Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 1

Name: Colleen Thorpe

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Using DAPP when working with communities is an excellent idea. Then everyone will know the plans ahead of time and know what the triggers are for moving to a new step in the plan.

   Do not take too long to set up your climate change risk management information.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Thank you for providing the details with and without the Colson Road impacts. Your dependence on Colson Road reducing it's emissions is quite high.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   NPDC is responsible for internal NPDC but try to bring the rest of the community along with you. Be bold and keep celebrating our unique style and forward thinking in New Plymouth.

   Helping seniors should be higher on your importance list. Rainwater collection will also help with possible water restrictions in the future.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Congratulations to the team who collected all of the data to create this Action Plan. To have a plan means to know where you have started from and I believe that you have this now. Thank you for being proactive on these priorities, because all of them are important and so interrelated. The way you have written it is good for anyone in the community to understand.

   We are one Taranaki, I hope that you will be working with STDC and SDC so that we have synergy around the maunga.

   I would like to see stronger focus on all of these priorities in new infrastructure projects starting now. What are the expected targets in each of these areas for project managers in the infrastructure group? Are they reporting on these topics on their projects to the steering committees? For example, waste minimisation goals are a good start to meet your Zero Waste strategy in contracts.

   NPDC should set the example, don't be the follower.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 2

Name: **Catherine Cheung**

Organistion: **Climate Justice Taranaki**

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Refer to submission on following pages.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Refer to submission on following pages.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Refer to submission on following pages.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus.

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Refer to submission on following pages.

NPDC Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan, 2026-2032

Climate Justice Taranaki Submission, 15 September 2026

Overall

The quote from the Office of the Auditor-General is powerful, as it highlights that "...*councils are at the front line of a wider response to climate change... largely responsible for civil defence, regional and district land use, planning, and major community infrastructure. They are the owners of significant assets, some of which are at risk because of climate change. They also have a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.*

Councils have obligations to keep their communities and assets safe from the impacts of a changing climate..." (p.6)

Council recognises its full responsibility to reduce energy and emissions in their operations and to adapt their infrastructure and services to be resilient.

Council roles and responsibilities in energy and emissions, resilience and adaptation are well laid out (p.7).

The document sets out clearly & quite frankly the context and constraints Council sits within, notably the lack of bipartisan approach (p.10) from central government and policy instability, financial limitations, and its limited control over non-council asset operations.

We strongly support:

- Minimizing climate risks by avoiding building and development in high risk areas
- Strengthening council assets' resilience and adaptation with better data
- Energy conservation and transition off fossil gas in all council assets supported by renewable energy generation
- Empowering communities in resilience and adaptation
- Enabling community energy initiatives to foster energy conservation, renewable generation and sharing

Economic growth and planetary boundaries

We have issues with this statement "The Government needs to support our economy to grow while reducing emissions" (p.8), even though certain parts of the economy such as health, education, regenerative agriculture and distributed renewable energy, warrant far greater government support.

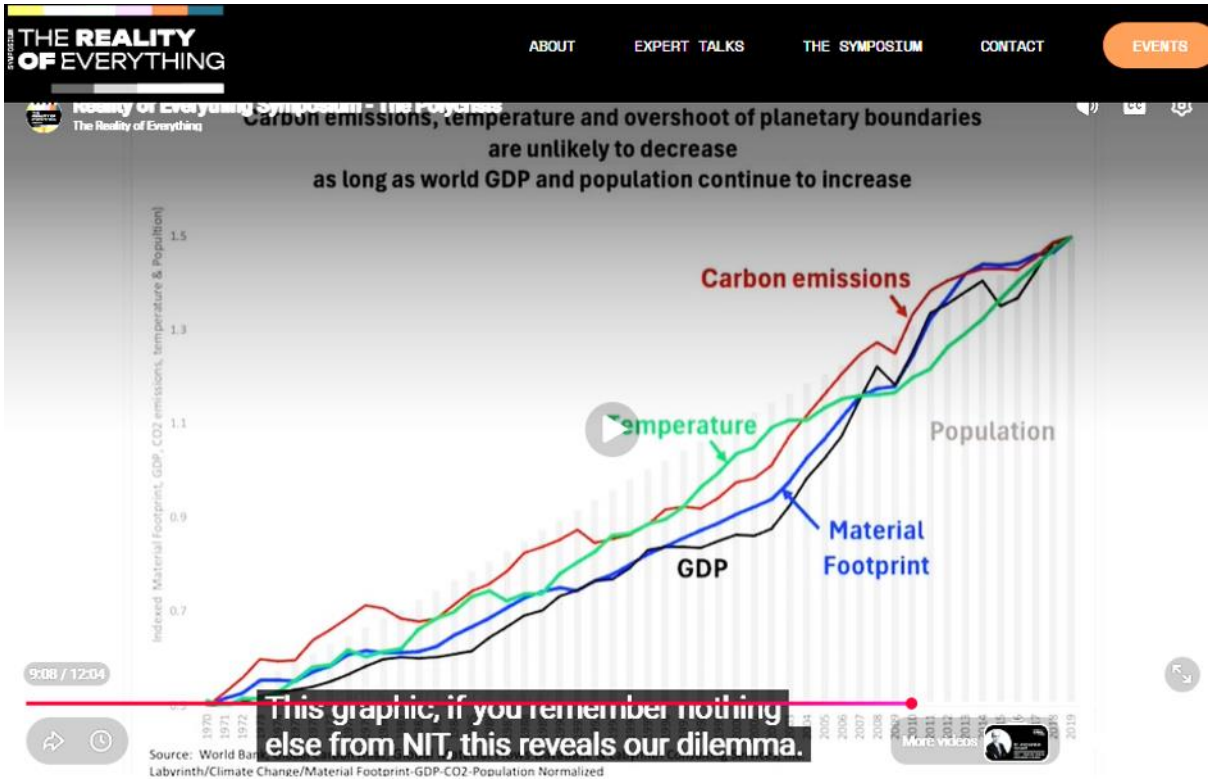
Since industrialisation, economic growth has been reliant on fossil fuels resulting in greenhouse gas emissions. In a few countries, emissions grew at a lesser rate than gross domestic product (GDP) growth as some of those reduced emissions had been outsourced to another country.

It is also crucial to recognise that climate change is just one of the 7 planetary boundaries we have overshot. The tunnel vision on emissions reduction is not helpful as it does not address other overshoots which risk irreversible damage to our own life support system. Given the urgency and the limited resources we have on multiple fronts, it is wise and prudent to commit to actions and solutions that create synergies and co-benefits, rather than single-issue focused actions with trade-offs.

Mike Joy, in his recent presentation at the Reality of Everything Symposium said, "*...our dilemma: economic growth – the goal of governments and, it seems, almost everyone – simply means more*

fossil energy consumption, more greenhouse gas emissions and more non-renewable material extraction.

Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, comes in for a lot of flak, but one thing it is good at is measuring harm. Of all the environmental indicators available, it is the best overall predictor of environmental and climate harm." https://realityofeverything.org/speakers/mike-joy/ (26 June 2026)



We live in a finite planet which operates within fixed biophysical limits, it is only logical that we can't keep growing, not least the economy. We caution the push for 'green growth' (p.9).

It is time we consider alternative economic systems like circular economy, steady state economy, economy of enough, doughnut economics and wellbeing economy.

Reducing energy use is a big part of this, and we're glad to read that council recognises, "*we have full responsibility for our operations to both reduce energy and emissions and to adapt our infrastructure and services to be resilient*." (p.6)

New Plymouth District emissions to downscaled national targets (graph, p.8)

This graph needs a bit more explanation. It is not clear how the "downscaled national targets" of 2030 and 2050 are derived. Where would transport emissions fit?

It would take enormous efforts at many levels to reduce New Plymouth's per capita emissions from being nearly double the national average, largely linked to our heavy reliance on the fossil fuel and dairy industries. We cannot continue to rely on the Emissions Trading Scheme to drive emissions as it has not worked due to rorting, lobbying and other problems. (p.8)

We appreciate that "there are numerous caveats to this graph". Two such caveats could be Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import and the new emissions associated with the emergence of Taranaki Alliance, with $500,000 funding from NPDC, to develop "leading heavy industrial and advanced manufacturing" in the region, not least for high tech defence capability. Notably, the

2025 Defence Capability Plan has downgraded climate change from 13 mentions in 2019 to just two mentions. With the country's largest fossil gas user, Methanex closing, we had hoped that it would allow for more time for a managed energy transition while workers move into smart, distributed and potentially innovative renewable energy systems. Yet the government remains hellbent on LNG import and Resources Minister Shane Jones is geared up to get Taranaki engineers to boost the Defence Force's resources.

Council Climate Change Objectives

We agree with the overarching objectives and outcomes, in particular "Council fosters and empowers the community to drive resilience, energy and climate action." (p.11)

Summary of Actions

It is good to give a high priority to actions that have "multiple benefits". (p.12)

Do "risk registers" exist already but require more "climate change risks" to be integrated into them? Are they in the public domain? (p.12)

In the action table (p.12), we suggest reporting on the financial impact of climate change events, not only "understand and monitor".

"Ensure that future developments do not occur in risky areas" is of high priority and critical.

Where is Council at with the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant (NPWWTP) Master Plan? Will the public have a say? (p.12)

Can we assume that the NPWWTP solar PV will be part of the Master Plan? (p.13)

Maybe Council could explore community participation opportunities?

It makes good sense to replace gas boilers at Council assets with electric ones as they come near to their end of life.

Is there any possibility for microhydro or microwind for some sites, in addition to solar?

It's great to see high priority given to "Optimise fleet size and utilisation". Can this be extended to the community, say community groups, school fleets, childcare centres, shared community EV?

We'd like to see "Sustainable procurement practices" be given higher than "Low" priority. (p.14)

We're unsure about Council investing in energy innovation, when there are known technologies to reduce demands and emissions. We'd suggest **low** "risk appetite and tolerance" for energy innovation rather than medium (Table on p.13).

We fully agree with Council supporting the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme to fruition and request that Council give higher priority to support solar for renters (p.14), incorporating heat pumps and water heat pumps.

Climate risk, resilience and adaptation

Policies to support adaptation and resilience are critical, hopefully council will come up with something that is proactive, practical and empowering, in addition to the mentioned loss and damage and asset abandonment.

Not enabling development and building in risk areas is crucial (p.27). In some cases, it would likely take a very strong Council to stand up against development pressures and lobbying from the real

estate industry – a form of “barriers to cease building in risky areas...” perhaps (p.28). Working closely with the insurance industry would be beneficial, to avoid putting at risk places that are currently not a priority for adaptation. Civil defence and emergency management teams also have expertise and experience to offer, especially if given more resources.

Catchment groups have a role to play in caring for and monitoring their river catchments and working with rural communities to lower flood risks and manage extreme events. More resources are needed to build their on-ground capacity, taking some load off council staff.

It is a good idea to engage rangatahi/youth in adaptation planning, as well as kaumatua (p.28). Indeed, we would support council expanding its climate team for mitigation, resilience and adaptation, so that more research, data collection and community engagement can be done.

Lessons learnt from the local adaptation planning of Urenui, Onaero and Waitara would be extremely valuable for other communities.

Energy and emissions

Importing LNG makes no economic or climate sense. It is also extremely dangerous to put an LNG import facility in Port Taranaki, surrounded by thousands of homes, many schools, childcare centres and public beaches. Numerous organisations and experts including industry insiders have shown that LNG is not needed and that the dry year risk can be dealt with by cheaper, cleaner and less risky alternatives. We call on NPDC to make a stand and advise the central government against LNG. We assume Council meant LNG (not LPG) on p.29.

The NPWWTP is the largest electricity and fossil gas user amongst Council assets. How the Master Plan shapes its future will affect Council’s power costs and emissions profile. As we have submitted multiple times on the WWTP and on hydrogen, using hydrogen as a fuel is extremely wasteful and illogical, especially to dry sewage. Burning it as a blended fuel with fossil gas would prolong the reliance of fossil gas. Installing solar panels at the WWTP could cut the power bill but not emissions in the long run. It’s good to see the mention of anaerobic digestion (p.37).

We would like more transparency about the 16% of “investment emissions” and 32% of “supply chain emissions” (p.30). We believe the Scope 3 emissions reduction targets on engaged suppliers are too low (p.34) and suppliers that do not have any climate goals or proven efforts in lowering emissions do not warrant council business.

We would like to see more ambitious investment emissions reduction and divestment away from Israeli companies.

How would Council’s $500,000 investment into **Taranaki Alliance** affect emissions in NP, Taranaki or further? (see above)

While it is good to hear that Colson Road landfill emissions are declining, it is frustrating to read that there is nothing else to do to cap it.

Is the current trucking of our general wastes to Bonnie Glenn outsourcing our emissions to another district?

We would like more information about Council’s plan for local solutions for processing organic waste to reduce emissions, e.g. Green Loop.

A great deal of caution and the precautionary principle need to be taken to avoid prolonged, tragic impacts on the whenua, awa and neighbours. There are lessons to be learnt from Remediation

NZ's supposedly organic composting and vermiculture operations in the Uruti valley, especially if oil and gas exploration and drilling resumes or expands, and as local landfarms run out of capacity.

Actions and Priorities

It's great to see "energy conservation and energy efficiency", renewable energy generation (p.38) and "Gas transition programme" (p.36 & 37). "Value for money" for Council and ratepayers would be open to interpretation though.

Will Council invest in batteries for energy storage alongside solar panels? For some facilities where night-time power use is significant, having battery storage could be useful.

It's good to see fleet optimisation and opportunities to reduce total vehicle numbers (p.41). Maybe Council can showcase how it's done!

Energy innovation

Yes, "be cautious to avoid unproven or over-hyped technologies..." So-called green hydrogen is one of those.

It is important to follow the waste hierarchy, so that only turn organic waste that cannot be composted or worm-farmed would be considered for bioenergy. (p.43)

Energy storage like the 100 hour Nickel iron battery or salt ion battery may be worth exploring.

Community energy and resilience support

Excellent!

The Home Energy Assessment Tool (HEAT) kit sounds interesting. Community groups and schools can help promote its use in the community when it is ready.

It's great to continue and expand the Community Climate Action Fund, and with more focus on energy conservation, community resilience and adaptation. Education and community buy-in are crucial across these areas.

Yes to microgrids, especially for new residential developments in green field and remote areas and papakainga, and with the integration of electric transport.

With water meters billing from July 2027, it is a good time to educate households and communities in water conservation, harvesting and reuse.

We would like council to seriously consider mandating and/or incentivising **new residential development to install rainwater tanks** and/or stormwater capture for reuse, both would contribute to community resilience while reducing demand/burden on council water supply.

Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO) needs to be better funded, staffed and resourced, so that it can support communities in emergency preparedness and management.

We encourage council to invest in **community resilience planning and emergency hubs** (in resourcing and capacity building) to empower communities to better deal with emergencies, e.g. when isolated by extreme weather events which are becoming more frequent, or in a fuel crisis when the trucks stop. In the longer term, building local food resilience and community capacity and connections are key.

Moreover, Taranaki already has extensive catchment management programmes and plans. We propose building on these by developing integrated Catchment Climate Resilience Plans that bring

together existing freshwater, land, biodiversity, hazard, infrastructure and community initiatives and explicitly assess their resilience under future climate conditions. This catchment approach could continue to work in view of changes to the current local government structure, involving iwi, hapū, landowners, industries and community groups.

At the national level, it was a real shame that the Climate Emergency Response Fund which ring-fenced revenue from the Emissions Trading Scheme for climate initiatives, was scrapped by this coalition government in May 2024. The funding cut on research organisations, at a time when climate and hazard data have become paramount, is equally incomprehensible. The complexity around who pays for adaptation and retreat, preferably managed, is huge. We do not pretend to know the answer other than incorporating the 'polluters pay principle' and a much more progressive and equitable tax system. We also urge that a strong precautionary approach is taken at all planning stages, from district plan review to decisions on landuse consents, to minimise risks and consequences.

Thank you for this piece of work and we look forward to the opportunity to contribute and collaborate.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 3

Name: Yvonne Northcott

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   To me we need only concentrate on controlling pollution. that is our domestic rubbish, roadside dumping, being personally responsible.

   Also if government want to transition from gas, they need to stop further sales of gas appliances and local councils need to include rain water tanks, solar power in New build consents. Overall transition away from fossil fuels must begin somewhere and not happen instantaneously. Phasing means as old wears out it is not replaced with same . Changes take time, they do not usually happen over night. Our country should be able to support the gas appliances we have if no new ones are added and the industries take advantage of the govt loan offered.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I think the plan looks good.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Looks great.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Phasing in and out are the core priorities in any approach

   I can not understand how council could let the govt plan to bring LNG to Taranaki without rejecting it .

   Where is the validation for your plan when you take that attitude to such a negative govt proposal.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 4

Name: **Kristin D'Agostino**

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

I support this two-series structure — you can't prioritise resilience investment without good risk data, and starting local adaptation planning with Waitara, New Plymouth West and the Northern Taranaki Hill Country is the right call given NPDC's own risk assessment.

But I think the two series are currently too disconnected from the energy work happening elsewhere in this Plan. Severe weather increasingly means power loss, not just flooding or erosion, yet community energy resilience barely features in either series. I'd like to see distributed solar and battery systems for marae, foodbanks, schools and halls treated as adaptation infrastructure in their own right, prioritised first in the communities already identified as highest-risk — starting with Waitara, where Ōwae Marae is specifically flagged as exposed to stormwater flooding.

I'd also like NPDC to be more ambitious about pace. Waiting on the Regional Spatial Plan before broadening adaptation planning risks leaving lower-ranked but still at-risk communities behind for years. Where NPDC already has good evidence of risk, as it does for most of these communities, it shouldn't need to wait for external processes to start the conversation and build local resilience alongside it.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

I support the direction of the energy and emissions program. Facility-level solar PV, the planned exit from natural gas as reserves deplete and prices rise, and prioritising actions by whole-of-life cost and return on investment are all sound, well-evidenced choices. The 100% renewable electricity procurement, the Te Matakupenga solar farm relationship, and the staged gas boiler replacement program show NPDC managing its $4 million annual energy spend responsibly.

However, this section only addresses Council's own operational energy and emissions. It stops at the boundary of Council's assets and treats community-scale energy as a separate, lower-priority workstream ("Community energy and resilience support") rather than part of the same strategy. I think this significantly understates both the opportunity and NPDC's practical role, and I'd like the two workstreams brought much closer together in the final Plan.

The opportunity being left on the table

Rewiring Aotearoa's Electric Homes & Vehicles 2026 report puts hard numbers on what's available across the district, beyond Council's own facilities. An average home running on gas appliances and petrol vehicles loses around $7,600 a year compared with an electrified home paired with solar and a battery, and that gap has doubled since 2024. Even with upfront costs and loan repayments included, an all-electric home is roughly $3,000 a year better off — around $45,000 over 15 years. Financed solar, battery and grid combinations now cost around $0.12 per kWh, already cheaper than grid electricity, petrol, gas and LPG. Scaled to a community of 10,000 homes, electrification generates an estimated $6.6 million in annual bill savings and over $32 million in net savings across 15 years.

Crucially, the report frames this as a market failure, not a household failure: the savings are real, but they sit behind upfront capital costs, and financial products, energy market regulation and information gaps stop many households accessing them. The lowest-income 20% of households spend proportionally about 330% of what an average household spends on home energy — the households who'd benefit most are least able to act without support.

