

# TE HŌTAKA URUTAU HAPORI

## COMMUNITY ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

AUGUST 2025





**Piki tū rangi ana te kakau o te hoe,  
kumea te uru o taku waka ki runga  
ki te kiri waiwai o Papatūānuku e  
takoto mai nei, ki runga ki te uru  
tapu nui o Tāne e tū mai nei**

These lines are from a karakia recited by Nukutawhiti upon the arrival of the waka hourua Ngātokimatawhaorua into the Hokianga Harbour. Revised by Himiona Kāmira (Te Taomauī, Te Hokoheha).

**Piki tū rangi** calls us to move and work together. It reminds us that resilience is collective and that our strength lies in kotahitanga, with each other and with te taiao.

This document sets out Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika – Far North District Council’s work to support our people and places to adapt to a changing climate.



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# PURPOSE

To support Te Hiku o Te Ika –  
The Far North District to prepare  
for and respond to the impacts of  
climate change.

# VISION

The people and the environment  
of Te Hiku o Te Ika – The Far North  
District prosper, thrive and are  
resilient in a changing climate.



# Why a Community Adaptation Programme?

**Outcomes: What we seek to achieve in the long term.**

Risk of harm and damage from natural hazards is reduced.

Investment in resilient and adaptive planning.

Delivery of appropriate infrastructure and lifelines services is supported.

High-trust relationships with tangata whenua that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and mana motuhake.

Equitable adaptation responses that meet the needs of future generations.

Values that matter most to communities are enhanced.

Local economies are strengthened.

Greater sustainability and wellbeing.

## Why do we need to adapt?

The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is causing our climate to change, disrupting the normal functioning of weather patterns and our environment.

**We are seeing increasing storms, floods and sea levels now.** These changes will continue in our lifetime and in our children's and grandchildren's lifetimes.

We are uncertain about how intense these changes will be and when exactly they will occur. This uncertainty mostly depends on the intensity and timeline for the changes in global greenhouse gas emissions.

There could be significant generational impacts if we are not prepared or able to adapt, or if we make poor decisions now that affect our ability to respond in the future.

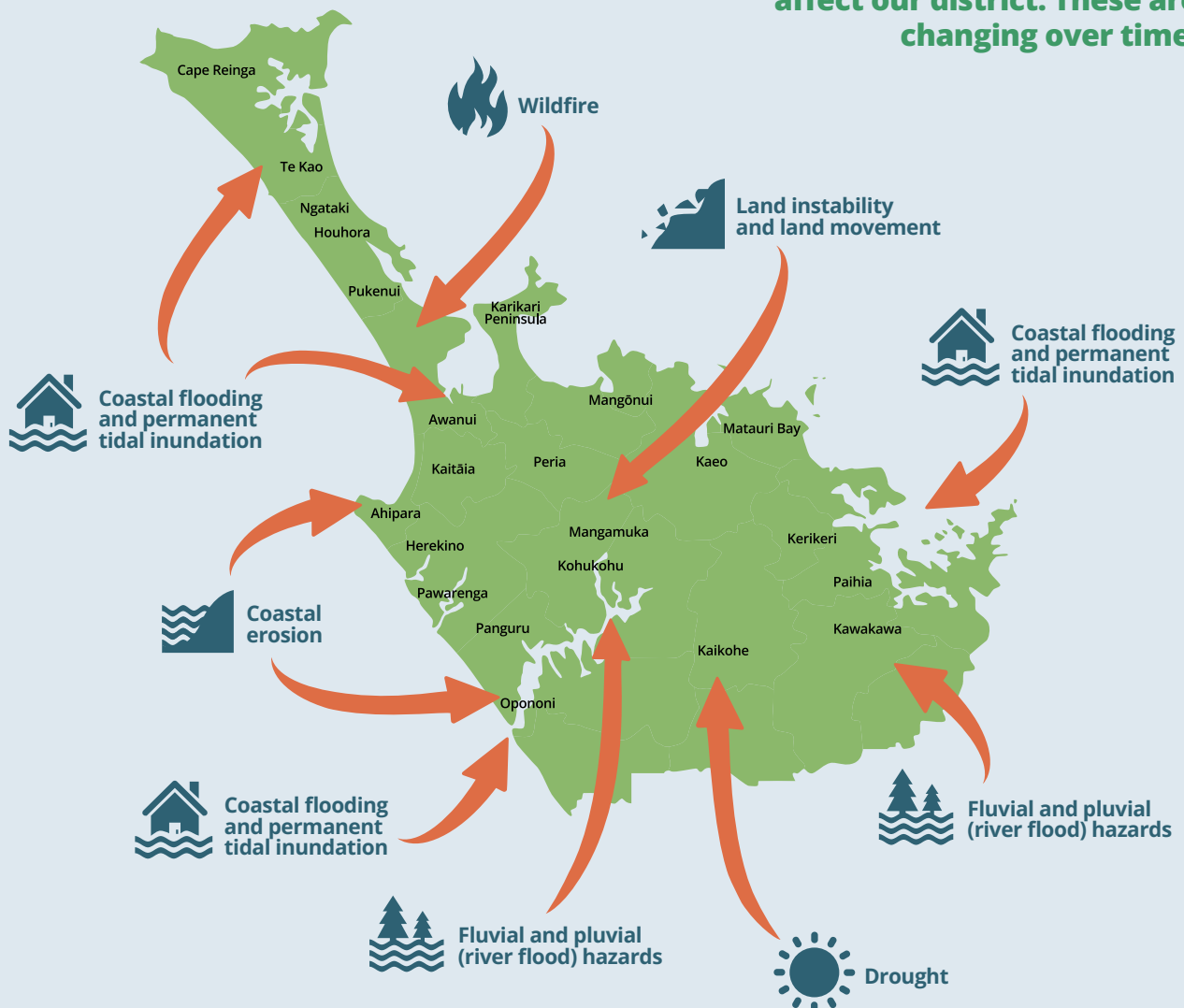
**However, even with uncertainty, we can still plan for the future.**

