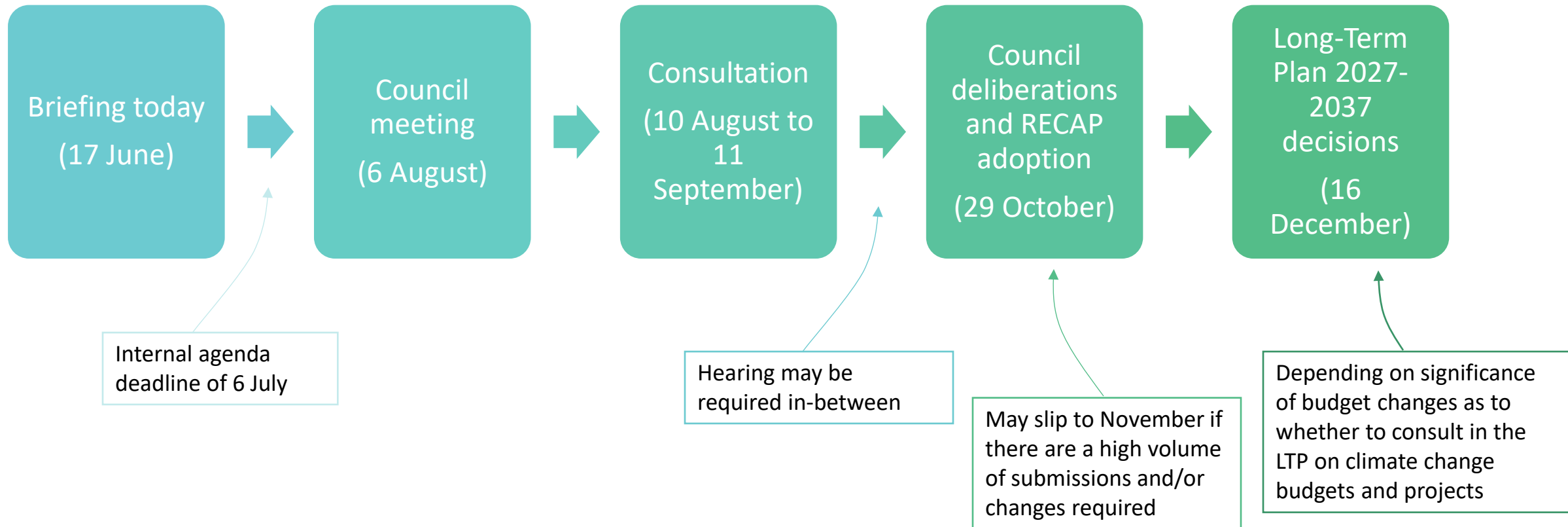
Think about how we will analyse and use that information to make a decision



Next steps



Timeline



Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan



Urenui and Onaero

- These twin settlements have been facing long-term coastal erosion issues that are being exacerbated by climate change
- River flooding to properties is also a risk under some future scenarios