This matters directly here. Nearly 30 per cent of District households remain on natural gas, exposed to the same price and supply risk NPDC has identified for its own facilities, and around one in five Taranaki households is already going cold to manage costs. The Plan names this problem, but the response — mostly Medium and Low priority actions like "Community energy resilience," "Support solar for renters," and "Support those in energy hardship" — is disproportionately small next to the opportunity Rewiring Aotearoa's data shows. If household electrification is a genuine market failure, Council enabling finance and trusted advice isn't a nice-to-have alongside the energy and emissions program— it's the same problem at household rather than facility scale, arguably larger by an order of magnitude.

A role model: Ann Arbor's Sustainable Energy Utility

I'd point NPDC to Ann Arbor, Michigan, as a model for a local authority playing a meaningful enabling role in community-scale energy without owning generation or distribution assets itself. Ann Arbor's sustainable energy utility doesn't replace the incumbent grid operator or its wires; instead, the city is building a parallel power system, starting with rooftop solar and battery storage in homes and businesses that opt in, then expanding into neighbourhood microgrids and community solar. Only those who opt in pay for it, letting it scale gradually, while customers keep their existing utility connection. Voters backed the model overwhelmingly.

The relevance isn't that NPDC should set up a utility — Taranaki's situation and New Zealand's regulatory settings differ. It's the model: an enabling, opt-in, locally coordinated layer alongside the existing energy system, funded by participants rather than all ratepayers. That's close to what NPDC already does in miniature through the RAS/IMPACT loans, Sustainable Home Advice, and "Strategic partner for community energy" — currently scattered as Medium/Low priorities rather than one coherent local model.

What I'd like to see change

I want "Community energy and resilience support" folded into the Energy and Emissions strategy as a genuine second pillar, not an appendix — the same whole-of-life-cost, security and affordability logic applies at household scale, arguably more urgently. I want the enabling actions elevated in priority, given this is a documented market failure, not a matter of household choice. I want Council backing trusted local intermediaries — community energy groups, marae, schools, foodbanks — to deliver opt-in, locally-led projects, with Council limited to advice, finance facilitation and co-funding, not asset ownership. I want the rollout equity-weighted toward households and communities in energy hardship and the priority adaptation areas already named in this Plan. And I want community solar and battery systems recognised as resilience infrastructure, given their role providing backup power during severe weather events.

NPDC's operational energy work is well-considered. The gap is treating the far larger household and community opportunity as a lightly-resourced add-on, when it's where most of the savings, resilience and emissions benefit actually sits.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

I support the shape of this approach. Framing Council's role around information, low-cost finance access, community group funding, household advice and business capability-building is the right role for a district council — enabling rather than trying to deliver electrification itself. The biggest opportunity in this Plan sits at household and community scale, and this is where NPDC starts to engage with it directly.

But I don't think this section is ambitious enough for the scale of the problem it names, and I'd like NPDC to push considerably further. To make that case, I've looked at Victoria's state government plan for its own electricity transition, Cheaper, Cleaner, Renewable: Our Plan for Victoria's Electricity Future. I want to be upfront that this compares very different scales — Victoria is a state government moving billions of dollars and gigawatts of generation, while NPDC works within a roughly $4 million annual energy budget. I am not asking NPDC to become a state government. I am asking NPDC to be as deliberate and well-resourced within its own scale as Victoria is being within its own.

Where the two approaches already align

Both plans start from the same diagnosis: households and businesses hold real energy savings, but upfront cost, access-to-finance and information barriers stop them realising those savings. Victoria's response — the Solar Homes Program, the Victorian Energy Upgrades Program, and a purpose-built digital planner — is structurally the same idea as NPDC's Sustainable Home Advice service and the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme/IMPACT loans. NPDC already has the right diagnosis and the right kind of tools. What I don't see is the same level of commitment behind them.

Why I think NPDC should be more ambitious

Community hubs deserve a named, funded resilience programme, not scattered low-priority actions. Victoria runs a dedicated programme for community hub energy backup systems, recognising that halls, marae and community facilities need to keep functioning through outages and severe weather. NPDC's Plan currently treats this as separate Low/Medium actions — "Community Welfare Hub solar support," "Community energy resilience" — below items like boiler replacements. Given NPDC's own risk assessment names Waitara, New Plymouth West and Northern Taranaki Hill Country as facing the highest climate risk, and specifically flags Ōwae Marae as exposed to stormwater flooding, I want a properly resourced, named community-hub backup power programme, not an afterthought.

Advice and finance alone won't reach the households who need the most help, and NPDC should say so plainly. Victoria backs its voluntary programmes with minimum standards — 7-star, all-electric requirements for new homes, minimum efficiency standards for rentals, and a dedicated Energy Efficiency in Social Housing programme targeting 45,000 upgrades by 2027. NPDC's approach here is entirely voluntary. I understand a district council has limited power to set building or tenancy standards independently of central government, but that's exactly why I want NPDC to use the levers it does have — the District Plan, its social and community housing role, and advocacy to central government for stronger rental standards — rather than leaving households with the least capital solely reliant on opt-in advice they may not be able to act on anyway.

Households shouldn't have to find NPDC's help themselves. Victoria's SEC digital planner gives any household a single place to get a personalised plan. NPDC's offer is spread across Sustainable Home Advice, RAS/IMPACT loans, the Community Climate Action Fund, and separate business engagement, and a household has to know all of these exist before it can act. I want one accessible front door — digital or otherwise — that actively routes households, marae, schools and not-for-profits to the right advice, finance and funding, rather than expecting them to piece it together.

What I'm asking for

I want NPDC to keep the enabling, non-delivery role it has chosen, but back it with the ambition described above: a properly resourced, named community-hub resilience programme linked to Waitara and the other priority adaptation communities; an explicit statement of intent on the District Plan and advocacy levers available for renters and low-income households; a local community-benefit mechanism reflecting Taranaki's position as an energy-producing region; and one accessible entry point connecting households and community groups to advice, finance and funding, rather than several programmes they must navigate alone.

I believe NPDC has the right diagnosis and the right tools in this section. What's missing is the ambition to back them properly, at a level that matches the scale of the problem NPDC itself has described. I'd like to see that addressed before the Plan is finalised.

4. Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?

Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. Do you have any other comments?

Thank you for your time. These are articles I used as sources: Victoria State Government (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action), Victoria's electricity future; Rewiring Aotearoa, Electric Homes & Vehicles 2026; Mike Shriberg, "Ann Arbor's sustainable energy utility aims to build the electric power grid of the future — alongside the old one," The Conversation.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 5

Name: Chris Hill

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   There is no clear evidence that weather events are becoming more intense or more frequent. We have always had adverse weather and we should avoid producing policy through panic but take a measured approach to reasonably ensure our assets are hoding up to weather events.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   New Zealand produces 0.17 percent of green house gasses, there is nothing that we can do as a country let alone our district. Any reduction in greenhouse gasses is virtue signalling.

   Any transition to renewables needs to meet only one criteria - is it saving ratepayers money? These decisions need to guided by economics.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Residents can source there own information and funding, this is not a council role.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   We are in a position of out of control rate rises, the council needs to concentrate on reducing rates and other than looking after our assets council does not need to involve itself in climate issues.

   The council over reacted to the tail end of cyclone Gita when we lost water supply, mainly due to poor maintenance when a tree was not properly identified as a risk. This was in 2018 and we have not had another significant event since, we have always had these events cyclone Bola (1989), flooding of Devon st in the 1970s and we have always dealt with these on a case by case basis and we should continue to do so.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 6

Name: Gwendolyn Zimmerman

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Yes I do agree with making our infrastructure and assets more resilient and focusing more on communities that are at risk first. The locals who live in vulnerable areas e.g Oakura, should be consulted first on how to solve e.g. erosion ect. in conjunction with the council plans.

   Although I do not believe in 'Climate Change', it is all than by aerosol injection, using sulphur dioxide, bromide, and other chemicals to change the atmosphere, killing plants, animals and poisoning our land and water and killing us slowly but surely. Does anyone think about this?

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I guess solar panels will help with reducing electricity costs, if we get enough sun. Did you know that they are blocking our sun? Who is going to maintain the solar panels? And how is the council going to recycle the panels? As far as I know nobody in NZ recycles them.

   All these reducing energy and emissions are all UN Agenda 2030, signed off by the previous Mayor.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I think it's a good idea but who is going to fund these upgrades? The ratepayers?

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   The solution has to be local focus, manageable and budgeted with common sense approach.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 7

Name: Brian Zimmerman

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   I think you guys are on the right track now, a lot more of a practical approach working directly with the local people involved with costs at the fore front of the solution.

   Holden who signed us up to the Global cabal of Un councils just wanted to borrow more through the Local government funding authority- ie BLACK ROCK with its Climate change Control conditions.

   Holden and his collective little group of want a be young global leaders were all about implementing the UN 2030 agenda Bull shit not about working with the local people to find a practical and fordable solution so a big thank you from me and all my friends who are awake to all this Bull shit coming our way.

   China is the gold standard here and were they want us all to be -

   DATA/SERVALANCE CENTERS- -Safety / Security first to get us on board--which leads to Control and after that Obedience----Look and see

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   my comments are above--You can ring me if you want if not that's ok

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 8

Name: Alexandra Vernal

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

I support the proposed focus on improving climate risk information, strengthening the resilience of Council infrastructure and assets, and working with communities on local adaptation planning.

The community-specific risk information is particularly useful and helps demonstrate how climate change may affect different parts of the district. The proposed actions appear to address important climate risks facing the district and provide a useful foundation for adaptation planning. Making this information publicly available, with tools and resources for the community to understand and know how to act, will be a key part of delivery.

The Plan also acknowledges mana whenua and Māori interests. However, it would benefit from a clearer explanation of how mātauranga Māori, local knowledge and iwi aspirations will inform adaptation planning and implementation alongside scientific and technical assessments.

While there are many positive actions proposed, I found this section more difficult to follow than the energy and emissions section. It is not always clear how the various objectives, actions and work programmes fit together, how they relate to one another, or how they contribute to an overall resilience and adaptation pathway. Some actions are presented in different parts of the document without a clear explanation of how they connect.

It would also be helpful to better explain how local adaptation plans, Council's asset resilience work, and other planning processes such as the Regional Spatial Plan fit together.

Overall, I support the direction of this section and the intent of the proposed actions, but I think the resilience and adaptation component would benefit from a clearer narrative.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

I generally support the proposed approach to energy and emissions.

This section provides useful context on current energy use and emissions and then links this information to targets and proposed actions. The overall structure and narrative of this section is clearer than other parts of the Plan.

Given Taranaki's strong energy sector, the Plan could provide more information about how Council is responding to the challenges associated with reducing emissions, including how it is encouraging innovation and supporting the region through this transition. It would be helpful to better explain how this work aligns with broader regional initiatives and strategies, such as the Just Transition, the Taranaki 2040 Roadmap, and other sustainability initiatives. The Plan could also provide greater clarity about how Council intends to support economic diversification and workforce capability as the region transitions, and how these outcomes align with the wider climate and emissions objectives. There are understandable concerns about the long term future of the sector, including the retention of highly skilled workers and the implications of organisations such as Ara Ake scaling back or closing.

The Plan could also make greater use of existing Council activities, programmes and workstreams to demonstrate how emissions reduction objectives are already being progressed. For example, it would be useful to understand how the Sustainability Team's work programme, current projects and longer term goals contribute to the outcomes described in this section, and how progress across those initiatives is being coordinated and measured.

Finally, it would be great to have more clarity about how this Plan relates to the existing Emissions Reduction Plan and whether that plan remains as a framework for emissions reduction activities, or if it is being replaced by this wider climate plan.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

I support Council playing a role in helping households, businesses and community groups access information, build capability and improve resilience.

The proposed focus on information, education, community support, resilience upgrades and access to finance has the potential to help residents better understand climate-related risks and opportunities.

There is also an opportunity to further recognise the role of local knowledge, community experience and mātauranga Māori in shaping resilience initiatives and adaptation responses.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Overall, I support the intent of the Plan and the range of actions proposed. There is strong recognition of the climate risks facing the district, useful contextual information on emissions and climate impacts, and a good range of practical actions.

My main feedback relates to the overall narrative and organisation of the document. It is currently difficult to quickly understand why the Plan exists, how its different components fit together, and how the proposed actions contribute to the outcomes Council is seeking to achieve. While the Plan contains a significant amount of useful information, the overall story is not always easy to follow.

The document would benefit from a stronger strategic overview at the beginning that explains the key challenges facing the district, the outcomes being sought, Council's role in responding to those challenges, and how the various objectives and actions contribute to those outcomes. In particular, there is an opportunity to better demonstrate the link between outcomes, objectives, actions, responsibilities, timeframes and measures.

Greater clarity is also needed on how this Plan relates to other planning and decision-making processes, including the Long Term Plan, the Emissions Reduction Plan and the Regional Spatial Plan. In several places it is unclear whether actions are committed and funded, intended to guide future decisions, or dependent on future investment choices.

The prioritisation approach could also be explained more clearly. While the Plan refers to prioritising cost effective and beneficial actions, it is not clear how costs, benefits, risks and statutory requirements were assessed or weighted when determining priorities. Short term benefits may be assessed with higher priority, but we know that climate change requires a long term strategy. So how are these two being balanced?

The document would also benefit from greater transparency around implementation and monitoring. Readers should be able to understand who is responsible for delivery, when actions are expected to occur, how progress will be reported, and how the community can monitor implementation over time. Even if these are not known yet, it would still be helpful to explain when they will be developed and communicated.

Finally, I encourage greater use of visual summaries, diagrams, implementation roadmaps and graphics throughout the document. Many of the concepts and relationships described in the text would be much easier to understand if presented visually. This would help readers see how the different focus areas, objectives and actions fit together without needing to work through the entire document. Applying good science communications principles to the final design and narrative should help improve understanding.

It is encouraging to see Council taking a proactive approach to climate change and resilience planning. Preparing for climate change requires difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions, particularly when benefits may not be realised within a single electoral cycle. However, taking action early is often the most effective way to manage long-term risks and avoid higher costs in the future. With sufficient investment, staffing, community engagement and long-term commitment, this Plan has the potential to provide a strong foundation for a more resilient, prepared and adaptable district.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 9

Name: **Ruka Te Moana**

Organistion: **Te Piringa Pūngao Ltd / Elemental Group Ltd**

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

Te Piringa Pūngao supports the proposed approach, particularly the development of local adaptation plans, the prioritisation of Waitara and the commitment to work in partnership with mana whenua.

Energy resilience should, however, be incorporated more directly into local adaptation planning. Marae, kura, community facilities and other trusted local sites frequently perform essential roles during emergencies. Their ability to operate depends on electricity for lighting, communications, refrigeration, water pumping, cooking and support for vulnerable people.

Local adaptation plans should therefore include assessments of:

- critical community energy loads
- network vulnerabilities and likely outage scenarios
- suitable Community Welfare Hubs
- solar and battery requirements
- backup and islanding capability
- opportunities for local microgrids
- ownership, maintenance and operating responsibilities
- equitable access to resilience investment.

Te Piringa Pūngao recommends that energy resilience assessments be included within the proposed adaptation planning framework and undertaken in partnership with mana whenua and the affected communities.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

We support the Plan's emphasis on energy efficiency, renewable generation, gas transition, energy innovation and whole-of-life cost reduction. The proposed solar installations and the investigation of batteries, flexibility, biogas and other technologies are practical and appropriate.

However, the current actions are predominantly asset-by-asset. They do not yet amount to a coordinated energy strategy.

NPDC should investigate how its electricity demand can support further renewable generation within Taranaki. Council's long-term electricity procurement could provide the revenue certainty required to enable locally developed solar, wind, bioenergy or other renewable projects through power purchase agreements.

Te Matakupenga demonstrates the value of connecting a significant Council electricity load with local renewable generation. NPDC should build on that model and investigate how the remainder of its electricity demand can progressively be supplied through local generation while maintaining affordability, security and appropriate commercial risk allocation.

We recommend that NPDC:

1. Develop an integrated energy supply and demand strategy covering efficiency, electrification, renewable generation, batteries, flexibility and resilience.
2. Undertake a portfolio assessment of Council electricity demand, site generation potential, load flexibility and future electrification requirements.
3. Investigate long-term PPAs with locally developed renewable generation projects.
4. Coordinate early with Powerco and Transpower so that Council electrification and generation projects are aligned with network capacity, regional demand growth and infrastructure planning.
5. Incorporate solar, batteries and demand management into gas-transition business cases rather than assessing replacement equipment in isolation.
6. Include measurable local economic-development, workforce, Māori participation and ownership outcomes within energy procurement.
7. Support a technology-neutral approach in which solar, wind, batteries, flexibility, biogas, biomethane, geothermal and emerging technologies are assessed according to their technical, commercial, environmental and community merits.

We also support the Taranaki Biogas Collective's recommendation that biogas and biomethane receive greater emphasis. These technologies should form part of the wider regional energy system rather than being considered as a separate workstream.

3. What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?

We support the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme, independent household energy advice, solar-for-renters pilot and measures addressing energy hardship.

The Plan should also recognise the distinct position of marae, papakāinga, kura and Māori community facilities. These sites do not fit neatly within either the residential or conventional commercial energy categories.

Marae can experience high short-duration demand during tangihanga and major events while remaining lightly used for much of the year. Historic peak-demand charges and commercial tariff structures can impose significant costs that are not reflective of their community function or annual consumption.

Electrification, solar and batteries can also unintentionally increase network charges if tariff implications and electrical capacity are not considered at the feasibility and design stages.

Te Piringa Pūngao's work with Ōwae Marae has demonstrated the need for coordinated consideration of:

- electricity tariffs and historic peak-demand charges
- network capacity and connection requirements
- solar export arrangements
- battery control and optimisation
- retailer contract terms
- system remedial work
- emergency resilience
- independent commercial and technical advice.

We recommend that NPDC establish a dedicated marae and community energy feasibility pathway in partnership with mana whenua, Powerco, funders (TOI) and suitably experienced delivery organisations.

Community energy support should fund robust feasibility and system design before capital funding decisions are made. This will reduce the risk of technically unsuitable installations, unexpected network costs and poor long-term commercial outcomes.

4. Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?

They should all have a strong focus

5. Do you have any other comments?

Introduction:

Te Piringa Pūngao supports the overall direction of the proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026–2032. The Plan appropriately recognises that energy affordability, security, resilience and emissions reduction need to be considered together and that Council cannot deliver these outcomes in isolation.

Te Piringa Pūngao is a Taranaki-based, Māori-led renewable energy development company working with marae, hapū, iwi, kura, Māori land trusts, local authorities and commercial organisations. Our work includes energy strategy, feasibility studies, solar and battery development, commercial and technical due diligence, electricity network and retailer engagement, procurement, owner's engineering and project delivery oversight.

We recommend that the Plan move beyond a collection of individual Council and community initiatives and establish a coordinated delivery framework connecting NPDC's actions with a wider Taranaki energy strategy.

Energy, emissions reduction, adaptation and community resilience are interdependent. Well-designed projects can deliver several outcomes simultaneously, including lower operating costs, improved emergency resilience, reduced emissions, local investment, Māori participation and stronger regional energy security.

NPDC should prioritise initiatives according to whole-of-life value and the number of aligned outcomes they deliver rather than treating the three areas as competing workstreams.