We don't know exactly when, how, or how severely different hazards will impact us. This makes planning difficult. However, doing nothing is not an option—the risks and costs are too high.

# What changes do we face?

## Hazard examples:

A range of natural hazards affect our district. These are changing over time.



Over the next century, sea levels may rise 1.2 metres and rainfall events may be more intense. Across our district, around...

**27**

marae could be exposed to a 1-in-100 year flood event

**1200**

buildings on Māori land could face flooding or coastal hazards

**110km**

of roads and highways could be underwater at high tide

**780**

homes could be at risk from coastal erosion

\* Based on exposure counts using Northland Regional Council hazard data.

# What is the adaptation opportunity?

**Adaptation planning involves anticipating future impacts and making plans that are responsive to change. This means we are able to change our approach if and when needed.**

An adaptation plan is like having a map for a road trip that can change depending on how the weather plays out. The map sets different route options to choose between and trigger points to move from one route to the next.

Communities can continue to grow resilience and thrive if we are able to change at the right time and in the right way – i.e, not too early or too late, meeting community objectives and being sustainable in the long run.

We know these are going to be big conversations to have and will likely involve robust discussions

about what are the most appropriate options, what's feasible and what communities can afford.

Local communities and tangata whenua are at the heart of responding to climate change. They face the risks, bear the costs, and resource local solutions. Communities and tangata whenua need to be intimately involved in any decisions about adaptation. At the same time, Council has a role to play in supporting adaptation planning and delivering core services.