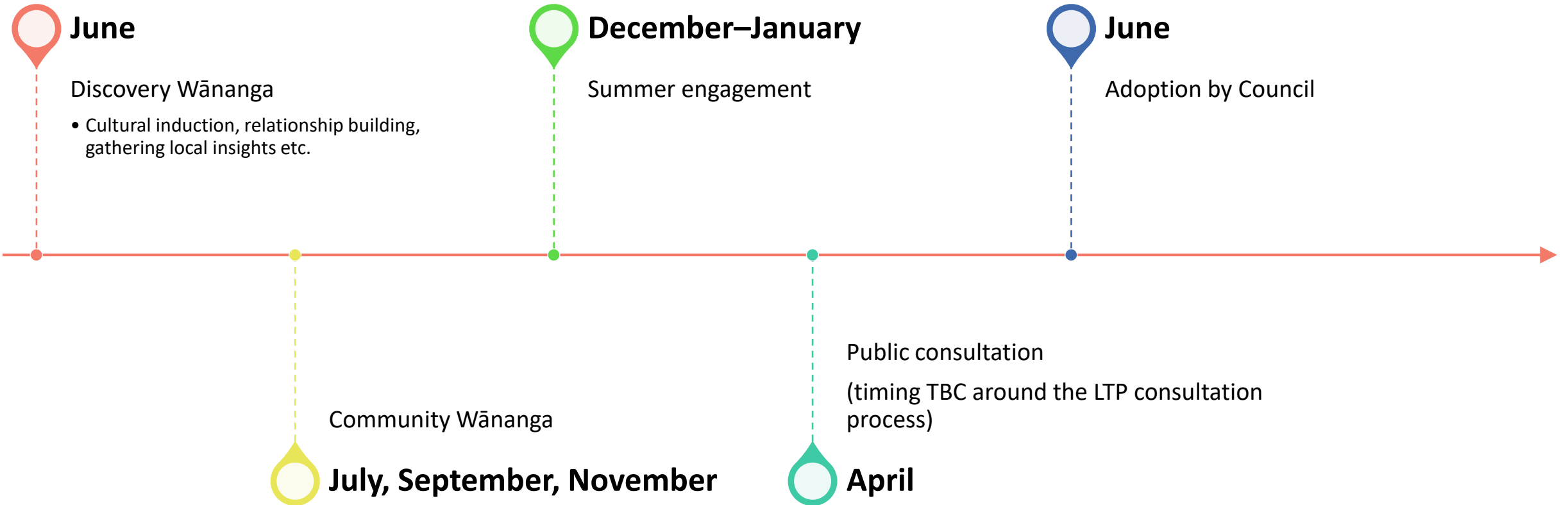


Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan

- This Plan will move us from an *ad hoc* approach of working with these communities around their natural hazard risks to a more planned approach
- First put into the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 and then carried into the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034
 - The primary driver for “why are these communities the first” is to ensure infrastructure investment decisions are aligned to long-term climate resilience and land viability
- Working in partnership with Ngāti Mutunga in their dual role as mana whenua and as the owner of the Urenui and Onaero Domains

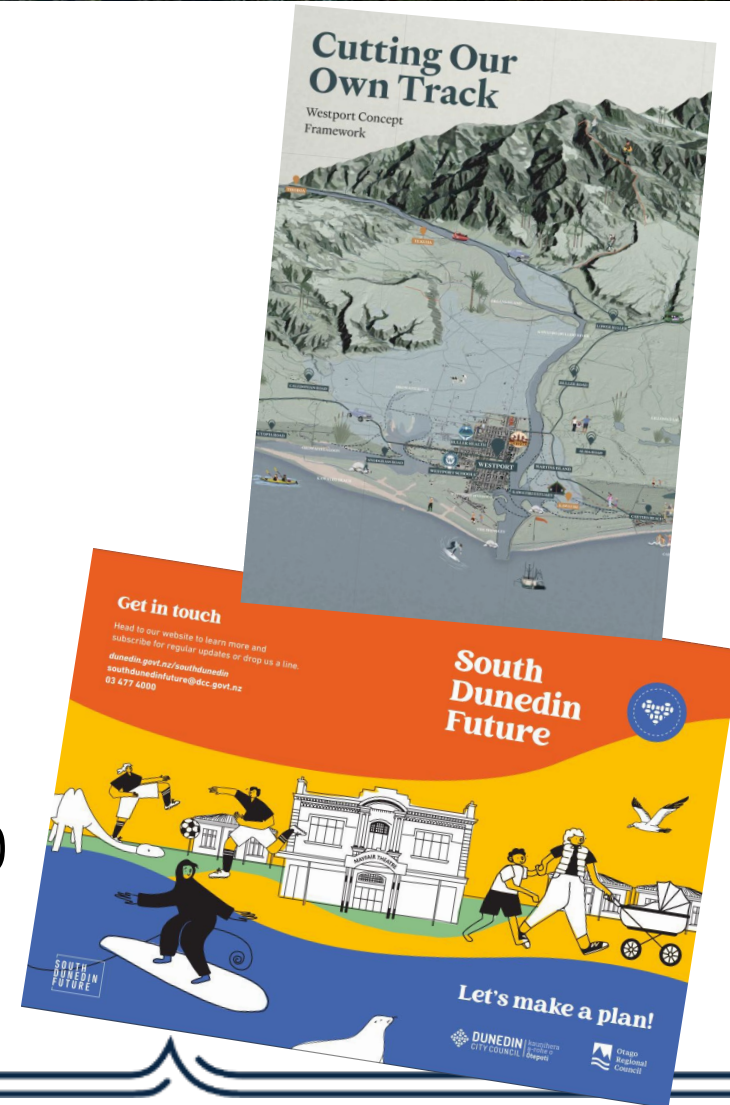


Timeframe



Outputs

- Two local adaptation plans – one for each community
- The documents will be:
 - Graphically led and visual journey map
 - Adaptation options and pathways
 - Implementation challenges and opportunities
 - Alignment and integration with other plans, policies and other evaluation considerations
- We will seek ‘generic’ business case funding in the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037, and then any implementation funding will be put forward for Long-Term Plan 2030-2040



Management approach

- This was put into the LTP as a *project*, so relying on consultancy
- We've procured Isthmus and Tonkin+Taylor as leading national experts
- We're integrating our Team into this work to use this process to develop a framework and blueprint for NPDC
- Depending on decisions in the LTP, we can then build a small team to undertake these plans internally as a *programme*



Recap on the RECAP



RECAP Recap

- The Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan:
 - Brings together the two climate change plans
 - Places emphasis onto what is our responsibility and within our control
 - Seeks to be grounded and practical, rather than aspirational or visionary
 - Has been prioritised clearly
 - Utilised previous relevant engagement and consultation outcomes to get to this point
- We will consult the community and assess their further feedback for changes
- This will lead to the LTP and what you decide to fund



Questions? Comments?