Establish a strategic energy partnership and delivery framework:

Te Piringa Pūngao supports the proposed action to identify one or more strategic community energy partners. However, we recommend replacing the current action with:

Strategic regional and community energy partnership - High priority:

Establish a structured partnership and market-engagement process involving mana whenua, Māori-led energy organisations, Powerco, Transpower, industry, community organisations, researchers, investors and technology providers. The partnership will help research, design and deliver coordinated energy initiatives that improve affordability, resilience, local renewable generation, Māori participation and ownership, emissions reduction and regional economic development.

The partnership should not be restricted to household electrification and solar uptake. Its scope should include:

- Council energy strategy and electricity procurement
- locally generated renewable electricity
- PPAs and other commercial structures
- community and marae energy
- batteries, virtual power plants and flexibility

- resilient Community Welfare Hubs
- network planning and tariff settings
- gas transition and renewable fuels
- project financing and investment
- procurement and delivery assurance
- Māori participation, governance and ownership.

Te Piringa Pūngao is interested in participating in this work as a strategic research, design and delivery partner. TPP can bring together mana whenua relationships, energy-sector expertise, feasibility and commercial capability, network and retailer engagement, technology providers, EPC contractors and potential investment partners.

Connect the Plan with a Taranaki Regional Energy Strategy:

NPDC should work with iwi and hapū, Taranaki Regional Council, other district councils, Powerco, Transpower, Venture Taranaki, industry, local investors and energy specialists to develop a coordinated Taranaki Regional Energy Strategy.

The long-term objective should be to increase the proportion of electricity consumed within Taranaki that is generated within Taranaki, with benefits retained locally through employment, investment, competitive energy costs and meaningful community and Māori ownership.

NPDC's electricity demand, infrastructure programme, regulatory responsibilities and community relationships make it an important participant in such a strategy.

Improve monitoring:

In addition to the proposed emissions and adaptation indicators, NPDC should report annually on:

- energy cost savings achieved
- renewable generation installed or contracted
- peak electricity demand reduced
- flexible demand and battery capacity enabled
- number of resilient community facilities
- number and value of community energy feasibility studies completed
- investment retained within Taranaki
- Māori and community participation or ownership
- progress toward regional energy partnerships and coordinated delivery.

Closing statement:

Te Piringa Pūngao supports adoption of the Plan subject to strengthening its strategic partnership, regional coordination, Māori participation, community energy and implementation provisions.

The opportunity is greater than installing renewable technology across individual Council assets. NPDC can use its electricity demand, infrastructure programme, procurement capability and convening role to help establish a more affordable, resilient and locally owned energy system for Taranaki.

Te Piringa Pūngao welcomes the opportunity to speak to this submission and to participate in subsequent market engagement, partnership design and implementation planning.

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5. Incorporate solar, batteries and demand management into gas-transition business cases rather than assessing replacement equipment in isolation.
6. Include measurable local economic-development, workforce, Māori participation and ownership outcomes within energy procurement.
7. Support a technology-neutral approach in which solar, wind, batteries, flexibility, biogas, biomethane, geothermal and emerging technologies are assessed according to their technical, commercial, environmental and community merits.

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We recommend that NPDC establish a dedicated marae and community energy feasibility pathway in partnership with mana whenua, Powerco, funders (TOI) and suitably experienced delivery organisations.

Community energy support should fund robust feasibility and system design before capital funding decisions are made. This will reduce the risk of technically unsuitable installations, unexpected network costs and poor long-term commercial outcomes.

4. Where should NPDC put most emphasis?

They should all be strongly focused on.

Energy, emissions reduction, adaptation and community resilience are interdependent. Well-designed projects can deliver several outcomes simultaneously, including lower operating costs, improved emergency resilience, reduced emissions, local investment, Māori participation and stronger regional energy security.

NPDC should prioritise initiatives according to whole-of-life value and the number of aligned outcomes they deliver rather than treating the three areas as competing workstreams.

5. Other comments

Establish a strategic energy partnership and delivery framework

Te Piringa Pūngao supports the proposed action to identify one or more strategic community energy partners. However, we recommend replacing the current action with:

Strategic regional and community energy partnership - High priority

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The partnership should not be restricted to household electrification and solar uptake. Its scope should include:

- Council energy strategy and electricity procurement;
- locally generated renewable electricity;
- PPAs and other commercial structures;
- community and marae energy;
- batteries, virtual power plants and flexibility;
- resilient Community Welfare Hubs;

- network planning and tariff settings;
- gas transition and renewable fuels;
- project financing and investment;
- procurement and delivery assurance; and
- Māori participation, governance and ownership.

Te Piringa Pūngao is interested in participating in this work as a strategic research, design and delivery partner. TPP can bring together mana whenua relationships, energy-sector expertise, feasibility and commercial capability, network and retailer engagement, technology providers, EPC contractors and potential investment partners.

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NPDC should work with iwi and hapū, Taranaki Regional Council, other district councils, Powerco, Transpower, Venture Taranaki, industry, local investors and energy specialists to develop a coordinated Taranaki Regional Energy Strategy.

The long-term objective should be to increase the proportion of electricity consumed within Taranaki that is generated within Taranaki, with benefits retained locally through employment, investment, competitive energy costs and meaningful community and Māori ownership.

NPDC's electricity demand, infrastructure programme, regulatory responsibilities and community relationships make it an important participant in such a strategy.

Improve monitoring

In addition to the proposed emissions and adaptation indicators, NPDC should report annually on:

- energy cost savings achieved;
- renewable generation installed or contracted;
- peak electricity demand reduced;
- flexible demand and battery capacity enabled;
- number of resilient community facilities;
- number and value of community energy feasibility studies completed;
- investment retained within Taranaki;
- Māori and community participation or ownership; and
- progress toward regional energy partnerships and coordinated delivery.

Closing statement

Te Piringa Pūngao supports adoption of the Plan subject to strengthening its strategic partnership, regional coordination, Māori participation, community energy and implementation provisions.

The opportunity is greater than installing renewable technology across individual Council assets. NPDC can use its electricity demand, infrastructure programme, procurement capability and convening role to help establish a more affordable, resilient and locally owned energy system for Taranaki.

Te Piringa Pūngao welcomes the opportunity to speak to this submission and to participate in subsequent market engagement, partnership design and implementation planning.

Ngā mihi maioha, nā

Ruka Te Moana

*Te Whānau-ā-Apanui *Te Aupōuri *Ngāpuhi

Pou Urungi / Director
Te Piringa Pūngao
0274697646

Te Piringa Pūngao
He piringa mō te ao,
he pūngao mō ngā uri whakatipu
A bond for today,
energy for future generations

Level 1
5 Young Street
Ngāmotu / New Plymouth 4310

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 10

Name: Margy-Jean Malcolm

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Overall I think there are some good elements in the plan but needs to be much bolder in its vision of what role NPDC can play, in long term work with mana whenua and the wider community to address the scale of known climate change realities. I have had limited time to study the plan in detail, due to some urgent whānau matters that have needed my attention. So I will limit my comments to some high level comments for this brief written submission. If I get an opportunity to speak to this submission I will elaborate on more specifics.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   There are positive elements to the plan like moving away from gas, reducing landfill emissions and supporting transition to renewable energy and leveraging NPDC relationships with their suppliers. I am keen to see more being done about things that actually reduce huge long term adaptation costs by reducing our environmental impact and emissions sooner - e.g. addressing building material waste; enhancing cycleways and public transport; critically examining our investment emissions impact in NPDC decisionmaking. If this plan acknowledges the need to transition away from gas, why is NPDC not opposing the LNG terminal or at least actively listening to the growing evidence and community concern about it? Further, I am appalled that NPDC is giving funding to Taranaki Alliance for growing our regional economy around the defence industry. The environment costs and emissions of the military industry are huge - let alone on people! Where is the climate policy lens that looks across all NPDC decisions? How can NPDC leverage off the work of Ara Ake and other research to look at innovations like floating wetlands on our wastewater facilities (one of many examples)? We need an ongoing orientation to leveraging opportunities towards a vision of being in sustainable, right relationship with planet, people and our peace traditions. This plan has good elements, but if it is undermined by other elements of NPDC decisions, actions or inaction, then it won't maximise its potential.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I am pleased to see some of the aspirations of Community Energy Taranaki and the work Ara Ake was doing with mana whenua and other community-led initiatives reflected in the summary I have read. These are a good starting point. I think NPDC can play a bigger enabler role by actively working with those taking community-led action to see where more joined up action can help.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Overall I think taking as much action to address the reality of climate change now through actively addressing energy and reducing emissions has to be the top priority. However, since we have ignored this reality for so long, we have to also invest in adaptation and community resilience. These are not 'either/or' choices. They are 'and/and/and' essential needs. They need a joined-up strategic approach based on strong cross-sectoral relationships. Energise Ōtaki is an interesting example of a community working on all of these issues in a joined up way achieving win/win/win outcomes for all. We have our own different Taranaki context and strengths of many different actors working to positively influence our socio/cultural/economic/environmental eco-system. There are many lessons we can learn from other's research and community-led experience which can inform our joined up action, if we can align our work better.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 11

Name: Luke Selby

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Remove all aspects of United Nations Agenda 21 30 sustainable development goals as your guide to implement climate change policy, by-laws, because they are not legally binding.

   The science around manmade climate change is not settled, there is no " single source of truth", instead of implementing these world economic forum United Nations Agenda 21 30,40-50 seventeen sustainable development goals that very few care to look into in detail, concentrate on our environment, and access to our beaches, rivers, streams, lakes etc

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   It's disgusting to follow United Nations Agenda 21 30 sustainable development goals as guidelines without actually understanding what they entail

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   People are being taxed out of existence for United Nations Agenda 21 30 sustainable development goals that noone wants except a few zealots

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Leave the decisions to the Ratepayers' and leave the hold over us by central government, reject the LNG terminal that will limit access to our only safe boat ramp and charge so much to lease the port, curbs where unwanted cell towers are going, create such a hostile environment that these overseas investors take it upon themselves to decide not to construct here or do business

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 12

Name: Tracy P

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Firstly, I understand that central government require all councils to produce a "climate change" plan.

   Real science shows that the climate is (and always HAS) changed and will continue to do so and that it is not influenced by what man does to any great degree.

   I think the council therefore should do whatever impacts ratepayers the least financially. Spending large amounts of ratepayer money to try and change the unchangeable would be futlie and a negligent waste of ratepayer (our) money.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   It is widely known that most supposedly "green" energy sources are not green at all but often cause as much if not more waste than traditional sources (e.g. the completely un-reusable wind turbine blades that end up being buried underground) Solar in itself it not bad BUT again, real science has shown it will NEVER be able to replace traditional sources (e.g. gas, hydro and coal) in providing the necessary base load generation requirements.

   I think NPDC should NOT move away from gas.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I think the idea of helping households access lower-cost solar options is good but only as a way to reduce their individual power bills.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Other: As previously stated. Focus should be on spending a minimum as the whole issue of "climate change" is nothing more than an agenda-driven hoax.

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   When listening to or reading reports from "climate scientists" one thing should be kept in mind; who is funding them and why? Follow the money back to its source and you will often see what drives this hoax.

   A recent study shows that 98% of climate scientists agree they don't want to be defunded!

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 13

Name: Pete Cowley

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Yes by Local Govt Law the NPDC has to have a Climate Policy.

   My Question firstly - Does the Local Govt put (Our Money) towards a Climate Change Program

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Agree, but don't talk - Action it.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Provide NPDC low cost Loans (Pay Off) to Home Owners (similar to what they did with Home Insulation)

   Better organisation of Refuse, Waste - Trucking Loads to Marton is not good Climate Practice.

   Our collective Rubbish (single sorted Bins) is a Joke, as when collected they all go to the same place.

   Having Volunteers educating People @ large Events to be Green!?

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 14

Name: Blair Staddon

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   No need to spend money on this. We have always had floods, dry and hot spells and coastal erosion.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   No need to spend any extra money here either. Taranaki is not done with gas yet and we already have the infrastructure to process and use it.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   People's own homes mean they choose how they get power, solar and such like. This has zero to do with the council and ratepayers money, rates are already too high.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Stop looking for ways to spend rates money. We cannot control the climate and ratepayers should have insurance to protect from natural disasters.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 15

Name: Lynn Murray

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Waste of time

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Hopefully the right information will be available

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   No one on the pension can afford it.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Energy and emissions should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 16

Name: Jackie Brown

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   We're told severe weather events are increasing, but the NPDC has no data on what actual events have occurred since starting climate change work in the early 90's. Start capturing data and start honestly making plans for New Plymouth. Sea levels have not risen. Levels for measured wind speeds have been dropped from 120km/hr to only 100 km/hr - makes it looks like its windier and more storms when it's not. The people do not believe data that is not recorded here.

   Adaptation plans must not be paid for across all ratepayers. If people have brought/built in silly areas that is on them, not everybody else having to pay for it.

   Stop allowing builds in unsuitable areas - river plains, erosion areas etc. Stop creating more of the same problem for the future.

   Developing the adaptation plan framework is a medium priority, starting the plans is several areas is a high priority. Shouldn't you develop the framework before you write any plans ? And develop that framework with the communities thoughts first.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Everything that is done to bring down the costs to run the NPDC is a great outcome for ratepayers.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Access to cheap loans for solar panels, water tanks and batteries is good.

   It appears a hell of a lot of money is going out in grants from the Community Action fund. Three is too much spending going on at the NPDC, reduce the criteria for this and give out less money unless really big results come from it.

   What is the Community Welfare Hub Solar Support ? What will this cost. Please just stop coming up with ideas to keep spending anymore money. You are paying for Maraes to be an emergency place, why are you know paying for something else new and with more cost. Maraes in emergencies should only be paid by the emergency - not a blanket cover of annual costs - like insurance. Stop spending all this money that the NPDC does not have.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Other: Focus on getting cost savings with what you do, not new spending. Tie those savings in with reducing government emission standards at the same time - but get our costs down. Top Priority

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Zero waste is a total joke - it will never happen unless we all die trying. Just stop. Yes repurpose stuff and reduce buying waste in the first place - but stop calling it zero waste - Net Zero is a totally impossible goal which will bankrupt the country.

Active transport is the people's choice. Stop pushing this down our throats. DO NOT create anymore streets which are unuseable by the people who live there - like Devon St West. If you want new cycleways get them away from housing, but where existing roads link up to an area that only has active transport - link roads and streets to a place that does not have cars - do not put it all together on a main road - that is nuts and not safe for anyone. The people of New Plymouth do not support these active transport ideas.

Buses are a total joke. They are empty as they don't run when people need them.Trial 10 seater vans at regular times on big roads. Like Merrilands, Carrington Street - roads with lots of side streets off them. Run a circular loop with the vans going around the loop - e.g top of Carrington in to town and back up Carrington. A van every 10 minutes ish. Pay a gold coin each way, or clip a card already purchased. This works in small cities overseas with reliable transport as it's not a long wait to the next van.

NZ desperately needs to leave the Paris Accord - it will bankrupt the country and it will remove so much money that is needed for our health and education etc. So many people can only see the bankruptcy of nz with belonging while major emitters still pollute. We go broke and they take over doing what we have been doing for income as a country, and they haven't changed a thing - or paid fines for not meeting the paris accord - as they are pulling out.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 17

Name: Trevor Weston

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I believe we should be careful on our spending. Maybe wait for more government financial support. Us ratepayers are maxed out with rates affordability.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   This is not the role of the council. I don't believe the council have the experts 4to be able to offer this service. Training personnel or employing people would be another cost to the rate payer. There is plenty of information available on webs sites to access this information.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   The council should be looking more at minimizing there spending to keep the rates affordable for rate payers. Have a look how other successful councils are operating to keep there rates affordable.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 18

Name: Travis Gracie

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   The council should prepare for weather events through physical work to make sites more resilient to severe weather events.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Investing in alternative energy sources should only be done if the investment stacks up purely on an economic and energy security basis. No weighting should be given to intangible or unknown variables like the consideration of emissions targets or the idea that the council can alter the climate by spending ratepayer money.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   The council should not be involved in subsidising solar panels on private homes or businesses or spending rate payers money to tell people about them. These are widely known issues that are well served in the media, people and businesses have many outlets to find this information without the council being involved. Many banks offer low or no interest loans already for projects like solar panels, the council does not need to be involved." Resilience upgrades" is too vague of a term to properly offer any meaningful feedback.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   It is sensible to assess the risk of a major weather event and plan for it through physical infrastructure like erosion control and stop banks. It is not sensible to spend ratepayer money trying to change the climate through emission control type schemes.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 19

Name: **Gowan Duff**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Just do it!

   It's not the future.

   It's the now

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I like the Airport Solar panels

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Don't know.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 20

Name: Terry Stratton

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Another woke, idealistic, unrealistic, expensive initiative driven by idiots that think we are able to make a difference. New Zealand embraces economic trade with Asia who ignore such initiatives and then imposes the cost on rates and tax payers to make things better... WAKE UP. You aren't going to fix or improve it, our emissions footprint if removed makes no difference.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Flawed and another avenue for the Council to waste our rates. About the only thing they are doing well. How about concentrating and on reducing thate waste stream????

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Never work whilst energy companies are privatized. They will adapt charges to maintain their profits.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Other: Reducing waste of money on these types of initiatives.

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Reduce Rate Payers Council Driven Money Waste

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 21

Name: Brendan Haslip

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Keep it up, prevention is cheaper, more efficient and faster than cure, we in Taranaki are cut off so we should be self reliant and therefore we all benefit, spend money beyond Taranaki is money lost to Taranaki,

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Good overall, continue and speed up green alternative as they are the cheapest and most resilient methods,

   I would also add investigate and invest in geothermal, for heating (residential and industrial) as well as potential energy generation.

   We have and industry that has expertise in drilling and pipelines, pivoting those into cheap clean heat generation will ensure jobs and resilience independent of outside Taranaki factors.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Change bi law requirements for all new builds to have solar power installed before the building can be signed off, initial installation is less than 3% of total costs, so why not,

   Consider same with water tanks, not for drinking, for storm water holding for toilet flushes, irrigation, car washing, again initial installation cost at construction is almost nothing and could save the owner and future generations significant money and mitigation of infrastructure and emergency resources.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 22

Name: Rob Ritchie

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   First, it's great to know discussion about the approach of catastrophic climate change is being taken seriously by NPDC.

   I hope this submission will be accepted, given that I live in South Taranaki, but was a New Plymouth resident until 2 years ago, when I moved to Opunake.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Please keep up the focus you appear to be developing on renewables. I was with others from Climate Justice Taranaki earlier this year, when Councillor Murray Chong delighted us with unqualified enthusiasm for photovoltaic panels / solar energy.

   Our request to the council at that time was to take the lead, with huge spikes in fossil fuel costs just beginning.

   CJT is making a group submission, in which the seriousness of the situation facing this and future generations is emphasized; and mention is made of electricity storage being proposed in Taranaki, using easily accessible elements. In answer to the question heading this writing space - I think if brave leadership [you] and local ingenuity [like the entrepreneurial Mr Joyce] combine, Taranaki may lead the way as a province.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I think this is essential, for a council which is poised to show leadership which serves its constituents - all of whom are becoming acutely aware of weather changes that are undeniably dangerous.

   In whatever time remains, NPDC and all citizens in the wider province can create a changed moral climate, from which the climat- leadership we need will flow.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Making a choice from the list above wasn't easy, however I chose the option which mentions community.

   Community needs to be central to whatever action is being taken.