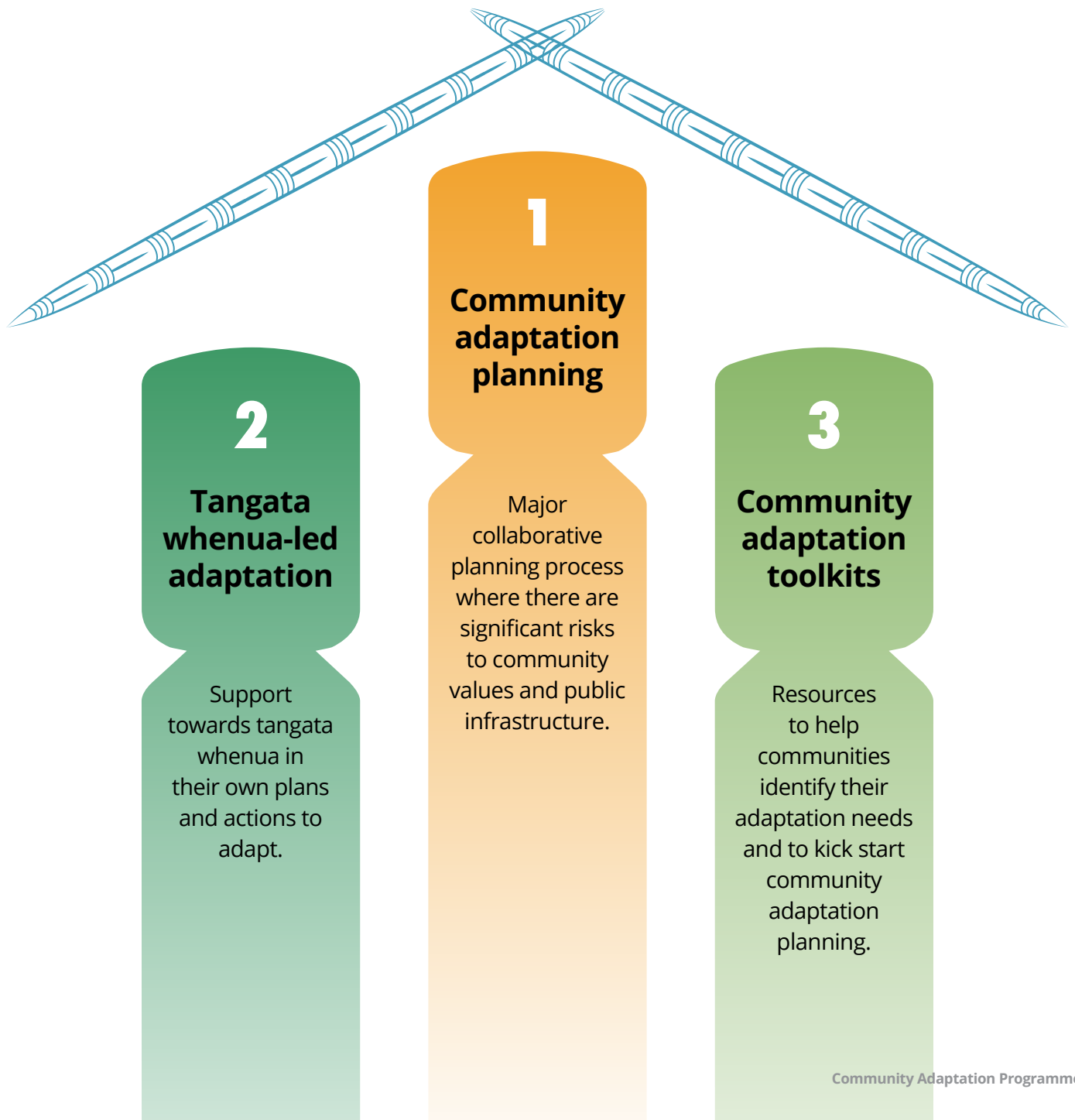


# What is the Community Adaptation Programme?

'Piki tū rangi' comes from a karakia used by Nukutawhiti upon arriving on Ngātokimatawhaorua waka into the Hokianga Harbour. The name reminds us of the collective nature of adaptation.

## PIKI TŪ RANGI OUR THREE POU

These pou hold up Far North District Council's adaptation work. They are the core pillars to achieve our adaptation outcomes.





# Pou 1.

## Community adaptation planning

1

### Community adaptation planning

Major collaborative planning process where there are significant risks to community values and public infrastructure.

#### What is community adaptation planning?

Council will facilitate local community adaptation plans for increasing natural hazards. The plans will come from recommendations from the community, tangata whenua partners and stakeholders. Council will ultimately decide on these plans.

#### What are the objectives of this pou?

Facilitate the development of Community Adaptation Plans across the Far North that:



**Deliver on community supported objectives around local wellbeing and resilience.**



**Enable provision of resilient infrastructure services.**



**Support planning that avoids intolerable impacts and maladaptive futures.**



**Coordinate adaptation responses of Council and other regional and national agencies.**

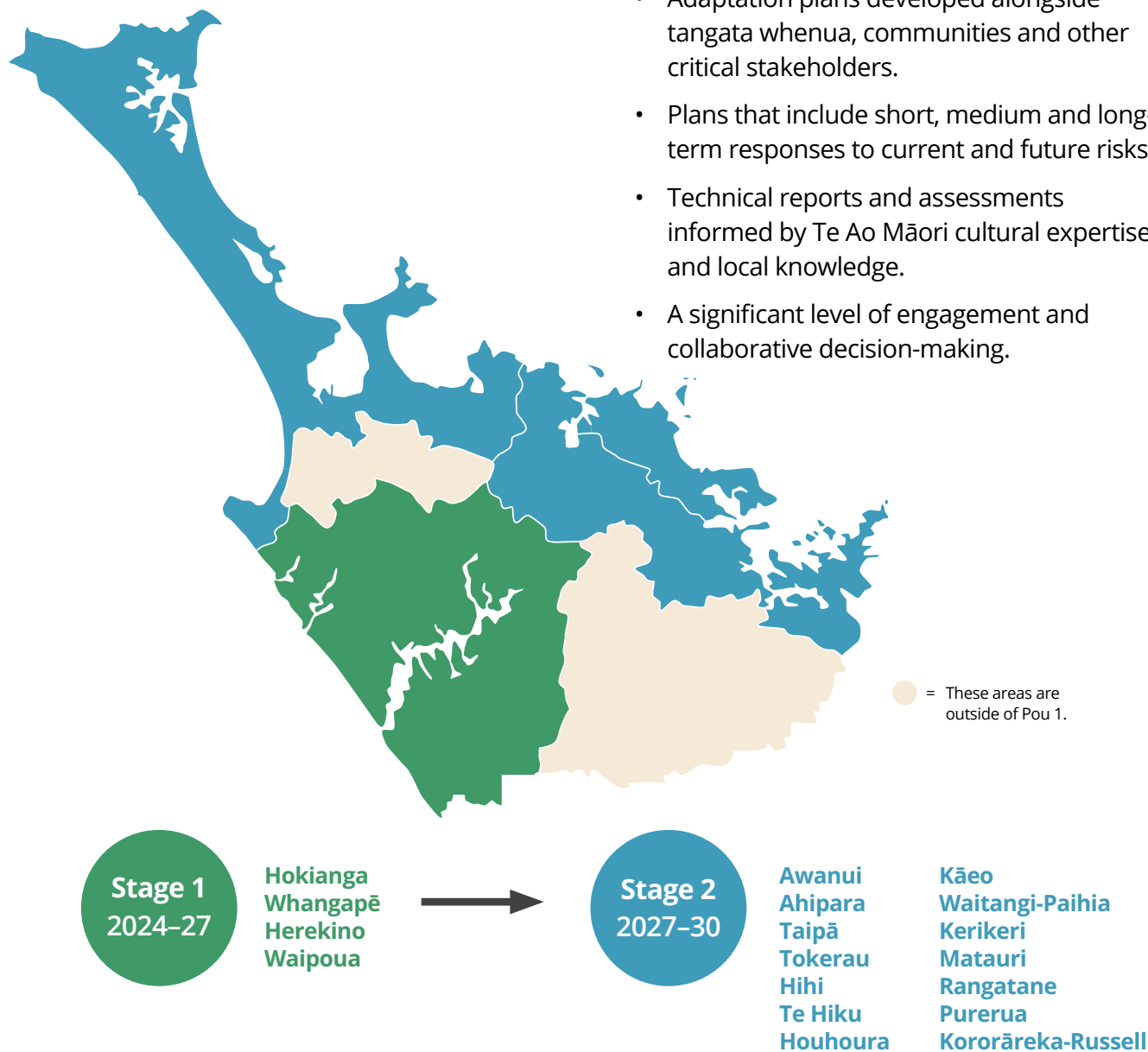


**Elevate tangata whenua partnerships.**

# What can communities expect?

## What will this deliver?

- Adaptation plans developed alongside tangata whenua, communities and other critical stakeholders.
- Plans that include short, medium and long-term responses to current and future risks.
- Technical reports and assessments informed by Te Ao Māori cultural expertise and local knowledge.
- A significant level of engagement and collaborative decision-making.



## What's the reason for these areas and timeframes?

In 2022, Council voted on criteria that should be used to identify communities where adaptation planning should start.

The top four criteria were

- Exposure to coastal hazards (risk to elements in all domains)
- Honouring Tiriti (risk to Māori cultural assets)
- Critical community lifelines (risk to transport and lifelines domains)
- What's at stake (social vulnerability)

These criteria were used alongside a quantitative risk assessment results to set the stage areas and timeframes.

The stage areas and timeframes respond to the urgency of this work, balanced with what Council can achieve with current resources. Additional resources are available for tangata whenua and for communities who want to start adaptation planning outside these areas or timeframes (see Pou 2 and 3).

## What's included?

Community adaptation plans will consider a range of climate-affected natural hazards, elements and adaptation responses. Council, communities and tangata whenua will agree on scope at the beginning of each adaptation planning process. The scope will depend on the needs of each place and on available resources, data and knowledge.

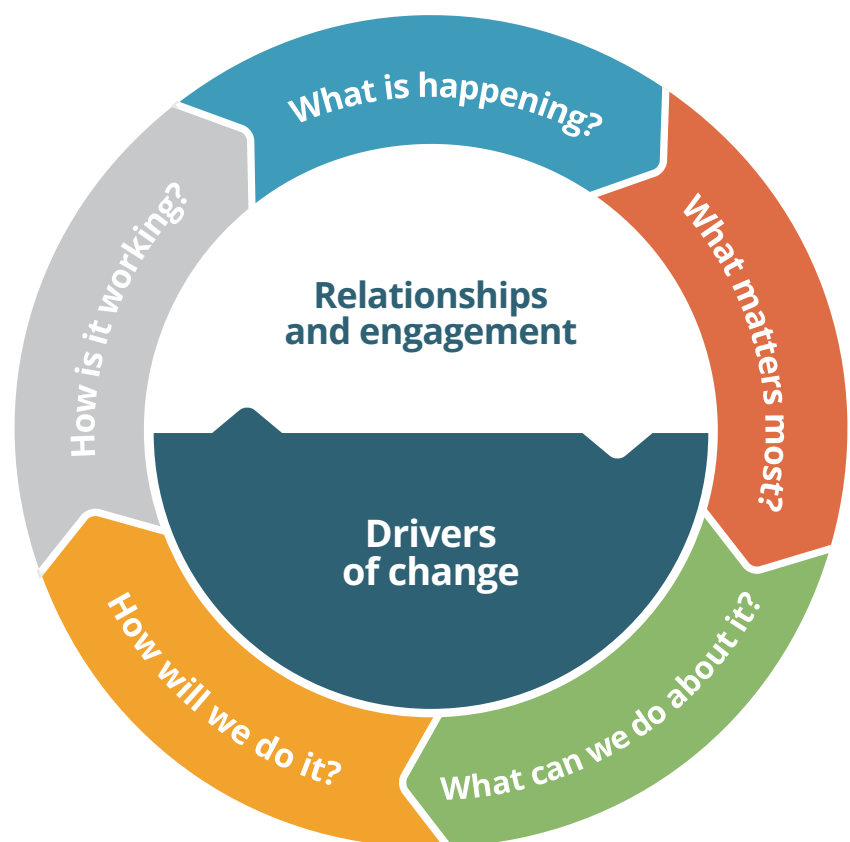
At a minimum, Council will look at public assets and infrastructure at risk to coastal hazards.

## What's not included?

Each Community Adaptation Plan will need to clarify the main focus of effort for the adaptation plan, based on local needs. In many cases, adaptation responses will intersect with other mahi such as water quality or civil defence – while these may not be the primary focus of the adaptation plans, they could be important considerations during decision-making.

# How will it work?

**We will follow a structured process that aligns where possible with the nationally accepted adaptation cycle\*, based around the first four of five key questions:**



\* Adapted from Ministry for the Environment *Coastal hazards and climate change guidance* (2024).



# What could the process look like?

## 1. What is happening?

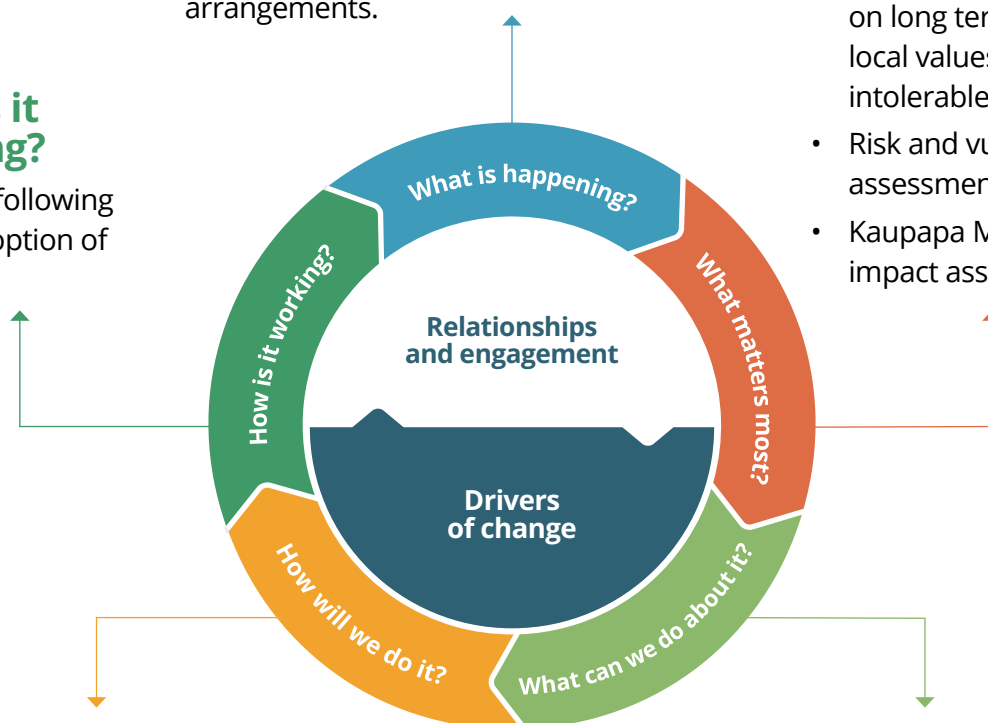
- Early engagement and relationship building.
- Gathering information on hazards, climate impacts and the local context.
- Scoping hazards, elements and adaptation areas.
- Project structure and governance arrangements.

## 2. What matters most?

- Community engagement on long term objectives, local values and intolerable risks.
- Risk and vulnerability assessments.
- Kaupapa Māori risk and impact assessments.

## 5. How is it working?

This is done following Council's adoption of the plan.



## 4. How will we do it?

- Combine response options to show how they might work over time, and to show when different approaches are needed to avoid intolerable risks.
- Develop adaptation pathways based on recommendations from tangata whenua and community.
- Choose preferred pathways and test with the wider community.
- Draft adaptation plan/s and seek Council's final adoption.
- Follow adaptation plan/s and bring into existing Council services and responsibilities.

## 3. What can we do about it?

- Community engagement on adaptation response options.
- Technical input and analysis of adaptation response options.
- Kaupapa Māori decision-making processes for cultural assets.

# Pou 2.

## Tangata whenua-led adaptation

2

### Tangata whenua-led adaptation

Support towards tangata whenua in their own plans and actions to adapt.

#### What is tangata whenua-led adaptation?

Council will support tangata whenua and Māori communities to lead their own adaptation efforts for their rohe.

#### What are the objectives of this pou?



**Support tangata whenua adaptation and resilience goals.**



**Support kōrero on adaptation and resilience.**



**Meet Council's goals under Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori Framework.**



**Meet Council's obligations and responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.**



**Support mana motuhake and recognise He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī.**

#### Who is this for?

Tangata whenua, hapū, marae, whānau, haukāinga and hapori Māori across Te Hiku o Te Ika – The Far North.

# What can communities expect?

## What will this deliver?

- Kaupapa Māori adaptation resources and tools.
- Te Ao Māori decision-making resources.
- Staff time and technical advice to use resources and tools.
- Strong working relationships with hapū, whānau, haukāinga and hapori Māori.