   In fact, a community focus was found to be absolutely central in a review of learnings from weather calamities on the East Coast of Te Ika a Maui. I recall a brief line in the conclusion to this review, which was along the lines that community is and must always be at the centre of the response.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 23

Name: **Mike Webber**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   A scam.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Complete nonsense. CO2 is not a greenhouse gas. It is very low at present, dangerously low and has been many times higher in the past when the temperatures have been much higher and lower.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Has some merit, but getting rates down to what Dr. Shand's rates affordability would do far more.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Stop wasting our wealth on this scam.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 24

Name: Glenn Howlett

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   There is no evidence what-so-ever to suggest that any action we take in NZ will make any material difference to climate. I think you're wasting time and money and should go back to focusing on the essentials especially now.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   So, solar panels, will reduce your energy costs will they? He's a bet, I bet once they are installed NPDC will be spending more that $4m each year. You simply cant supply a growing economy (if that's what you want???)with an energy source that once supplies 2 of the necessary conditions; reliable (no) affordable (at levelisd cost, not marginal, questionable) abundant (sometimes). You are dreaming and evidence from around the world suggest so called green energy ain't cheap, look at the UK, Europe. Sorry, dont bother.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   No, I for one am not going to borrow any more money, Im too old, work is too unstable and there is a real risk that we are going to leave New Plymouth. Putting solar panels on the roof, I will never recover the cost. And I don't want my rates money being spend on helping others make this mistake, if people want solar panels let them pay for it.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   The world is aging changing, the religion of climate change if falling to bits and we do not make any contribution to global temperatures. Stop wasting money and time and get back to basics.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 25

Name: Howard Reid

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Focus on actual facts a city like New Plymouth can by itself do very little to change what is called climate change the city centre no longer floods because flood mitigation was done some years ago this is the sort of thing that needs to continue and most of all listen to the ratepayers and renters there are a lot of very intelligent people in the community.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Have a good look at what these emissions are yes but don't get out of control with solar panels remember who is paying for them solar panels will need batteries to be of any use. Remember that if the whole of New Zealand stopped tomorrow it would not register on world emissions.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Yes that is a good idea it is also a good idea to listen to the households they pay your wages.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   I think the NPDC need to look at how many are employed by NPDC particularly the Govet Brewster, Len Lye and Museum .

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 26

Name: Lisa Dohig

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

I respect the thoughtful and expert work that has gone into the creation of this proposed action plan. Thank you.

I appreciate the rationale for the identified priorities in the area of energy and emissions.

I understand the blurry lines of NPDC responsibility for its operations compared with responsibility for communities and households.

In the interests of community adaptation and resilience I would like NPDC to show more ambition and leadership.

After all:

-Urgency to take action and reduce emissions of GHGs - identified in 2019 - is still feeling sluggish.

-The effects of climate change are here now (causing inconvenience to us in Taranaki at best, but on a global scale - the tragedy of heat waves, droughts, wildfires, flashfloods in Nepal, melting glaciers ice sheets, spread of disease, growing food insecurity, ocean acidification, rising sea levels etc).

-Our local climate risks are increasing (see your 'risk assessment to our infrastructure and services' undertaken by Tonkin+Taylor in 2021)

-Climate change is such an emotionally & politically charged topic, extra effort and trusted leadership is needed to get us beyond the noise and fear.

-Citizens will increasingly look to local government as a trusted source - since you are in and of the community and the region, you understand our particular challenges, you are more accessible to our community and may even employ someone in our whānau.

AMBITION

Let's envision communities that are not only less-worse off as a result of mitigation and adaptation efforts, but ACTUALLY BETTER OFF! i.e.

-people feeling more connected,

-neighbourhoods offering thriving green spaces (for shade and cooling, for catching rainfall, but also for mental health benefits and wildlife corridors),

-localised food supply chains (including more support for community gardens and orchards) for more food resilience

-restoration of natural habitats for all of our benefits (including all the species in our ecosystems)

-more self-determination and lower costs when it comes to electricity and transport

-households feeling empowered to make changes.

LEADERSHIP

NPDC should employ more people in this space to achieve ambitious and effective climate adaptation in our district.

We need extra hands to:

-Ensure our NPDC Councillors understand the climate change system - there are education offerings that can ensure this (climate denial and disengagement is not acceptable) - for example Climate Fresk workshops offered to councils by The Climate Training Company, the free U of C online Climate Change: Empowering Communities for Action course, built in partnership with Christchurch City Council and Future Curious

-Help NPDC and our citizens envision a more positive future when we take action and accept the changes. There are all sorts of ways to do this, for example, suggestions outlined in Rob Hopkins book 'How to Fall in Love with the Future: A Time Traveller's Guide to Changing the World, learnings from the Porirua Assembly or playing The Good Ancestors game.

- Educate our citizens about what they can do now to prepare, for example, create a newsletter similar to this one produced by Christchurch City Council.

- Educate our citizens about what the council is doing to prepare, for example, literally signposting projects that serve as climate mitigation and adaptation - drainage improvements, habitat restoration, community gardens - with information about why and how it helps the climate and how people can support/protect the initiative. This would increase climate literacy and combat climate silence.

- Work with and support rangatahi because they will experience the impacts of climate change throughout their lives and will live with the consequences of the decisions we make today. Auckland City Council has offerings. Christchurch City Council offers education, climate projects and a youth consultation group called Next Generation Conversation.

- Be the role model - extend and publicise and recruit more volunteers for the 'Plant Our Place' project, extend and publicise community food growing and food sharing initiatives.

- Advocate for appropriate funding and support and increase the momentum at central government level

We also need to ensure there are personnel on staff at council who can support our NPDC climate specialists. In their work, our climate resilience and adaptation team have to confront worst case climate scenarios, cope with online hating and baiting and the polarised politics around climate change. Vicktoria Blake, Te Whatu Ora Principal Advisor Climate Risk and Resilience, identifies supporting the well-being of those working in climate change as one of Te Whatu Ora's priorities.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

I agree with the prioritised concrete actions that provide measurable difference in GHG emissions in the energy sector.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

Increasing the rate of electrification to help us reduce our reliance on fossil fuels is vital (via solar PV). Households would appreicate NPDC's advocacy and support for this.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Climate mitigation and pro-active climate adaptation planning is essential. Addressing climate change cannot be put off, all parts of society need to act now (local & central government, citizens, businesses) and not wait for someone else to demand or regulate or otherwise get the ball rolling.

I am glad NPDC is playing it's part. I suggest we need more employees in this work.

Knee jerk reactions and after disaster clean-ups are not the best way for communities to decide what we want to protect and how to do it.

As well as this, seeing the benefits of living in a climate-forward community can help all of us feel more optimistice about the future.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 27

Name: Irene Ban der Sar

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   The rates are too expensive. Need not just capping but lowering. Too many nice to haves. . Focus on necessities. Most of us can't afford luxuries.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Cut back costs. Not enough attempts at cutting costs

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I see no help there.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Other: Cut back costs to ratepayers

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   You should never have sold powerco. No public consultation happened.

   Fluoridation needs to go. We were never consulted about reinstatement. But it was forced on us. And so far, we were promised to get an alternative unfluoridated source. The money for this was miss spent. We want non flouridated water.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 28

Name: Antona Wagstaff

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Yes these plans sound good. It's important to keep on top of evidence-based information as it becomes available, before decisions are made. It's also the role of local councils to help prepare communities for the extremes that are on the way.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   This plan to look for renewable alternatives to fossil fuel is great. I'm especially interested in the plan to transition away from natural gas in the face of the current egregious plan to install an LNG centre at the port. We want to hear more about the council's use of solar and wind power.

   I'd also like to hear more about NPDC's approach to the problem of the effects of capitalism, with its baseline necessity for endless consuming and growth, on our use of energy and our destruction of Earth's ecosystems and environments. What specific plans does council have for protecting the soil of Taranaki on all our dairy farms?

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Sounds good. How will you make low cost finance available for solar panels? Will this come from rates? I think it would be a good use of rates.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Energy and emissions should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 29

Name: Irene van der Sar

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Bottom line? Lower our rates bill!

   Resilience and adaptation doesn't mean anything if we can't pay for it.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Same as above!

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Same as above.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Yes. Lower our rates bills!!

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 30

Name: Suzy Randall

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Stop making a plan to make a plan. If you still need to do some research, put a hard deadline on it. We need action now and not more talking. The best action for communities reducing their emissions are:

   - making walking and cycling routes safe and continuous
   - improving public transport frequency and reliability
   - reducing the need for long car journeys through better land-use planning
   - making new developments connected rather than car-dependent
   - prioritising low-carbon transport when deciding where to spend infrastructure money

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Make New Plymouth a low-carbon circular construction economy

   - keep the Sorting Depot open and allow private indiviuals to use, not just commercial
   - require all new builds and renovations to sort their waste on site and reuse where possible and recycle as a last resort
   - bring in higher fines for illegal dumping or not sorting construction waste.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Support local community initatives that reduce food waste, increases creating soil from food waste, assisting business to reduce waste.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 31

Name: Graeme Caskey

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Council role is to provide basic services cost effectively. Where these systems have failed or where there are crystal clear evidence of increased risk then there needs to be improvements made however council should not be involved in things which may or may not happen. As such I don't support these initiatives.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Your role to to provide services in the MOST COST EFFECTIVE manner. The word emissions should be banned from council. It's not councils role to be involved in emissions reduction or other loony left initiatives.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   The questions continue with a theme. Council does not seem to understand its role. The community at large should make their own decisions about where they get their energy. This looks like a socialist approach, my rates subsidising others. In terms of resilience, we already have overreach by council when it comes to things like insulation, I understand a consent is required to install insulation in exterior wall, how can this be? People should be encouraged to insure against the worse outcomes.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Read the room. People are sick and tired of council not understanding their role and venturing into over the top projects. Act like you have to compete for ratepayers dollars

   I fully support rate capping, not because it will make rates noticeably cheaper, but because it will hopefully bring change to council attitudes regarding what they should and shouldn't be getting involved in. Council CEO, leadership should have cost reduction targets, should they not be able to achieve them then we should be looking for others to fill these roles.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 32

Name: Bernard Robert

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Good approach. Not everything can be done at once, so priorities have to be set.

   Could do with some brief updates on the subject via rates invoices.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Moving away from gas makes perfect sense as it will become an extinct commodity.

   Emissions reduction is everyone responsibility and education is important.

   NPDC could ask central government to supply financial assistance to house owners wanting to install solar panels.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Assistance would accelerate adoption of alternative green energy like the EV subsidy created a high introduction of EV vehicles.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 33

Name: James Joyce

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Sounds like a sensible approach to me.

   Managing extreme stormwater flows is going to become more and more challenging. How many "1 in 100 year" events are we going have in the years to come? Based on recent history elsewhere in NZ, quite a few!

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I think, provided that innovation in energy options is focussed on resilience and sustained whole-of-life reductions in costs to ratepayers that the community will support it. I am seeing declining community interest in emissions reductions as a justification for actions. Fortunately, now that fossil fuels are more expensive than the alternatives, emissions reductions automatically occur when you focus on energy management and sourcing from sustainable sources. I do thing council needs to look at what barriers it may be placing in the way of businesses and ratepayers that are trying to improve their energy efficiency and generate their own electricity.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   The RAS is a great initiative; however it is of limited benefit to renters and small businesses. Development of programs that encourage landlords to install solar+battery systems on their properties would help to fill that gap. The follow-up ongoing service element is key to that. A shiny new thing solar array that is covered in dust, bird poop and lichen in 5 years time will do no-one any favours, especially if it has a bird nest under it waiting to catch fire.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   It is too late to be singularly focussed on emissions.

   Self-supplied/stored energy is a key part of resilience. Grid supplied electricity is inherently risky in a world with weather. Anyone with a refrigerator will understand this risk.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 34

Name: Morry Rolfe

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Climate change is an issue. But why. Look at building new infrastructure when we have old infrastructure that, if given the right amount work, could be utilized to supply back to the region.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Ouch, another expense. I hope you are waiting until these items are at end of life prior to changing out.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   No, you shouldn't be a bank. Thanks for increasing our rates.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Taranaki is prone to flooding. Building small dams and power stations will assist in controlling this. Hydro is a far more efficient form of energy than solar.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 35

Name: Ciprian Sexuiu

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   It is nothing bad to be informez, it is bad when we apply resilience on guess work.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   What will happen with solar panels after 20years-25 years life span? What will be cost of disposal and were you will dispose them?

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Community's knows best what is working for them. This is the best approach. Let people decide and use their own money to improve. Not force everyone in a ideology.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Batteries, solar panels all the environmental products are non recyclable, maybe we need to find a solution for this. Also we need to get all the bio-methane from decomposing rubbish from land field and maybe use.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 36

Name: **Warren Smart**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Make any councillors that are climate change deniers prove their stance

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Keep following this approach

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Good keep this up

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 37

Name: Luke Whittaker

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Stop spending money on climate change focus on what you can control, rate rises, roading community hubs, local parks roading etc

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Complete waste of time. Climate change is costing rate payers a lot of money! Stop being so woke!

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Bring things back to the basics. Treat the sewage clean the roads. And local community hubs. Bring it back to the basics!

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   I think the council needs to realise that funds are not unlimited I have had a 50% rate increase in 5 years! This is not sustainable.

   Stop wasting money!

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 38

Name: Yvonne Northcott

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Just concentrate on getting the infrastructure up to date, maintain the good we have in our province and stop catering to impress. WE have mountain , sea, parks which visitors love.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   This is hopeful, we need to stop sales of gas appliances in residential homes.

   We need to include solar panels in all new build consents.

   WE can not allow LNG to come to our port,, preferably not t NZ at all. We need to look to the future of renewable energy and gas from our own country.

   WE don't need to worry about emissions as this happens as we proceed with transitioning and also with all the war in the world, fighting a loosing fight world wide.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   That looks good so why are you not saying NO to LNG

   Stand up for the realistic folk in your community.

   Sale of domestic gas appliances needs to be promoted NZ wide.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   You need to stay with water, management, renewable energy, waste management, So many new ideas coming from enterprising minds. Encourage them for a better future.

   New build consents should have "no gas appliances, Solar panels on roof and rain water management.

   Incentives for older homes to transition

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 39

Name: Jenny Brooks

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Infrastructure needs to be protected so it makes sense

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   It sounds like investing in solar panels will save money in the long term which is great. Gas is only going to get more expensive. We might as well all make our own energy if we can

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I like this

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 40

Name: **John Passmore**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   This should not be within the Council remit. Its a national matter, otherwise plans will vary from region to region and also be dependent on how much each is intending to spend.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   There should be solar panels on every roof in every business in New Plymouth. There is a huge footprint, including car parks etc. It may not be a direct council responsibility but it should be part of the initiative

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Don't bother. Households can make their own informed opinion

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Energy and emissions should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   The council should get the basics right first before committing to any additional expenditure

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 41

Name: Caleb Humphreys

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Gathering the right information and finding out where investment is needed most is a great starting point.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Moving toward renewable energy sources and exploring new opportunities is a good approach.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I think this is a great idea. Low cost finance for flood mitigation improvements could also be quite beneficial.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   I think focusing on the weakest areas and most at risk areas should be the primary focus. Fix the leaks before filling the bucket.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 42

Name: Nicola Pope

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   I think this issue needs a wider approach. It needs to start at Government and then councils need to share resources and ideas together. Our council and every council having a thought with all of the work that goes into that is crazy. There are multiple synergies throughout NZ. New Plymouth is not unique.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Yes we should be organising Solar. Yes, use local companies. They are all smart enough to know if they have the expertise and if not then you go National.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   No need to support people/businesses to understand their energy needs. There is enough national info out there. Waste of money. Yes, relooking at funding through rates post recent legislative changes.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Energy and emissions should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Energy as your savings will allow funds to be redistributed. You then give time for wider Government and coordinated council thinking. Again - work collectively with other councils - we are not unique no matter what some like to say

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 43

Name: Andrew Thomson

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Firstly, it is incorrect to say that severe weather is increasing in severity and frequency. Even the IPCC confirms this. Yes, concentration on building resilience into our infrastructure, so that when the severe weather events occur, there is less likely to be damage.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Don't waste our money on chasing greenhouse reductions. It will make absolutely no difference to the climate and will just be virtue signaling at rate payers expense. We have the advantage of having gas on our door step. Use it to benefit our community. Chasing greenhouse gas reduction is a waste of money.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   No. Don't do it! If people want to do climate related upgrades to their homes and businesses, the upgrades should stack up financially on their own merits. The council should not be wasting rate payers money chasing these issues, or providing finance for them. That isn't council's role.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Stick to improving infrastructure to protect us against severe weather events. Chasing greenhouse gas emissions will never change the climate, and will burden ratepayers with unnecessary costs.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 44

Name: Paul Lamb

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   I like it!

   1. Sort out community owned and operated assets.

   2. Support private asset owners in vulnerable communities with information for long term decision making.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I like it!

   Please coordinate with the existing asset renewals program.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   This is the role of the electricity market, not Council... does the nationwide electricity infrastructure support distributed solar renewal generation... this needs to be a coordinated approach please... (i need to hear Transpower ask for micro-generation.)

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   I can cope with a wetter summer, so long as its not windy all year around!

   Please increase shade and water fountains in public playgrounds.

   Any chance of a few old bus shelters along the walkways, for when you find yourself stuck in a 5 minute downpour?

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 45

Name: Louise Kuriger

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   The focus should always be on what the council needs to do, rather than people in the community. Get the infrastructure right, storm water run off is a huge issue, priority should be given to assesments before new building consents are given, the question 'can our storm water drainage handle the new development?'. We the citizens of the district want to be secure and safe, this only happens if those in the council are doing their jobs

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   It is a big mistake to put so much focus on solar and wind energy that has such a short life. Gas is a fabulous energy source. Becareful about all the talk to electrify everything. We need diversity. Using different forms of energy is as important as biodiversity. I believe reducing emissions should not be a priority.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   The best way to support households is to reduce rates! Solar panels are not a long term solution. What is its life span? Then what do you do with all those panels? And it is a terrible waste of land use that could be planted for real sustainable food.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 46

Name: **Joanne Massey**

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Do any of these plans take a holistic approach? i.e. with heavy rainfall management is the ocuncil encouraging LESS non porous pathways, driveways, access entries and carparks (like having concrete and grass lattices instead) - THAT reduces flooding and risk to homes - practical resilience building. Is there and consideration of subsidising or easing consent and ocmpliance costs to

   encourage domestic water collection and storage (especially as increasingly hot summers and paying for metered water will impact on people's ability to keep their gardens alive, and being able to water them and wash vehicles etc with collected water takes the pressure off potable water reserves).

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I think it is misguided. Explore establishing a Low Emmission High Temperature Gassification Furnace (BIG ticket item that woudl need funding from Central Govt and Industry partners) - this would deal with most of the landfill (Japan and European countries only landfill 3-7% of all landfill using this technology) , generate power to heat public buildings, ammenities and to contribute into the power grid, produces power/income, is the PERFECT sideways transitional industry as Taranaki has a wonderful skilled engineering workforce and the oil industry workers will have employment as the oil industry's relevence lessens), ANd would create regional wealth by processing waste that is presently sent off shore. It would also lowe New Zealand's the emmissionss from shipping waste and non-recyclables off-shore. HOW can the council saythey have a commitment to lowerin emmissions that effect climate when they have not spoken out AGAINST further oil exploration?