## What's included?

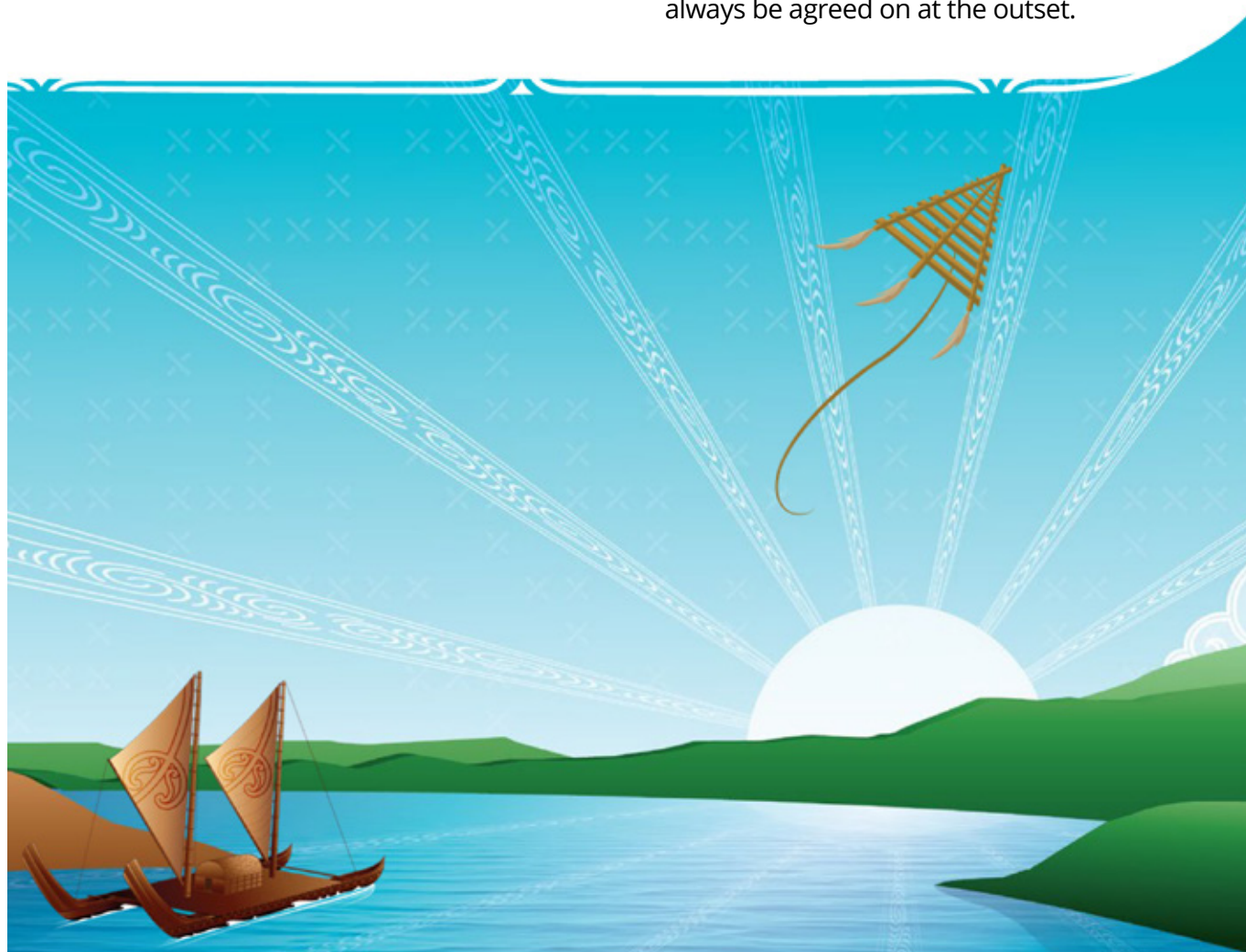
Tangata whenua-led planning activities relating to adaptation, resilience and climate change.

## What's not included?

- Adaptation work that is not led by tangata whenua.
- Adaptation work under Pou 1, community adaptation planning, where tangata whenua are asked to participate.
- Tangata whenua-led kaupapa that is not climate change related.

## How will it work?

Council staff will support with resources, tools and templates for tangata whenua that want to undertake adaptation-focussed mahi. Council staff and tangata whenua will agree on Council's involvement on a case-by-case basis. Data sovereignty and intellectual property rights will always be agreed on at the outset.





# Pou 3.

## Community adaptation toolkits

3

### Community adaptation toolkits

Resources to help communities identify their adaptation needs and to kick start community adaptation planning.

#### What are the Community Adaptation Toolkits?

Council will provide the community with resources and tools to introduce adaptation. These tools will support communities to identify their adaptation needs and get a head start on their community adaptation planning.

#### What are the objectives of this pou?



**Support communities to understand their adaptation issues and needs.**



**Support communities to start their adaptation planning process by identifying what is happening and what matters most.**



**Support communities to understand and navigate Council processes.**

#### Who is this for?

Any self-identified community groups in Te Hiku o Te Ika – The Far North who are concerned about climate impacts in their local area. The groups must fall outside of Pou 1. community adaptation planning **or** be in the Stage 2 area.

# What can communities expect?

## What will this deliver?

- Digital and physical community toolkits (intro toolkit + head start toolkit).
- Staff support to help communities to use the toolkits as appropriate.
- Actions to build working relationships between community groups and Council staff.