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I see a lot of those initiatives as un-necessary spending, as all of them are provided elsewhere or, in the case of commercial businesses, should be ainitiatives yndertaken at their expwense, not council's. I think there is ample information available on-line and from central Governement for residents to access information on low-cost finance for climate-related home upgrades . The proposed low intrest loans for installing solar will be publicised by central government. Businesses can do their own energy and carbon footprint analysis,.I cannot comment on funding of community groups without knowing which community groups would be targeted and why.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Energy and emissions should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Establish a High Temperature Gassification Furnace (BIG ticket item that woudl need funding from Central Govt and Industry partners) - this would deal with most of the landfill, generate power (low emmisson), produces power/income, is the PERFECT sideways transitional industry as Taranaki has a wonderful skilled engineering workforce and the oil industry workers will have employment as the oil industry's relevence lessens), ANd would create regional wealth by processing waste that is presently sent off shore. It would also lowe New Zealand's the emmissionss from shipping waste and non-recyclables off-shore.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 47

Name: Chris Feron

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Council needs to keep to core services only, water, sewage and roads and yes build resilience into those core things and areas that are prone to flooding from rivers, streams or coastal inundation.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   This is not a council core service, council should be looking at reducing its footprint, downsizing vehicle fleets, and remote working for most staff, the council needs to look at its footprint first and foremost.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   This is central government role.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   None of them should be a focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Rate payers are feed up with non stop increasing rates, what we want is rates reductions and you need to do what ever it takes to reduce the rates burden and find a path to reducing them, there will need to be tough decisions but these need to be made and council needs to keep to core services only and reduce its foot print and become finacally prudent.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 48

Name: Jenna Town

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Good. As long as it has actionable outcomes that are put into place and isn't just a review on paper only.

   Plus prioritizes those things that can be done straight away with little cost/disturbance and things that will actually make a difference.

   It would be also great to clear away storm drains after a storm from debris.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Solar for self consumption is a great idea. As well as looking at what can be time shifted and how better use of assets and or buildings, lighting, heating etc can help reduce costs and demand.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Aren't banks already doing this? Plus central government doing it for industry and commercial customers.

   I would rather see a partnership or some sort of leveraging off initiatives already/lobbying industry to do better in this space, rather than doing something yourself.

   Especially when the core infrastructure apparently needs urgent attention.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   In proportion to what the other competing priorities are and making headway with those things.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 49

Name: **Jana Dunnet**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Looks ok

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Great!

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Great! Helping households help themselves is needed and will make all the difference. Make sure it includes batteries too, not just solar cells.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 50

Name: Michael Brooke

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   I agree totally with the first series looking after NPDC infrastructure.

   I don't agree with series 2 unless it involves NPDC assets. Tun a public workshop and if they approach council for assistance then give advice by all means but then it's over to them.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I agree with council moving to cheaper and sustainable energy supplies.

   I don't agree with council getting involved with businesses as they know how to operate their business better than council employees ever will.

   Any incentives are central government based.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Your objective isn't clear. You need to inform me what you mean by supporting households with energy and resilience.

   Most people want to reduce their power bills. Those people generally don't have funds to spend on solar etc. I don't think Council should be funding such initiatives. It's not a core council matter.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   The main objective of council should be in an advisory capacity such as they are with building consents in high wind zones and on flood plains.

   Anything else doesn't usually require council involvement. People make their own decisions.

   I agree that there is climate change which has too be recognised but don't accept that it is totally human made.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 51

Name: Frank Hagenson

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   That sounds like a good approach. On the back of this, I would like to see a commitment to not allowing new developments in areas at risk from climate change induced hazards. I do not want to see future rates money spent bailing people out from disasters where the risk was clear before they started the project.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I would like to see an expert person or committee at the council given this project and authority to make it happen. This is as much a cost saving exercise as it is an environmental one. a small percentage of self generation would pay this very quickly.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I would like to see a scheme where residents can finance green upgrades through their rates payments. Houses that can generate their own electricity are much more resilient to the natural disasters our country regularly receives than those reliant on the grid.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   These 3 points all reinforce each other. It doesn't make sense to prioritise one over another. The council should take an approach where all 3 problems are attacked with a single initiative.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 52

Name: Stefan Rigert

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Generally support the approach, while we need to make sure to avoid spending too much time and money on scenarios and modelling rather than implementation. Finding the right balance between assessing the correct priorities and getting those implemented should be the highest priority.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Fully support this approach. The council should strongly consider electrification in every new investment and continue pushing local industry to do the same. This makes economic sense and increases energy resilience.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   Fully support all mentioned initiatives including the future rate-payer alliance scheme for renewable energy announced recently by many parties.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   While all of them should have a strong focus, the most important is tha key risks to the community are addressed all while considering value for money and remaining PRAGMATIC in its approach.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 53

Name: **Paul McGrath**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   yes ok but start with no new subdivisions in areas that will be subject to coastal erosion or landslides

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   waste of time and money it will make no difference to the climate overall just spend on adaptation instead

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   no not core council business there are already loans available from banks etc and its not up to npdc to pick their opinion of the winners in dishing out our rates money!

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 54

Name: Mark Barraclough

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   They should all have a strong focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 55

Name: Doug Hislop

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Two questions.

   What processes will be used for the council to improve CC risk management information? Obviously getting much better hazard and exposure data is the cornerstone for that to be done an appropriate way. However, sectors of concern can be local and may not be captured using the generic nation-wide methodologies being rolled out at the moment.

   Also it is clear there are genuinely uncertain long horizion risks that are not always reacted to by territorial authorities and central government until after the event. Some examples have been the White Island disaster, the East Coast forestry slash issue and the Auckland Anniversary floods.

   Therefore, what type of processes will be developed to ensure that there is an adaptive element to planning/funding pathways that can't be "ignored" by elected members with other agendas? Don't forget we have a truly snoozing giant slap-bang in the centre of our province. Imagine all Taranaki's grass disappearing overnight under an ash cloud.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   I have no issues with these actions, but it may well be that some robust rules should be built into the proposals rather than relying just on education and goodwill.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   While climate-related home upgrades are laudable, but not as the first cab off the rank.

   Early community engagement to help establish CC values and objectives is the key. Engagement needs to be differentiated too, as the levels of interest in the community wax and wane on the perceived danger to each individual. I'm sure there will be some good information available about what works and what doesn't regarding public participation and engagement from the Christchurch earthquake and the Cyclone Gabrielle disaster.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Other: There is not enough robust information to rank your priorities.

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   I don't believe ranking the priorities - they are all important, only changing and adapting according to CC issues as they adentified. For me the key issue is to close the gap between having plans and information and actually implementing funded adaption plans (before a major CC event forces a retrospective response). It is quite clear that this has been the failure to date. Adaption is not keeping pace with escalating climate risks, and progress has been slow. The Climate Change Commission's reports points out there are serious nation-wide gaps remaining. It points out that the necessary actions are well understood, but implementation is not keeping pace.

   No doubt there will be more mandatory implications coming from the government, but it is worth remembering that a one hat size doesn't fit everyone. Robust local information and planning is the key.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 56

Name: Derek Finlay

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   Storms are getting more frequent and more severe. Droughts likewise. So we need to put all our resources into being more resilient to these occurrences.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   There is no point in wasting money to reduce so called green house gas emissions. New Zealand could reduce our levels to zero and it wouldn't make any difference to atmosphereic levels. Climate change is a natural phenomenon not man made.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   I have no problem with supporting residents or community groups to access information or low cost finance as long as the ratepayers are not providing the finance.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Risk, resilience and adaptation should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Don't waste our money trying to change what can't be changed just so you can be seen by those who aren't paying the bills to be doing the right thing.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 57

Name: Mathew Sturgess

Wish to speak to the Council: No

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1. **What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?**

   The LNG terminal is a very bad, costly and environmentally damaging idea. We would be subject to fluctuations in prices globally costing us more. We would be pumping more carbon into the atmosphere and it wouldn't even benefit the public. Just businesses who use gas. The costs would be put onto us in a cost of living crisis and would make us suffer even more than we already are. There are renewable energy sources available that would not harm the environment. How about solar farms placed over car parks and on top of buildings. Subsidising Solar for us to put on our roofs and excess power generated shared. Wind farms offshore, tidal generators. There are far better and more efficient ways than using a finite and damaging resource. Think ahead for all our sakes.

2. **What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?**

   Solar is the way to go. Eliminate gas usage entirely. Even use wind turbines is possible. Anything other than gas or oil.

3. **What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?**

   As long as we are not leasing the solar panels. We would own them and pay from the savings created as Labout is suggesting.

4. **Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis?**

   Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus

5. **Do you have any other comments?**

   Solar power is a no brainer. As is wind. There are other forms of renewable energy creation as well. Use them.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 58

Name: **Elvisa van der Leden**

Organistion: **Forest & Bird (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand)**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

Refer to submission on following pages.

Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026–2032
New Plymouth District Council

Submission

Submitted on behalf of: Forest & Bird (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand)

Submitted by: Elvisa van der Leden, Waikato & Taranaki Regional Conservation Manager

Contact details: e.vanderleden@forestandbird.org.nz

Introduction

Forest & Bird is Aotearoa New Zealand's leading independent conservation organisation. Our North Taranaki Forest & Bird branch is involved in local projects, including maintaining the Te Wairoa Reserve near Inglewood which is accessible and available to the public for recreational use. We support Council taking an integrated approach to climate risk, adaptation, energy, emissions and community resilience, and we support the ambition shown in the Plan's emissions reduction targets and adaptation planning programme.

Our submission focuses on ensuring the Plan gives biodiversity, indigenous ecosystems and nature-based solutions the same status as built infrastructure and emissions accounting as core climate infrastructure in its own right. Healthy indigenous ecosystems (eg. dunes, wetlands, riparian margins, native forest cover and ecological corridors) buffer communities against the same hazards this Plan identifies (coastal erosion, flooding, heat, landslip), while also drawing down carbon and reversing biodiversity loss. We think the Plan can go further in recognising and resourcing this.

1. Resilience and adaptation

We support the Plan's four climate change outcomes and its commitment to local adaptation planning in partnership with mana whenua. However, the Plan's own risk assessment repeatedly identifies damage to coastal, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems (dunes, wetlands, estuaries, forestry-adjacent land) alongside risks to built assets and community wellbeing, yet the adaptation actions that follow are framed almost entirely around infrastructure, property and community consultation. We ask Council to:

- Make explicit, in every local adaptation plan, an assessment of the ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity exposed to each hazard, alongside built assets and community wellbeing, so that ecological loss is not treated as an unavoidable side-effect of adaptation decisions.
- Prioritise nature-based responses (dune and wetland restoration, riparian planting, retention of coastal vegetation) as the first option for reducing coastal erosion, flooding and landslip risk, ahead of hard engineering, wherever practicable. This would be consistent with the Plan's own recognition that restored dunes can become 'largely self-managing' while providing habitat.

- Strengthen the action 'Ensure that future developments do not occur in risky areas.' The areas most exposed to sea level rise, coastal erosion and flooding are frequently the same areas with the highest remaining ecological values (dune systems, wetlands, estuarine margins). Avoiding development here is both a resilience win and a biodiversity win, and the Plan should say so explicitly.
- Ensure mana whenua partnership in adaptation planning is resourced, not just stated as a principle, given the scale of engagement the Plan itself acknowledges will be needed across multiple communities.

2. Energy and emissions

We support the Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions reduction targets and the shift away from gas. We ask Council to strengthen the biodiversity safeguards around how emissions reductions are achieved:

- Any Council-owned or Council-supported renewable electricity generation (solar, wind, or future geothermal) should be sited and consented against clear ecological screening criteria from the outset, to avoid the kind of impacts on threatened species and habitats seen with fast-tracked renewable projects elsewhere in the country. We recommend the Plan reference this explicitly under 'Renewable energy generation' and 'Energy innovation.'
- Where voluntary carbon or nature markets are used to fund planting or restoration (as flagged under 'Nature-based solutions framework'), the biodiversity outcomes of that funding should be protected by clear standards. For example, use of indigenous, locally-sourced species and ecological corridor design so that carbon revenue does not drive plantings that are carbon-efficient but ecologically poor (e.g. monoculture exotic species).
- We support the offsetting of residual emissions by 2049/50, but ask Council to commit to sourcing any offsets from verified indigenous afforestation or ecosystem restoration within the district or region wherever possible, so that offsetting also delivers local biodiversity benefit rather than being purely a an account entry.

3. Supporting households with energy and resilience

We support the household-focused actions, particularly the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme, support for solar and batteries, and household resilience advice. We suggest two additions:

- Include urban tree canopy and native planting as part of household and neighbourhood resilience advice. Shade from trees is a low-cost, high-value way to reduce heat exposure for households without so much reliance on energy (ie. air conditioning), and complements the 'Planting our Place' programme's goal of 10 per cent native urban forest cover.
- Encourage nature-based stormwater management (rain gardens, permeable surfaces, rainwater harvesting) alongside the rainwater harvesting measures already flagged, as a way households can reduce flood risk to their own property while supporting wider ecosystem and freshwater outcomes. A large part of city flooding is due to the over-saturation of impermeable concrete infrastructure which traps water. While modern landscaping involves a lot of concrete and low-maintenance gardens, biodiverse gardens and encouraging permeable infrastructure should be encouraged.

4. Nature-based solutions lens

All outcomes should have strong focus, but with one overarching qualification. Nature-based solutions and biodiversity should not sit as a single, medium-priority action line ('Nature-based solutions framework') separate from the other three outcome areas. By the Plan's own prioritisation criteria, actions with 'multiple benefits across both climate and non-climate issues' should be rated High. Nature-based solutions meet that

test more clearly than almost any other action in the Plan. They contribute simultaneously to adaptation, emissions reduction, and community wellbeing. We ask Council to elevate the nature-based solutions framework to High priority, and to embed nature-based thinking as a cross-cutting requirement across the adaptation, energy and community outcome areas, rather than as a fourth, separate workstream.

5. Other comments

We raise the following points for Council's further consideration:

- Add a fifth outcome, or strengthen an existing one, to explicitly recognise indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem health as a key climate outcome. These should not only be seen as a co-benefit of adaptation or emissions actions. This would align the Plan with obligations under the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.
- Secure long-term, ring-fenced funding for the ongoing maintenance (weeding, pest and predator control) of Planting our Place sites and the Waiwhakaiho Wildlink. The Plan itself acknowledges that maintenance costs will increasingly compete with funding for new planting; without dedicated funding, past biodiversity gains risk being lost. Pest and predator control should be explicitly funded alongside planting, since new native plantings and ecological corridors deliver far less biodiversity benefit if browsing animals and predators are left unmanaged.
- Consider extending the ecological corridor approach shown in the Waiwhakaiho Wildlink to other catchments across the District over the life of this Plan and beyond, given the Plan's own recognition that this approach is more cost-effective than isolated smaller projects. We recognize that this reach would be ambitious but worth the effort as it is in line with the outcomes of the Plan.
- Include biodiversity and ecosystem health indicators (for example, native forest cover, wetland extent, or corridor connectivity) in the annual monitoring and reporting framework, alongside the proposed emissions and resilience KPIs, so that ecological outcomes are tracked with the same rigour as carbon and cost outcomes.
- We support strong central government action being called for by Council, and encourage Council to also call for stronger national funding and policy support for local biodiversity and ecosystem restoration, not only for adaptation infrastructure and energy transition.

Conclusion

Forest & Bird supports the overall direction of the Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026–2032 and commends Council for bringing climate risk, energy, emissions and community support together into one integrated plan. We ask that indigenous biodiversity and nature-based solutions be given equal, high priority status alongside built infrastructure and emissions accounting across all four outcome areas, supported by long-term funding for restoration and pest/predator control.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Elvisa van der Leden
Regional Conservation Manager, Waikato and Taranaki
Forest & Bird (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand)

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 59

Name: **Kathryn Mercer**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

Refer to submission on following pages.

From: Kathryn Mercer
Sent: Wednesday, 16 September 2026 12:05 am
To: submissions
Subject: RECAP submission

Kia ora

Yes, I would like to present to Council.

Here are my responses:

What do you think about our approach to resilience and adaptation?

Be courageous: go hard, speak the current science-based truth: things are going to get worse. Monetary is only one aspect: water, food, shelter and a climate that our physical bodies can physically function in are the priority.

What do you think about our approach to energy and emissions?

Very happy to see the emphasis on moving away from gas to renewables. I support measures that will reduce demand – energy efficiency can lead to the Jeavons Paradox of actually using more energy, eg more energy efficient lighting tending to lead to more lights: appropriately detailed data collection should help to identify if that is happening and inform decisions that will combat this tendency.

I was extremely disappointed that the recent opportunity to replace the sludge drying plant was wasted, with gas infrastructure renewed. The science is clear: we urgently need to move away from fossil fuels. Please try to avoid making mistakes like this again.

Explore the potential of floating wetland pods in wastewater lagoons – an RMIT study "The results published in the *Journal of Environmental Management* reveal dramatic results, with CO_2 emissions dropping by up to 36%, methane by up to 66% and nitrogen by 18% in the lagoon with a floating wetland installed, compared to the control lagoon with no wetland platform." Internationally, floating solar in wastewater lagoons is also showing promise.

I regard the pool-warming at Todd Energy Aquatic Centre and Inglewood as a nice to have, but not essential. Could we just not heat them? If not, could we at least restrict heating to indoors only, lower the max temperature and shorten the length of the season they are heated for? Definitely look at renewable options as alternative to gas – would a ground source heat pump be possible for Inglewood? Or a waste-heat from a biochar production unit for non-compostable green waste next door, with the biochar being used to lock up carbon that is utilised in agriculture? Or given the level of warming that is predicted, can we set up a 'tipping point' at which heating is switched off altogether? The volatility of temperature extremes, even as we have seen this year may become more problematic – if the experts agree with that then we need to be on the look-out for solutions.

I am very keen to see the gas fuelled crematorium replaced with a non-fossil fuelled alternative (p40). I would prefer exploring composting (also known natural organic reduction as terramation, humusation, etc) in preference to water cremation: from what I understand it would be less resource intensive and produce fewer emissions than the water method. And at the end of the process your body is turned to soil that can nurture new life – sequestering more carbon through forests, etc – strikes me as a win-win, and I know I am not the only one in the community keen on the idea. Currently composting human remains is legal in several US states and Sweden, while Wales is also looking into this option. But within NZ NPDC could be a leader if we're quick. Composting would also appear to rhyme with some of the traditional Maori practices such as placing bodies in trees to decay before removing the bones for storage/burial, but this would need to be explored.

Internationally public facilities such as libraries (p39 - 40) are often used as heating/cooling hubs for those in the community who cannot afford shelter from extreme weather events. Even now, Puke Ariki is used this way by some of the community.

Re the fernery boiler (p40) from what I understand, the Parks department produces its own compost and mulch. As its name suggests, hot composting generates heat: could the composting facility be located beside or close to the fernery, thus heating the water piped through the compost?
BBQ (p40) – decommission or move & electrify. The science is clear: minimize fossil fuel use to only the key essential items we have no alternative to. We also need to minimize the chances of more coastal fires wiping out important areas of planting, as has happened already.
Transport (p 41) continue to encourage active transport by staff for short trips. This also model and normalise the behaviour with the broader community. It was cool to catch the CEO out and about on his scooter last year! ☺
PIF fund (p42) should be moved to a low or no emission profile. Every increment of a degree of warming counts! We owe it to the generations already born who are too young to vote but will inherit the impacts of our decisions long after we are dead.
Energy innovation (p43) – low tech solutions (even some old ones) should be part of the exploration too. They may be lower cost, more robust and able to be produced and staffed locally. This includes some of the battery options that could be utilised.

What do you think about our approach to supporting households with energy and resilience?

Bring it on. Great to see rain water harvesting in there too.
Don't forget to include support for insect screens (potentially combined with security mesh). With fewer frosts moving to frost free, insect numbers will not be getting knocked back in winter and we can expect more issues with potentially disease carrying mosquitos, while the heat will raise the need for open windows for ventilation.

Where do you think we should put most of our emphasis? Our finances are limited, so being able to prioritise what we do is important.

Risk, resilience and adaptation:
Energy and emissions should be the main focus
Community energy and resilience support should be the main focus
They should all have a strong focus
None of them should be a focus
Other (please specify)

Do you have any other comments?

I am very pleased that a major goal is to make climate change a part of your ordinary decision making. I recommend environmental and ecological impacts also be included in your ordinary decision making. Our current polycrisis has been described by some as a 'two legged problem' – degradation of our ecological systems – we are deep in ecological overshoot - and climate change. The two are of course enmeshed.
Good data and skilled advice is necessary to make the integration into everyday decision making more than a box-ticking exercise. This requires adequate levels of suitably skilled staffing and decision makers.
To successfully achieve this, I think that climate and ecological literacy training should be mandatory for current and then new councillors and council staff, such as Climate Fresk training. It should also include the planetary boundaries framework. I would also like to see NPDC join the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL), which is based on staying within planetary limits (based on the Planetary Boundaries Framework) as well as basic social wellbeing requirements – it is geared up for cities and regions. Again, councillors and staff need at least a basic introduction to these methods so that they can work together to identify issues and opportunities.
The community needs this basic education too, given the scale of the planetary emergency we are facing. Maybe the museum and libraries can play a role in this as well as partner organisations like Sustainable Taranaki.
And as such, I am really pleased to see that you have taken up the community desire to exploring nature based solutions. We need to recognise the value our ecological infrastructure and the way that we treat it. There are aspects of this which cannot be easily measured in $ terms, nor can we just buy them back or swap them out when they are gone.
So I also recommend that providing information to the community on climate change risks and adaptation (p.28) should have a high priority (not low), and be far more proactive than expecting people to look at the Council website. Some of the most vulnerable people (who are often the most likely to be highly impacted at a basic needs level) are not digitally literate, or even particularly literate full-stop. How can you expect people to get behind costly adaptation decisions if they don't understand the crisis we are in?
The UN have announced just a few weeks ago that we are definitely going to pass the agreed global 1.5 degree heating maximum by 2030. For many of us who have been listening to the science, this was unfortunately no surprise.

They state: “There are no benign scenarios with global temperature rise above [1.5°C].” Or to put it another way, we are already at a point where we have a choice between a really bad future and a catastrophic future. We must act with urgency!
As our scientific understanding becomes increasingly nuanced, it has become evident that climate scientists have consistently underestimated the impacts and speed of climate change – the IPCC Reasons for Concern “Burning embers” diagrams analysis over time demonstrates this. Even the Paris Agreement goals around national contributions/cuts to emissions were insufficient from the start, and like many countries, NZ is not on track to meet ours.

Taranaki has been getting off lightly compared to most of NZ and indeed the world, despite our high average individual carbon footprints. Our footprints are well above the earth’s capacity to regenerate. This is clearly both stupid and unjust – both in the present, and to future generations.
There are no grounds for more buck-passing to future generations of residents: we are all feeling the impacts – even now. Not just directly in terms of temperatures, rainfall, winds, etc, but also indirectly, for example through:

- Increasing droughts and wildfires outside of NZ are impacting the food production in key supplies that we do not (and in some cases, cannot – like cocoa) produce, and this is expected to increase.
- Shipping and packaging costs (particularly fossil fuels and fossil oil based plastics) of imported/exported goods.
- Multiple other by-products of fossil fuels that have become embedded in our everyday lives
- Increasing costs of other non-renewables that we need to be doing a better job of recycling and finding alternatives to, such as copper.

We need to support maintenance and repair skills and services in our region before the skills are lost. Supporting repair cafes would be a good step. These processes need to be normalised again, valuing stewardship of our resources rather than the ‘consume, dump and replace’ approach that has become normalised in the last 50 years or so. There are ways that council can champion and model these approaches, encouraging broader behaviour change – and yes, there is an appetite for this in some parts of the community already.
The idea that personal rights trump all ignores how interconnected and interdependent we all are – and by all I include all global lifeforms, not just the property owners of Taranaki. We don’t just have rights, we also have responsibilities, to both current and future generations.
The community (people) are also an asset. We have a broad range of experience and expertise in our community: make the best of it. Use processes like genuinely representative citizen assemblies that include young people/representatives for future generations, science based expert information, and follow through on your vision’s “commitment to listening to our communities”: if you decide to not pursue the recommendations of such assemblies, you need to be transparent, up front and accountable about the darned good reasons why not, so that you build rather than undermine trust in our local government process.
Do not underestimate the value of care: most of us are not just self-interested bastards, despite some of the old economic models telling us otherwise. There are ways of leveraging this. For example, international experience has shown that trees planted by communities have a 90% chance of survival vs 50% of trees planted by municipal staff, reducing costs.
Prioritise quality – particularly durability, reparability and full-circle recyclability in purchasing decisions. As much as possible, avoid complex systems dependent on long international supply chains. Plan ahead: what will happen when the solar panels need renewing – can they be repaired, renewed or recycled? Try to avoid another waste headache 20-30 years down the track. Even asking our potential suppliers these questions helps them to have an increased awareness of their environmental responsibilities, and makes it easier for smaller organisations and households to achieve better outcomes around these issues too.

I agree with Simon Wilson’s advice to young people: “Telling a story of hope doesn’t mean proclaiming that young people are the great hope of the future. That is my generation being morally bankrupt. Put it back on them. Remind them they’ve always taught their own children to clean up their own mess. Older people should too.”

E kore tātau e mōhio ki te waitohu nui o te wai kia mimiti rawa te puna.
We never know the worth of water until the well runs dry
- Te Wharehuia Milroy (Ngāi Tūhoe)

Let’s not wait to get to that stage!

Thanks.

Kathryn Mercer

“In nature, all waste is resource.” – Samantha Sweetwater

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 60

Name: **Sharon Bevins**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

Refer to submission on following pages.

From: Sharon Bevins
Sent: Tuesday, 15 September 2026 9:40 pm
To: submissions
Subject: Submission on the Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026-2032

There are some good initiatives in the Plan, for instance supporting the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme and electrifying Council assets.

My main critique is the Plan is narrow and lacks ambition. It has a focus on Council operations which is a small part of the district's emissions. While Council cannot directly control most household and business emissions, it should be a leader and has significant influence through transport, infrastructure, planning, investment and advocacy. A leadership approach would look at emissions across the district. Saying that community emissions are addressed through other strategies is only effective if those strategies have clear emissions-reduction objectives and consistently deliver them. For example, in the case of transport, Council should take a stronger leadership role in reducing private-car dependence and transport emissions – things have not been going very well in this area such as getting good cycleway infrastructure across the city, a necessity if we are to get people on bikes.

I would like to speak to Council about my submission (depending on my availability).

Regards
Sharon Bevins

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 61

Name: **Dr Neil de Wet**

Organistion: **Te Whatu Ora**

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

Refer to submission on following pages.

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

15 September 2026

NPDC Action Plan
New Plymouth District Council
submissions@npdc.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou,

Technical Advice: Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026-2032

We **DO** wish to speak in support of this advice.

This technical advice on New Plymouth District Council's proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan has been compiled by the National Public Health Service (NPHS) Te Manawa Taki region, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ). NPHS Te Manawa Taki services the Taranaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Lakes and Tairāwhiti areas.

NPHS recognises its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people and communities of Aotearoa New Zealand under the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956. Achieving Pae Ora requires the health sector to protect and promote healthy communities and health equity across different population groups by working together with multiple sectors to address the determinants of health.

NPHS Te Manawa Taki is focused on the achievement of equitable health outcomes. We use the Ministry of Health's definition of equity:

> *In Aotearoa New Zealand people have differences in health that are not only avoidable, but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.*[1]

[1] Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (2024, July 2). Achieving equity. https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/what-we-do/achieving-equity

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Medical Officers of Health[2] have a responsibility to reduce conditions within their local community that are likely to cause injury and disease. Many of the crucial underlying factors that contribute to improving, promoting and protecting the health of people and communities are directly influenced by the decisions and activities of Councils.

We welcome the opportunity to share public health advice and evidence for planning and decision making with New Plymouth District Council. This technical advice sets out matters of interest and concern to NPHS Te Manawa Taki, and our recommendations are based on evidence about public health and equity, as well as the experience of local public health officers.

Climate change is already having an impact on the health of people in Aotearoa New Zealand and is affecting the conditions that support health and wellbeing, including safe housing, clean air and water, food security, access to services, social connection, cultural wellbeing and community safety.[3] It is expected that the impact of climate change will increase, affecting people more often and more severely in the future.[4]

Climate change and climate-related hazards and risks such as flooding, storms, extreme heat, drought, contribute to disruptions to essential infrastructure which can affect people through injury, illness and loss of life. Other health and wellbeing outcomes can also be affected through water contamination, increased risk of vector-borne diseases[5] [6], food insecurity, housing damage, financial stress, displacement, disruption to health and social services, and impacts on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. The health consequences of climate change are significant and will harm whānau and communities and place increased stress on the health system.[7] [8]

Recent events during the northern hemisphere summer have demonstrated the widespread and compounding impacts of climate-related hazards, including extreme heat, drought, wildfires, flooding and unusually high sea-surface temperatures. These events have affected communities, infrastructure, ecosystems, transport, energy, food systems and health. This reinforces the importance of proactive local adaptation planning to reduce risk, protect priority populations and strengthen community resilience.

NPHS broadly supports the direction of the proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan. We particularly support the plan's focus on resilience, evidence-informed decision-

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[2] Health Act 1956, s 7a. Health Act 1956 No 65 (as at 27 August 2025), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation
[3] New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (2026). Climate Change Policy Statement. Accessed via Policy Statements - NZCPHM (24/08/2026)
[4] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027
[5] Hales, S., De Wet, N., Maindonald, J., & Woodward, A. (2002). Potential effect of population and climate changes on global distribution of dengue fever: an empirical model. *The Lancet*, *360*(9336), 830-834.
[6] de Wet, N., Ye, W., Hales, S., Warrick, R., Woodward, A., & Weinstein, P. (2001). Use of a computer model to identify potential hotspots for dengue fever in New Zealand. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, *114*(1140), 420.
[7] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027
[8] Royal Society Te Apārangi. (2017). *Human Health Impacts of Climate Change for New Zealand*. Wellington: Royal Society Te Apārangi.

making, local adaptation planning, reducing Council's own emissions, and recognising the role of community, iwi and hapū in climate resilience.

The plan already includes several areas that support public health gains, and we commend the New Plymouth District Council for developing the Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan. We acknowledge that the plan recognises that climate action intersects with multiple Council plans, strategies and areas of responsibility. This cross-system approach is important because many of the determinants of health are shaped by the decisions guided by these documents about land use, transport, infrastructure, housing, water, community facilities, emergency management, environmental protection and engagement. Actions across these plans also impact public health and have associated health co-benefits, for example the link between transport planning and physical activity as noted in the 2023 NPDC Emissions Reduction Plan. Including references to health and health co-benefits reflects the broad potential impacts and wider benefits of climate actions.

The following aspects of the proposal are noted to be supportive of public health gain. The 'Why this matters for Public Health' column summarises the evidence base, with further detail set out in Appendix One: Evidence and Discussion.

Supportive of Public Health Gains:	**Why this matters for Public Health**
Actions that prioritise working in partnership with iwi, hapū.	The impacts of climate change and climate related health risks are likely to be experienced disproportionately by Māori. Climate change is also expected to worsen existing health inequities currently experienced by Māori. Undertaking climate planning in partnership with iwi and hapū is important to ensure adaptation planning reflects Te Ao Māori, mātauranga Māori, and local iwi and hapū priorities. This can contribute to achieving equitable health and wellbeing outcomes. It is also a way for Council to further meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.
Actions that prioritise working with those more likely to be impacted by climate change.	People most affected by climate change should help shape the responses that affect their health, wellbeing and resilience. This includes ensuring planning, communication, transport, emergency response and community facilities are accessible, inclusive and responsive to different needs.

Actions to protect environmental health, including the freshwater environment, safe drinking water, stormwater management and wastewater systems that protect public health.	Drinking water, stormwater and wastewater systems help prevent illness and protect health by reducing risks to water quality, sanitation systems and infrastructure.
Actions that increase the resilience of critical infrastructure throughout the district.	This infrastructure is essential for protecting and promoting public health, including during emergency and extreme events, and through supporting community access to essential services.
Actions that protect and restore ecological health as part of climate adaptation and resilience planning, including freshwater systems, wetlands, coastal environments, indigenous biodiversity, diverse and accessible urban green spaces alongside wider ecological health.	Heathy ecosystems promote health and wellbeing through clean water, flood management, recreation, shade and cooling, and by contributing to physical, mental and cultural wellbeing.
Actions that directly support community led and community driven resilience.	Community-led approaches strengthen local preparedness, recovery, relationships and responses that reflect local needs and strengths. Strengthening community resilience can support improved physical and mental health outcomes, particularly where communities are supported to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related emergencies.
Action related to the development of local plans that respond to climate-related risks across the district, prioritise communities most likely to be affected.	Localised planning can protect public health by supporting targeted, equitable action where climate risks and existing health and social inequities overlap.
Actions that enable warm, dry, safe, efficient and climate-resilient housing.	Good-quality, resilient housing can reduce preventable illness, support wellbeing and reduce vulnerability during extreme weather.
Nature-based solutions in climate responses, such as actions related to urban greening, wetland and riparian restoration, biodiversity enhancement and ecological corridors.	Nature-based solutions can reduce heat and flooding risks while supporting biodiversity, physical activity, mental wellbeing and connection to place.

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To protect and promote public health the following are provided for consideration. The 'Why this matters for Public Health' column summarises the evidence base, with further detail set out in Appendix One: Evidence and Discussion.

Recommendation:	**Why this matters for Public Health**
Emphasise the link between climate change, climate action and health in the plan.	Climate change presents a significant threat to public health while climate change adaptation that includes public health action provides significant opportunity for population health gain. Including this in planning documents is an opportunity to increase understanding of the broader impacts of climate change and relevance to health.
Include potential health and wellbeing impacts and outcomes of the proposed actions in the plan.	This is an opportunity to highlight public health value of the proposed Resilience Energy and Climate Action Plan and the potential benefits to health and wellbeing outcomes. Shaping climate change adaptation strategy to achieve co-benefits for population health can mobilise additional support for climate action and environmental sustainability and help to strengthen the case for action.
Continue to partner with iwi and hapū and marae in local adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring.	Ongoing partnership with iwi and hapū and marae creates opportunities to protect and promote public health and improve wellbeing by embedding Te Ao Māori values in climate planning and helps ensure climate plans reflect local priorities and support equitable outcomes.
Strengthen equity as an explicit outcome goal in planning, implementation and evaluation.	An explicit equity focus recognises that not all groups will be affected equally by climate change. It can protect and promote public health by contributing to effective local adaptation planning, and help to identify where climate risks compound existing health and social inequities so

	climate action can be prioritised where it is most needed.
Ensure affected and priority populations are actively involved in local adaptation planning. These priority populations include Māori, Pacific peoples, young people, ageing populations, the disability community and individuals experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage.	Priority populations are often most exposed to climate risks, including health-impacting risks, and can face greater barriers to preparing, responding and recovering. Their involvement helps ensure local adaptation planning reflects the lived experience, accessibility needs, and cultural priorities of communities.
Increase the emphasis on nature-based solutions, ecological health and biophilic public health approaches to adaptation.	Making these approaches clearer in the plan would help further demonstrate how protecting and restoring natural environments can contribute to synergies in outcomes across climate resilience, public health and wellbeing.
Include actions that reinforce the importance of local food and kai systems as part of climate resilience. This could also include working with local partners to understand and support community kai initiatives.	Supporting local food system plans and infrastructure can promote kai sovereignty for iwi/hapū, support the local economy, promote equity and food security. It also contributes to emergency preparedness, waste reduction, emissions reduction and community connection.
Consider how actions in the plan can help manage heat-health risks, for example the provision of public facilities that are easy to cool, either by design or through technological investments.	Extreme heat can cause illness and death. Resilient, accessible community facilities can support preparedness, provide safe places during hot weather events, and strengthen local connection and recovery.
Consider using tools that support prioritisation of health and equity in the council planning process for climate change action.	Tools such as Health Impact/Equity assessments can help Council optimise the social benefits of climate action. They can support decision making and prioritisation across multiple Council functions, by providing a structured way to identify and assess health, wellbeing and equity co-benefits, trade-offs and potential unintended consequences of climate actions for different population groups. These tools can also help the council identify opportunities to address multiple

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	community challenges simultaneously via a single climate action.
Support and foster the development of climate change expertise, capacity and engagement across local stakeholders and community.	Climate change adaptation planning and action will be an ongoing and iterative process as knowledge, insights and understanding develops. Ongoing long-term, effective solutions and responses will be best identified and achieved through ongoing development of skills, expertise and engagement and collaboration across, for example, Council, Iwi, community groups, academia and Public Health.

NPHS would welcome opportunities to continue supporting Council as local adaptation planning progresses, including through public health advice, equity-focused planning input, and shared discussion on local climate resilience actions that protect and promote community wellbeing. Working together is an opportunity to ensure climate action helps protect those most at risk, strengthens local resilience, and delivers visible health, wellbeing and equity benefits for communities across the district.

Localised climate change risk assessments, led nationally by Health NZ with local NPHS input are a potential avenue for greater collaboration between the health sector and local government. This is a long-term project that is in the early stages of rollout, we would be happy to provide updates as they become available.

We look forward to continuing to support New Plymouth District Council as planning for climate action progresses.

Ngā mihi



Dr Neil de Wet

Medical Officer of Health
Taranaki

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Appendix One: Evidence and Discussion

This appendix provides supporting evidence, further discussion and rationale for the comments and recommendations outlined above. It is not intended to be exhaustive but highlights key public health, equity and climate resilience considerations relevant to the proposed plan.

Climate change is an urgent threat to health, wellbeing and equity.[9] It is already impacting health outcomes, infrastructure, and health service delivery across Aotearoa New Zealand, with pressures expected to grow over time.

The 2024 Health National Adaptation Plan[10] produced by the Ministry of Health (MoH) details the impacts of climate change on human health, as well as the potential health co-benefits of climate action (Figures 1 and 2 below).