## What's included?

The toolkits are resources for community groups who want to address concerns about climate impacts and kick start their own local adaptation planning.

## What's not included?

Toolkits are not meant for adaptation planning for individual property owners and are not a part of any Resource Management Act-related hazards planning or consent process. Any community decisions made through the tools will need to line up with later decisions in Pou 1, community adaptation planning.

## How will it work?

Council staff will connect with community groups to provide the resources. Staff will work with community members to figure out their starting point and decide which resources will be most useful. Some of the resources will be available for anyone to use.

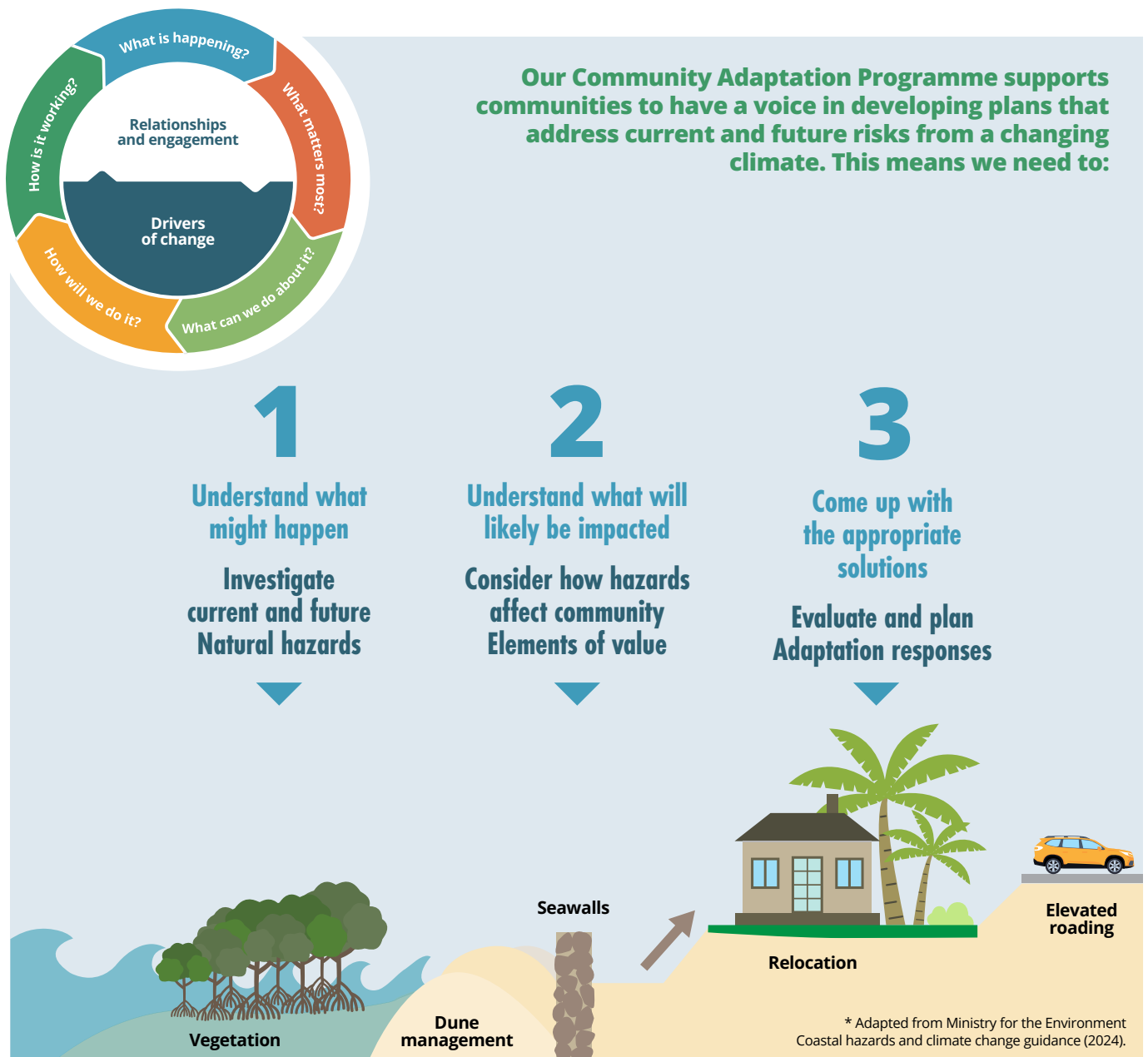








# How does adaptation planning work and what's included?



In adaptation planning we consider how different combinations of natural hazards have impacts on elements of value. Then we come up with a range of adaptation responses.

The **natural hazards, elements of value** and **adaptation responses** that we consider will differ for each community. It will depend on needs of local people and places and on the available resources, information and knowledge.

This is the adaptation planning approach we will use in Pou 1. Community adaptation planning and Pou 3. Community adaptation toolkits.

For Pou 2. Tangata whenua-led adaptation, we will support tangata whenua in their own approaches.

# Natural hazards

Natural hazards are the forces of nature that can impact the environment and community wellbeing.