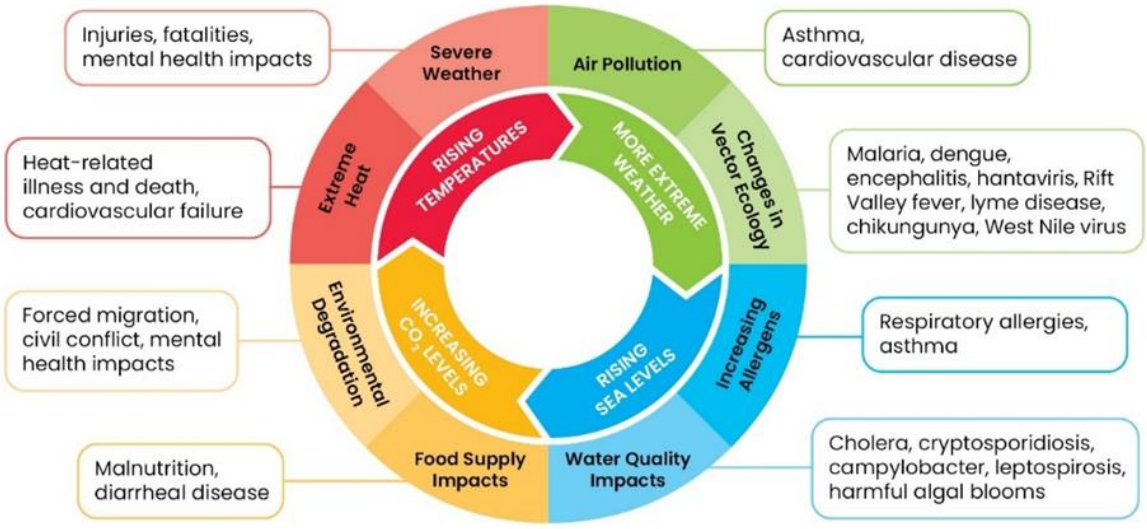


Figure 1: Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health (Adapted by MoH from Centres for Disease Control) – Health National Adaptation Plan 2024 (Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027)

[9] Bennett, H., Jones, R., Keating, G., Woodward, A., Hales, S., & Metcalfe, S. (2014). Health and equity impacts of climate change in Aotearoa-New Zealand, and health gains from climate action. *Migration*, *3*, 12-6.
[10] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027

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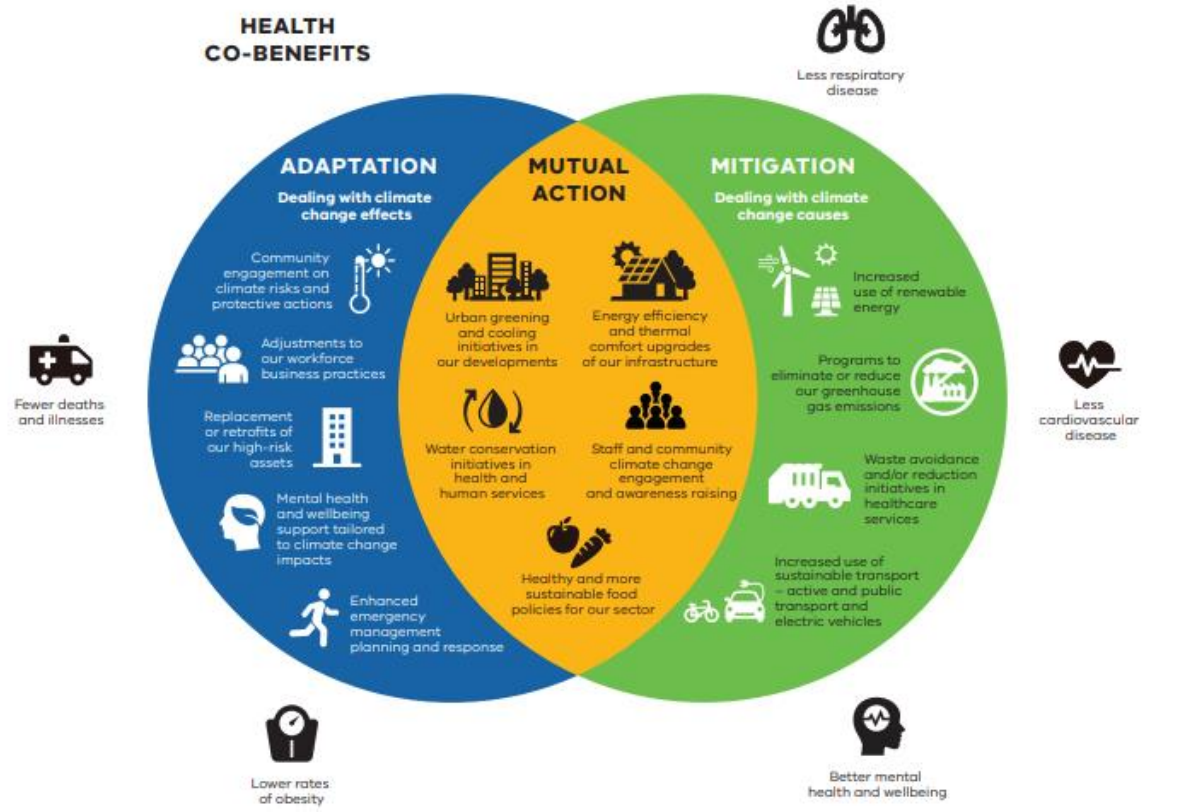


Figure 2: How climate adaptation and mitigation are interconnected, and can lead to health co-benefits (Sourced by MoH from State of Victoria Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (2022)) – Health National Adaptation Plan 2024 (Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027)

Climate change is also likely to increase demand on the health system by worsening existing health risks, creating new risks, and disrupting the wider social, environmental and infrastructure conditions that shape health. Because many of these pressures arise outside the direct control of the health system, local adaptation planning has an important role in reducing avoidable harm, contributing to improved health outcomes and reducing future health service demand.[11] [12]

Health co-benefits are the positive health and wellbeing outcomes that can occur when climate action is designed well. Recognising these co-benefits in the proposed plan would help show how climate action can also reduce inequities, strengthen community resilience and improve everyday health outcomes. Careful consideration of the potential health impacts of climate action is an important part of the planning process. It is important to also consider

[11] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027
[12] Tonkin + Taylor. (2024). *Climate change scenarios for the health sector*. Tonkin + Taylor.

possible negative health consequences of climate action, such as increases in potential allergens from suboptimal urban planting choices.[13]

The table below provides examples of climate action areas, the potential public health co-benefits they can deliver and associated planning and equity decisions that can support public health benefits.[14] [15]

Climate action area	Potential public health co-benefits	Planning and equity considerations
Healthy, energy-efficient and climate-resilient homes	Warmer, drier and safer homes can reduce preventable illness, support mental wellbeing and reduce vulnerability during extreme weather.	Prioritise households in poor-quality, insecure, overcrowded or hard-to-heat and hard-to-cool housing.
Walking, cycling and public transport	Active and public transport can increase physical activity, reduce air pollution and emissions, improve access to services and support social connection.	Ensure routes and services are safe, accessible, affordable and useful for priority populations and communities with fewer transport options.
Urban trees, shade and green space	Shade and green space can reduce heat exposure, improve air quality, support mental wellbeing, improve amenity and encourage physical activity and social connection.	Improve equitable access to shade and green space and consider potential unintended impacts such as allergen risks from planting choices.
Water-sensitive urban design and stormwater management	Wetlands, rain gardens, permeable surfaces, de-paving, bioswales, river daylighting, riparian planting and improved stormwater systems can reduce flooding and contamination risks while supporting cooling and biodiversity as well as increasing public amenity value.	Prioritise areas where flood risk, poor infrastructure, limited green space and existing inequities overlap.
Local food and kai systems	Stronger local food and kai systems can improve food security, emergency preparedness, health equity, community connection and connection to place.	Support iwi, hapū and community-led kai initiatives, and protect productive land and water.
Community facilities and local resilience spaces	Libraries, halls, marae, pools and other public places can provide safe, cool and welcoming spaces during hot weather and emergencies.	Ensure facilities are accessible, inclusive, well-promoted and available to communities most likely to need them.

[13] Climate action for health: a policy guide for the Western Pacific Region. World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific; 2026. Licence CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. Climate-Action-for-Health-a-policy-guide-for-co-benefits-in-the-Western-Pacific-Region.pdf (Accessed 25/08/2026)
[14] New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (2026). Climate Change Policy Statement. Accessed via Policy Statements - NZCPHM (24/08/2026)
[15] Royal Society Te Apārangi. (2017). *Human Health Impacts of Climate Change for New Zealand*. Wellington: Royal Society Te Apārangi.

To maximise these health co-benefits, health and equity should be considered early in the design of climate policies and actions, not only after decisions have been made. This includes identifying expected health co-benefits, considering possible unintended harms or trade-offs, involving communities most affected, and monitoring whether actions improve health, wellbeing and equity over time.[16] There are other advantages to including health co-benefits in climate planning, evidence suggests that including these can increase support for climate actions in the community and that communities value understanding how actions to address climate change can also improve their health.[17]

Climate change will not affect all people, whānau, communities or places equally. Existing inequities can increase exposure to climate risk and reduce people's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related events. An explicit equity lens is essential to effective local adaptation planning and can help demonstrate that climate action is an important way to protect and promote health and wellbeing in both the short and long term.[18] [19]

Some population groups are expected to be disproportionately affected by climate change, which is why priority populations should be specifically considered and included in local adaptation planning.[20] These priority population groups include:

- Māori
- Pacific peoples
- Children and young people
- Disabled people
- Rural communities
- People experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage.

Additionally, the following population groups may also face increased risks from extreme heat, flooding, erosion, displacement and disruption to essential services:

- Older adults
- People with existing health conditions
- Those living in coastal areas.

The inequitable impacts of climate change are likely to be experienced more often, and to a greater extent, by Māori. Māori populations are more likely to experience a higher burden of disease/chronic health conditions that are likely to be impacted by climate changes, live in vulnerable or poorer quality housing and/or in areas with vulnerable or untreated water supplies, experience food insecurity, and experience inequitable access to health and social

[16] Co-Designing Healthier Climate Policies (Accessed 26/08/2026)
[17] Edmonds, N., and Green, L. (2023) Climate Change in Wales: Health Impact Assessment, Public Health Wales NHS Trust. https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/climate-change-in-wales-health-impact-assessment
[18] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027
[19] Royal Society Te Apārangi. (2017). *Human Health Impacts of Climate Change for New Zealand*. Wellington: Royal Society Te Apārangi.
[20] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027

services.[21] For Māori, the loss of culturally significant sites and connection with whenua along with the relationship with the environment are all also important factors that are inseparable from health.[22] [23]

Undertaking climate action planning, implementation and monitoring in partnership with tangata whenua is important to ensure adaptation planning reflects Te Ao Māori, mātauranga Māori, and local iwi and hapū priorities. It is also a way for Council to further meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. Iwi and hapū are also central to increasing community resilience, including the already essential role of marae in responding to emergency events.[24]

For Pacific communities, local adaptation planning should also recognise the impacts of climate change on Pacific nations, including effects on physical, cultural and mental wellbeing. As climate impacts become more severe, some Pacific families and communities may need to move away from high-risk or disaster-affected areas and resettle elsewhere, which could have implications for how communities in Aotearoa New Zealand are supported.[25]

Disabled people are disproportionately affected by climate change and may experience unintended negative impacts from adaptation policies if their perspectives are not included. Meaningful engagement helps identify barriers, improve decision making, and draw on the lived experience and expertise of disabled people to create more inclusive and resilient communities.[26]

Climate change is likely to exacerbate existing health and social inequities, meaning those already experiencing disadvantage may face the greatest impacts. [27] [28] Prioritising the needs, knowledge and participation of populations most affected by climate change is critical to achieving equitable adaptation outcomes and preventing existing health inequities from being further exacerbated.

Food systems are a significant contributor to public health outcomes and are an important consideration in climate adaptation. Climate-related disruptions, such as severe weather or flood events, can impact food availability and safety. Actions that strengthen food and kai resilience include, planning for food availability in emergencies, protecting productive

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[21] New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (2026). Climate Change Policy Statement. Accessed via Policy Statements - NZCPHM (24/08/2026)
[22] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027
[23] New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (2026). Climate Change Policy Statement. Accessed via Policy Statements - NZCPHM (24/08/2026)
[24] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027
[25] Ministry for the Environment. (2022). *Climate change and Pacific peoples: What the national adaptation plan means for you* [Information sheet]. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment. (Accessed 31/08/2026)
[26] Cretney, R. (2026). Disability in a changing climate: Disability leadership and inclusion in climate adaptation in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Policy Quarterly, 22*(1), 79-85.
[27] New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (2026). Climate Change Policy Statement. Accessed via Policy Statements - NZCPHM (24/08/2026)
[28] Royal Society Te Apārangi. (2017). *Human Health Impacts of Climate Change for New Zealand*. Wellington: Royal Society Te Apārangi.

land/water, reducing food waste. Supporting iwi, hapū and community-led kai initiatives can help promote kai sovereignty and food security, support health equity, reduce emissions and strengthen connection to place. [29] Gardening and community gardens can also have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. [30]

Ecologically healthy and diverse environments increase resilience and provide important public health benefits by supporting clean water, food and kai systems, natural hazard management, cooling, recreation, cultural wellbeing and connection to place. [31] [32] [33] Protecting ecological health also reflects Te Ao Māori through recognising the relationship between tangata whenua, whenua, wai, taonga species and mahinga kai, and by supporting intergenerational wellbeing. [34]

Ecologically healthy environments, including freshwater, soil health, air and indigenous biodiversity, contribute to public health, climate resilience and cultural wellbeing outcomes. Protecting and restoring waterways, wetlands, drinking-water sources, soils, native habitats, wild and urban green spaces can help reduce risks from contamination, flooding, drought, heat and poor air quality. Ecologically heathy environments provide opportunities for recreation, increase connection to place, protect food systems and promote resilient ecosystems.[35] [36]

Biophilic public health recognises the innate human affinity for nature. This perspective emphasises the connection between the condition of the natural world and the physical and mental wellbeing of humans, highlighting our need to experience a thriving and healthy natural world in our daily lives.[37] There is a well-established positive connection between accessible natural environments, opportunities for physical activity/play, relaxation, social connection, and improved health and wellbeing.[38] [39] Furthermore, there is increasing evidence of the inherent health benefits derived from connecting regularly with nature, and having opportunities to interact with healthy ecosystems, natural environments, and native species. While this is an area of emerging research, likely health benefits of time in nature

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[29] Public Health Advisory Committee. 2024. Rebalancing our food system. Wellington: Ministry of Health.
[30] Hond, R., Ratima, M., & Edwards, W. (2019). The role of Māori community gardens in health promotion: A land-based community development response by Tangata Whenua, people of their land. *Global health promotion*, *26*(3_suppl), 44-53.
[31] Ministry for the Environment. (2025). *Our environment 2025: Impacts on people, society and the economy*. https://environment.govt.nz/publications/our-environment-2025/impacts-on-people-society-and-the-economy/ (24/08/2026)
[32] Public Health Agency. 2022. Principles for Healthy Urban Development. Wellington: Ministry of Health. Principles for healthy urban development | Ministry of Health NZ (Accessed 24/08/2026)
[33] Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ (2026). New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: Our Freshwater 2026. Retrieved from environment.govt.nz. (Accessed 24/08/2026)
[34] Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ (2021). New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: Our land 2021. Available from environment.govt.nz and www.stats.govt.nz.
[35] Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ. (2022). *Environment Aotearoa 2022*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.
[36] Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ. (2023). *Our freshwater 2023*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.
[37] Citation: de Wet, N. (2018). *Biophilic Public Health: Re-imagining Public Health for the 21st Century.* Biophilic Public Health paper | Biophilic Public Health
[38] Regional Public Health. (2010). *Healthy open spaces: A summary of the impact of open spaces on health and wellbeing*. Health New Zealand. https://healthnz.figshare.com/articles/report/Healthy_open_spaces_A_summary_of_the_impact_of_open_spaces_on_health_and_wellbeing/31956183 (Accessed 24/08/2026)
[39] Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa. (2025). The Value of Blue and Green Spaces. The value of blue and green spaces | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa (Accessed 24/08/2026)

and access to healthy natural environments range from mental health and wellbeing benefits to reduced cardiovascular disease risk, and possibly longer life expectancy.[40]

Extreme heat can cause illness and death, even modest increases above usual seasonal temperatures can affect health, particularly for babies, older people, people with long-term health conditions and those living in homes that are difficult to keep cool. Community facilities such as libraries, halls, marae, pools and other accessible public places can form part of local heat-health planning by providing safe, welcoming and cool places for people to go during hot weather, especially where households have limited access to cooling.[41] [42] [43]

Urban spaces also influence health and wellbeing outcomes. Actions that reduce urban heat islands and urban heat exposure, support safe and active transport, improving accessibility, strengthening social connection and increase equitable access to shade, green space and community facilities can all contribute to increased health and wellbeing outcomes.[44] A biophilic cities approach can help embed nature into everyday urban planning and design, supporting cooler, greener and more connected places that promote physical activity, social connection, mental wellbeing and climate resilience.[45] Water-sensitive urban design approaches, such as wetlands, rain gardens, permeable surfaces, river daylighting, riparian planting and improved stormwater management, can also reduce flooding and contamination risks while supporting biodiversity, cooling, amenity and ecological health.[46] [47] These are particularly important in areas where climate risks overlap with existing inequities.

[40] Van den Bosch, M., & Bird, W. (Eds.). (2018). *Oxford textbook of nature and public health: The role of nature in improving the health of a population*. Oxford University Press.
[41] Health effects from heat
[42] Health National Adaptation Plan 2024–2027
[43] Health effects from heat
[44] Public Health Agency. 2022. Principles for Healthy Urban Development. Wellington: Ministry of Health. Principles for healthy urban development | Ministry of Health NZ (Accessed 24/08/2026)
[45] Beatley, T., & Newman, P. (2013). Biophilic cities are sustainable, resilient cities. *Sustainability, 5*(8), 3328–3345.
[46] Mercier, K. (2023). Sponge cities: can they help us survive more intense rainfall?.
[47] New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (2026). Climate Change Policy Statement. Accessed via Policy Statements - NZCPHM (24/08/2026)

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 62

Name: **Donna Eriwata**

Organistion: **Otaraua Hapū Management Committee Incorporated, on behalf of Otaraua Hapū**

Wish to speak to the Council: Yes

Refer to submission on following pages.

FORMAL SUBMISSION

Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026-2032

To: New Plymouth District Council
Submitted by: Otaraua Hapū Management Committee Incorporated, on behalf of Otaraua Hapū
Date: 18 August 2026
Contact: Donna Eriwata, authorised representative
Email / phone: [Insert contact details]

> **Overall position:** Support in principle, subject to the amendments sought in this submission.

1. Introduction

Otaraua Hapū Management Committee Incorporated (OHMC) makes this submission on behalf of Otaraua Hapū on New Plymouth District Council's proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026-2032 (the Plan).

Otaraua Hapū is Mana Whenua within Waitara and maintains enduring whakapapa, cultural, spiritual and kaitiaki relationships with the Waitara Awa, its tributaries, wetlands, coast, whenua, Taonga and communities. These relationships are not limited to individual sites or assets. They extend across the interconnected cultural and natural systems of our rohe.

Otaraua supports a coordinated and urgent response to climate change. We acknowledge the constructive direction of the Plan, particularly the identification of Waitara as a high-priority community and the proposal to begin a local adaptation plan for Waitara before the Regional Spatial Plan process is complete.

However, Otaraua cannot support the Plan unchanged. The Plan refers to Mana Whenua partnership and Kaitiakitanga, but does not establish a clear role for Otaraua in the governance, co-design, implementation, resourcing or monitoring of the Waitara response. Those matters must be addressed before the Waitara Local Adaptation Plan is scoped or commissioned.

2. Decision sought

> **Otaraua Hapū supports the proposed Plan in principle, conditional upon the Plan being amended to provide for genuine Mana Whenua partnership, shared decision-making, appropriate resourcing, protection of Mātauranga Māori, and measurable cultural, environmental and community outcomes.**

Otaraua seeks confirmation that no scope, procurement process, technical methodology, governance structure or preferred adaptation pathway for Waitara will be approved without the early and properly resourced participation of Otaraua Hapū.

3. Waitara's climate-risk profile

The Plan identifies Waitara as the most climate-exposed community assessed in the district. Waitara has 23 identified risks, including 7 extreme risks and 14 high risks. This is a materially greater risk profile than most other communities assessed.

The risks identified for Waitara include sea-level rise, coastal flooding, stormwater and urban flooding, heatwaves, risks to housing, roads, community buildings, heritage and cultural wellbeing, and increasing pressure on insurance affordability and availability.

Otaraua supports NPDC's decision to classify initiation of a Waitara Local Adaptation Plan as a High Priority action. This priority must be matched by timely funding, an agreed partnership structure and a transparent delivery programme.

4. Matters Otaraua supports

- The early initiation of a Waitara Local Adaptation Plan.
- Recognition that adaptation planning requires partnership with Mana Whenua.
- Support for community-led climate action and place-based resilience.
- Solar and battery support for Community Welfare Hubs and other critical community facilities.
- Nature-based solutions, indigenous planting, wetland restoration and ecological corridors.
- Recognition of Iwi- and Hapū-led delivery and projects grounded in Mātauranga Māori.
- Measures addressing energy affordability, household resilience, water security and insurance risk.

These directions align with Otaraua's existing environmental and resilience mahi, including Mauri Wai and Mauri Whenua activity, water-quality monitoring, wetland and lake restoration, biodiversity planning, coastal and Awa-related work, and Hapū-led community energy initiatives.

5. Matters requiring amendment

5.1 Partnership is not sufficiently defined

The Plan uses the terms 'partnering', 'engagement', 'listening', 'support' and 'empowering', but does not define what partnership means in practice. It does not identify the Mana Whenua partners for Waitara, establish shared governance, specify which decisions require Hapū agreement, provide for resourcing, protect cultural information, or set a process for resolving disagreement.

For Otaraua, Kaitiakitanga is not an activity that NPDC grants or enables. It is an existing intergenerational responsibility and expression of Mana Whenua authority. The Plan should recognise and provide for that authority.

5.2 No explicit Te Tiriti framework

The Plan should contain an explicit Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework. Partnership, active protection, equity and Tino Rangatiratanga should inform the Plan's governance, investment, implementation and monitoring, rather than appearing only as general engagement language.

5.3 Otaraua must be involved before the Waitara work is scoped

NPDC intends to begin the Waitara adaptation process early. Otaraua supports that urgency, but early commencement also creates a risk that NPDC may determine the scope, evidence base, technical advisers, engagement model and possible pathways before an appropriate relationship with Otaraua has been agreed.

Otaraua therefore seeks involvement before the terms of reference, procurement, technical methodology, governance arrangements or engagement programme are approved.

5.4 The Waitara assessment is too narrow

The Waitara section recognises risks to buildings, roads, heritage and community wellbeing, but does not adequately address the effects of climate change on:

- the Mauri of the Waitara Awa, its tributaries and connected water systems;
- Wai quality, wetlands, lakes, coastal ecosystems and Mahinga Kai;
- Wāhi Tapu, Taonga and other culturally significant places and landscapes;
- Hapū-owned and Māori-owned whenua, including the particular constraints affecting multiply owned land;
- Marae access, emergency capability, water security and energy resilience;
- the displacement of Whānau from ancestral whenua and the loss of community cohesion; and
- Otaraua's ability to exercise Kaitiakitanga across its rohe.

The Plan specifically identifies risk to Ōwae Marae but does not identify Otaraua Marae, Otaraua Hapū, or Otaraua's Taonga and places of significance. This omission should be addressed through direct engagement with Otaraua and Hapū-led cultural risk assessment.

5.5 Existing Hapū capability is not recognised

Otaraua is not simply a community stakeholder or prospective grant applicant. The Hapū already has environmental capability, active work programmes, local knowledge and relationships relevant to adaptation, biodiversity, water quality, restoration and community energy. The Plan should recognise Hapū as a strategic and delivery partner whose existing work can inform and advance the Waitara response.

5.6 Mana Whenua participation must be resourced

There is no clear dedicated provision for Hapū governance time, technical advice, Mātauranga Māori, cultural impact assessment, Hui and Wānanga, Rangatahi participation, Hapū-led monitoring or implementation of agreed cultural outcomes. Genuine partnership cannot depend on unpaid Hapū labour or small contestable grants.

5.7 Accountability measures are incomplete

The proposed performance measures focus on Council emissions, the number of adaptation plans completed and Council's climate-loan status. None measures the quality of Mana Whenua partnership, whether Hapū priorities are implemented, the protection of Taonga, cultural and Wai outcomes, Māori community resilience, or the equity of investment in communities such as Waitara.

Completion of an adaptation plan is an output. It does not demonstrate that the plan was equitable, culturally sound, supported by Mana Whenua or effective in protecting the community.

5.8 Practical resilience measures require greater priority

The Plan assigns Low Priority to rainwater harvesting and community energy resilience or microgrids. For Marae, welfare hubs and vulnerable or isolated communities, access to backup water and power is a practical resilience requirement. These actions should be elevated where local risk assessments demonstrate immediate need.

6. Amendments sought

Otaraua seeks the following amendments and commitments:

1. Identify Otaraua Hapū as a Mana Whenua partner in the Waitara Local Adaptation Plan and in climate initiatives affecting Otaraua's rohe, Taonga and communities.
2. Establish an agreed Mana Whenua-NPDC governance arrangement before the Waitara Local Adaptation Plan is scoped, commissioned or materially progressed.
3. Require co-design, rather than consultation alone, for the Waitara Local Adaptation Plan, including its terms of reference, evidence base, engagement process, adaptation options, implementation programme and monitoring framework.
4. Include an explicit Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework founded on partnership, active protection, equity and recognition of Tino Rangatiratanga.
5. Provide dedicated and appropriate resourcing for Hapū participation, including governance, technical, cultural, engagement, Mātauranga Māori and monitoring costs.
6. Ensure the Waitara risk assessment covers the Waitara Awa and tributaries, Wai quality, wetlands, lakes, coast, Mahinga Kai, Wāhi Tapu, Marae, Taonga, Hapū-owned and Māori-owned whenua, and culturally significant landscapes.
7. Recognise Mātauranga Māori alongside scientific, technical and engineering evidence, with neither treated as an afterthought to the other.
8. Agree protocols that protect Hapū ownership, authority and control over Mātauranga Māori, cultural information and sensitive site information.
9. Develop cultural, environmental, Wai and community resilience indicators with Mana Whenua and include them in annual public reporting.
10. Report annually to affected Hapū on progress, expenditure, outcomes, departures from the Plan and matters requiring joint decision-making.
11. Elevate solar, battery storage, emergency power, rainwater harvesting and water-storage measures for Marae, Community Welfare Hubs and high-risk communities where justified by local need.
12. Provide a transparent pathway for Hapū-led initiatives to receive adequate multi-year investment, rather than relying only on small, short-term contestable grants.
13. Ensure adaptation decisions do not unfairly transfer cost, loss, displacement, reduced insurability or other burdens onto affected Whānau, Hapū, Māori landowners or lower-income communities.
14. Recognise and integrate existing Hapū-led environmental, monitoring, restoration and energy projects into the implementation programme where agreed by the relevant Hapū.
15. Require the Nature-Based Solutions Framework to be co-developed with Mana Whenua where it affects Taonga, culturally significant environments or the exercise of Kaitiakitanga.

7. Specific drafting and technical matters

- Correct the apparent typographical error on page 60, where the 2031/32 Scope 1 and 2 emissions target is shown as '47.6.4%'.
- Clarify the duplicated or unclear wording under the 'Engaged' management principle so that it describes how NPDC will engage and partner, rather than repeating the community-support outcome.
- Replace general references to 'listening' or 'engagement' with clear commitments, responsibilities, timeframes and measures wherever partnership with Mana Whenua is intended.

8. Participation in the Waitara Local Adaptation Plan

Otaraua requests an early Hui with NPDC, before the Waitara Local Adaptation Plan is scoped or commissioned, to agree:

- the relevant Mana Whenua parties and representation;
- governance and decision-making arrangements;
- resourcing and procurement;
- information governance and protection of Mātauranga Māori;
- the geographic and cultural scope of the work;
- community and Rangatahi engagement; and
- reporting, monitoring and review arrangements.

Otaraua also requests that NPDC provide the Hapū with the Preliminary Community Climate Change Risk Assessment and the underlying Waitara data, assumptions, mapping and identified limitations, subject to appropriate information protections.

9. Conclusion

The Plan provides an important opportunity. NPDC has acknowledged that Waitara is the district's most climate-vulnerable community and that work should begin early. Otaraua supports that urgency and is willing to contribute its knowledge, capability and leadership to a durable response.

That response must not be developed about our rohe, our Awa, our Taonga and our Whānau without Otaraua helping to govern and design it from the beginning. Recognition of Mana Whenua must be translated into authority, resourcing, protection of knowledge and accountability for outcomes.

> **For these reasons, Otaraua Hapū supports the Plan in principle, subject to the amendments and commitments sought in this submission.**

10. Request to be heard

Otaraua Hapū wishes to speak to this submission and participate in any hearing, Hui or deliberative process concerning the Plan and the development of the Waitara Local Adaptation Plan.

Ngā mihi,

For and on behalf of Otaraua Hapū
Name: Donna Eriwata
Position: Authorised representative

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 63

Name: **Sera Gibson**

Organistion: **Ngā Kaitiaki - Iwi and Hapū Reference Group for the New Plymouth District**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

Refer to submission on following pages.

Submission of Ngā Kaitiaki on NPDCs Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

To: New Plymouth District Council
From: Ngā Kaitiaki – Iwi and Hapū Reference Group for the New Plymouth District
On: Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

1. Introduction

Ngā Kaitiaki welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on New Plymouth District Council's (NPDCs) Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan 2026–2032.

2. Ngā Kaitiaki

Ngā Kaitiaki is the reference group comprised of iwi and hapū with mana whenua interests across the New Plymouth District. Established in 2016, Ngā Kaitiaki supports New Plymouth District Council ('**NPDC**') in the development of the New Plymouth District Plan providing expert cultural and environmental planning advice on a broad range of resource management, land use, subdivision, cultural landscape, heritage, economic, land remediation, freshwater, coastal, and environmental governance matters.

Ngā Kaitiaki comprises of the following iwi and hapū entities:

- Ngāti Tama.
- Ngāti Mutunga.
- Ngāti Maru.
- Ngāti Rahiri.
- Otaraua.
- Manukorihi.
- Pukerangiora.
- Puketapu.
- Ngāti Tawhirikura.
- Ngāti Te Whiti.
- Te Atiawa.
- Ngā Mahanga.
- Ngāti Tāiri.
- Taranaki Iwi.

Prior to Ngā Kaitiaki, iwi and hapū have worked with NPDC in the Wāhi Tapu and Archaeological Sites Reference Group since 2007.

Ngā Kaitiaki has practical experience of how statutory planning frameworks operate, including where they enable meaningful partnership and where they constrain Māori authority and tikanga-based decision-making.

Collectively, Ngā Kaitiaki has extensive resource management experience, including policy development, cultural advice across more than 500 consenting and approval processes each

year, hearings, monitoring and enforcement, and project delivery. This experience spans the pre- and post-Te Tiriti settlement periods.

Ngā Kaitiaki is well placed to assess how the proposed Plan may affect tangata whenua and mana whenua rights and interests.

This submission reflects that experience and the historical, legal and constitutional context of Taranaki.

3. Overall Position

Ngā Kaitiaki generally supports the intent and direction of the Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan. Many actions align with iwi and hapū environmental planning documents, including emissions reduction, renewable and efficient energy, natural hazard avoidance, community resilience, indigenous ecosystem restoration and ecological connectivity, and climate adaptation.

The Plan should be strengthened by embedding iwi and hapū partnership in implementation, recognising mātauranga Māori and cultural values, supporting existing iwi and hapū-led initiatives, and involving mana whenua in monitoring and review. Equity and community resilience should also be given greater weight, particularly for vulnerable communities, marae and papakāinga.

Subject to the recommendations outlined in this submission, Ngā Kaitiaki supports the Plan progressing to adoption.

4. Climate Risk, Resilience and Adaptation

Ngā Kaitiaki identifies sea-level rise, flooding, erosion and increasingly severe weather as direct risks to ancestral lands and waters, taonga species, Sites of Significance to Māori (SASM), and iwi and hapū wellbeing.

Within this context, Ngā Kaitiaki supports the focus on climate risk, resilience and adaptation, particularly preventing development in areas of significant climate risk, initiating a local adaptation plan for at-risk communities including Waitara, and continuing the Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan.

Ngā Kaitiaki also supports identifying future adaptation priorities through regional spatial planning and a clear delivery roadmap. Approaches should prioritise avoiding development in hazard-prone areas and, where appropriate, restoring natural systems such as wetlands, dunes and forests that reduce risk.

This work should be undertaken in genuine partnership with relevant mana whenua, from risk identification and assessment through to options, decisions, implementation and monitoring. Climate-risk assessments should recognise effects on cultural heritage, marae, SASM, mahinga

kai, freshwater and coastal environments, and taonga species, integrating mātauranga Māori and cultural monitoring with technical and scientific information.

5. Energy and Emissions

Ngā Kaitiaki supports reducing NPDC's operational emissions and energy costs through renewable electricity, solar generation, electrification, energy efficiency and fleet optimisation.

This aligns with iwi and hapū environmental plans that support emissions reduction, renewable and clean energy, energy efficiency, resilient infrastructure, household energy accessibility, and lower-emissions transport.

Renewable or low-emissions energy is not culturally neutral and can still affect indigenous biodiversity, landscapes, waterways, SASM and cultural values. Early engagement with mana whenua and appropriate cultural and environmental assessment should therefore be required where energy projects or infrastructure may affect these values.

The transition must also be equitable. NPDC's energy-hardship, household-efficiency and community-energy actions are supported, but should be accessible to marae, papakāinga, Māori households and communities.

6. Household and Community Energy and Resilience Support

Ngā Kaitiaki supports household and community resilience measures, including ratepayer assistance, sustainable home advice, solar and battery support, the Community Climate Action Fund, Community Welfare Hub solar, rainwater harvesting and community energy resilience. These measures align with iwi and hapū priorities for energy efficiency, resilient communities and sustainable technologies.

The Plan should expressly identify marae and papakāinga as priority partners and potential resilience hubs, with support for energy assessments, solar and battery systems, water resilience, sustainable design and independent technical advice.

Community-led climate projects should be developed with the people at place - iwi and hapū, communities, industry and local organisations - with mana whenua priorities and mātauranga Māori explicit in funding and assessment decisions.

7. Cross-cutting Issues

Iwi and hapū partnership should be a cross-cutting requirement across the Plan, with early and ongoing involvement in implementation, monitoring and review, and opportunities for co-design and shared decision-making where appropriate. Implementation should build from iwi and hapū environmental plans, mātauranga Māori, priorities and initiatives, with appropriate resourcing for participation.

The Plan should strengthen and build from existing iwi and hapū-led initiatives rather than create programmes in isolation. In particular, NPDC should explore opportunities to expand the approach established through the Waiwhakaiho Wildlink into a broader bioregional approach to restore and support connected biodiversity corridors across multiple awa. This would support the vision being set in He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki (formerly the National Park Management Plan) by strengthening ecological resilience, connectivity and iwi and hapū-led restoration across the landscape.

This could include supporting and connecting initiatives such as the Waitara catchment restoration, Waitaha restoration plan, Te Pai o Te Rangi/Coastal Walkway planting, Ōākura/Kaitake coastal restoration, Waioratoki restoration within the Paritūtū/Centennial Park Management Plan, and remnant indigenous bush enhancement in Parininihi and Eastern Taranaki. These initiatives can advance iwi and hapū aspirations while contributing to climate resilience, biodiversity, ecological connectivity and community wellbeing.

8. Priority Areas and Where to Focus

Ngā Kaitiaki generally supports the proposed priorities, particularly local adaptation planning through regional spatial planning with iwi and hapū, preventing development in risky areas, Planting Our Place, he Waiwhakaiho Wildlink, alongside opportunities to develop a connected programme of iwi and hapū-led restoration initiatives, including but not limited to those identified above. These align with iwi and hapū planning directions for natural hazard avoidance, indigenous ecosystem restoration, ecological connectivity and protection of cultural relationships with whenua and wai.

Actions with direct equity and resilience benefits should not be given low priority where vulnerable communities, marae, papakāinga or places facing identified climate risk are affected. This includes energy hardship, community energy resilience, rainwater harvesting and access to climate-risk information. Priorities should respond to local vulnerability, mana whenua priorities and community need.

9. Summary of Recommendations

Ngā Kaitiaki generally supports the Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan and recommends that NPDC:

- Embed iwi and hapū partnership across implementation, monitoring and review, including co-design and shared decision-making where appropriate.
- Give effect to iwi and hapū environmental planning documents, mātauranga Māori, cultural values, priorities and existing initiatives.
- Progress local adaptation planning with mana whenua and ensure climate-risk assessments recognise cultural values, marae, SASM, mahinga kai, taonga species, freshwater and coastal environments.

- Prioritise natural hazard avoidance and nature-based solutions, including avoiding development in high-risk areas and restoring natural systems that strengthen resilience.
- Continue and expand indigenous biodiversity restoration, including Planting Our Place, the Waiwhakaiho Wildlink alongside opportunities to develop a connected programme of iwi and hapū-led restoration initiatives, including but not limited to those identified above.
- Advance renewable, efficient and lower-emissions energy while appropriately assessing effects on mana whenua values, biodiversity, landscapes, freshwater, coastal environments and SASM.
- Strengthen resilience for marae, papakāinga, whānau and communities through energy efficiency, renewable energy, backup power, water resilience and emergency preparedness.
- Reconsider low-priority settings for actions with significant equity and resilience benefits, including energy hardship, community energy resilience, rainwater harvesting and climate-risk information.
- Establish clear monitoring and accountability measures, with ongoing iwi and hapū involvement in monitoring, review and reporting.

10. Conclusion

Ngā Kaitiaki supports the overall direction of the Proposed Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan, which broadly aligns with iwi and hapū environmental planning directions on emissions reduction, renewable and efficient energy, natural hazard avoidance, community resilience, ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation.

Successful implementation requires iwi and hapū to be recognised as partners, not solely stakeholders. This means early and ongoing involvement, recognition of kaitiakitanga and mātauranga Māori, opportunities for co-design and shared decision-making, and support for existing iwi and hapū-led initiatives.

Ngā Kaitiaki supports the Plan progressing to adoption, subject to these recommendations being reflected in implementation, monitoring and review.

Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan

Submission No: 64

Name: **Emily Bailey**

Wish to speak to the Council: No

Refer to submission on following pages.

From: Emily Bailey
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2026 2:29 pm
Subject: Re: RECAP plan early review?

Apologies korua, I missed the deadline to do a personal submission. If you can use what I emailed below as a submission, please do.

Apologies only got to pg 44. In general looks pretty good. Some suggestions for change/consideration:

Npdc climate plan review

Pg11
what matters most should be what has most impact
Explain scopes 1-3

why community education low priority?

Don't see any support for renters

Pg34 diagram disturbing focus on cost and supply rather than emission reductions
Pg35 says several emissions have decreased but no data to support or quantify this

Pg39 wastewater plant gas and hydrogen not sustainable. Need a safe, real alternative now not influence from gas and hydrogen companies

Encourage public and active transport use as well as car fleet adjustments.