The Far North's changing climate will make most natural hazards more intense and more frequent. This is because of rising sea levels, higher temperatures, higher intensity rainfall events, and stronger storms. This is also because seasonal rainfall patterns are changing.

## What's included?

The Community Adaptation Programme will consider all relevant natural hazards that impact communities, depending on available information and resources.

**Pou 1. Community adaptation planning will, at a minimum, address coastal hazards.**

## Natural hazards in Te Hiku o Te Ika – The Far North



Flooding (rivers, ponding and flash flooding)



Coastal erosion



Groundwater



Coastal flooding (storm surge)



Extreme wind (increased storminess)



Drought



Chronic coastal inundation (permanent sea level rise)



Landslides and slips



Wildfire

# Elements of value

Elements of value are things that support environmental and community health and wellbeing, our overall quality of life. Natural hazards impact elements of value.

The Community Adaptation Programme will consider public, private and cultural elements across the natural environment, cultural and spiritual domain, community and social domain, local economy, and built environment and infrastructure.

## What's included?

**Pou 1. Community Adaptation Planning** will, at a minimum, address existing Council-administered public assets exposed to coastal hazards. It may also consider private and cultural elements.

**Pou 2. Tangata whenua-led adaptation** will be open to all Māori cultural elements. In limited situations it may include public assets. This will be agreed on by Council and by tangata whenua on a case-by-case basis.

**Pou 3. Community adaptation toolkits** is open to public and private elements but only progresses to identifying impacts and importance for elements. Any decisions on adaptation is not included.

## Elements of value in Te Hiku o Te Ika – The Far North

### Māori Elements



Wai



Kai



Whenua



Kāinga



Moana



Rangi



Marae



Wāhi Rongonui

### Private Elements



Private homes, businesses and properties

### Public Elements



Water and wastewater



Stormwater, drainage and flood management



Transport in all forms



District and community facilities



Historic and heritage sites



Emergency and medical services



Landfill and waste management



Schools and education



Power and telecommunication



Reserves, parks and public spaces



Community readiness  
Emergency response and recovery



Education, awareness tools and resources

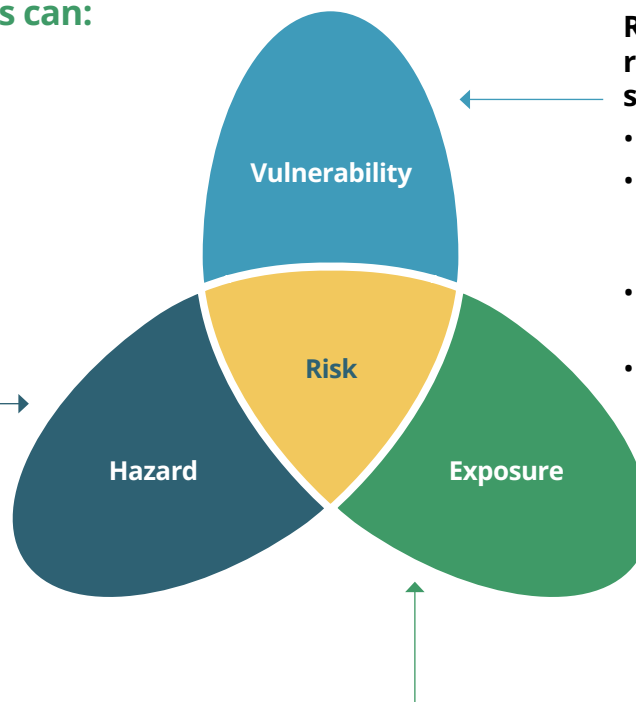
# Adaptation responses

Adaptation responses are actions and activities that manage the risks from current and future natural hazards on elements of value. They can act on different drivers of risk including the physical hazards themselves (such as infrastructure that stops floodwaters), the exposure of elements to hazards (such as moving buildings out of flood plains), or by reducing vulnerability (such as by raising buildings above the flood level).

## Adaptation responses can:

### Manage physical hazards – such as:

- flood protection infrastructure
- nature-based solutions and dune management.



### Reduce the impact by reducing vulnerability – such as:

- early warning systems
- community preparedness and emergency response plans
- flood-proofing buildings and homes
- biodiversity and native species protection.

### Reduce the exposure to elements of value –

- limiting new development where there is risk
- relocating people and assets out of harms way

\* Adapted from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 (2023)..

In national guidance, adaptation responses are also categorised by approach towards the hazard.

**Accommodate** – Continue to use land in an area by lowering our sensitivity or exposure.

**Protect** – Try to keep the hazard away.

**Relocate** – Move away from the hazard, relocating existing and planned development to reduce our exposure.

**Avoid** – Don't move into the way of the hazard in the first place.

## What's included?

The Community Adaptation Programme will consider a wide range of adaptation responses to manage hazards, reduce exposure and manage vulnerability.

**Pou 1. Community adaptation planning** will look at accommodate, protect, relocate and avoid options. Adaptation response options may be short-term, medium-term and long-term. All adaptation responses will be designed to uphold community values and avoid intolerable risks.



# Does the Community Adaptation Programme include the delivery of on-ground actions?

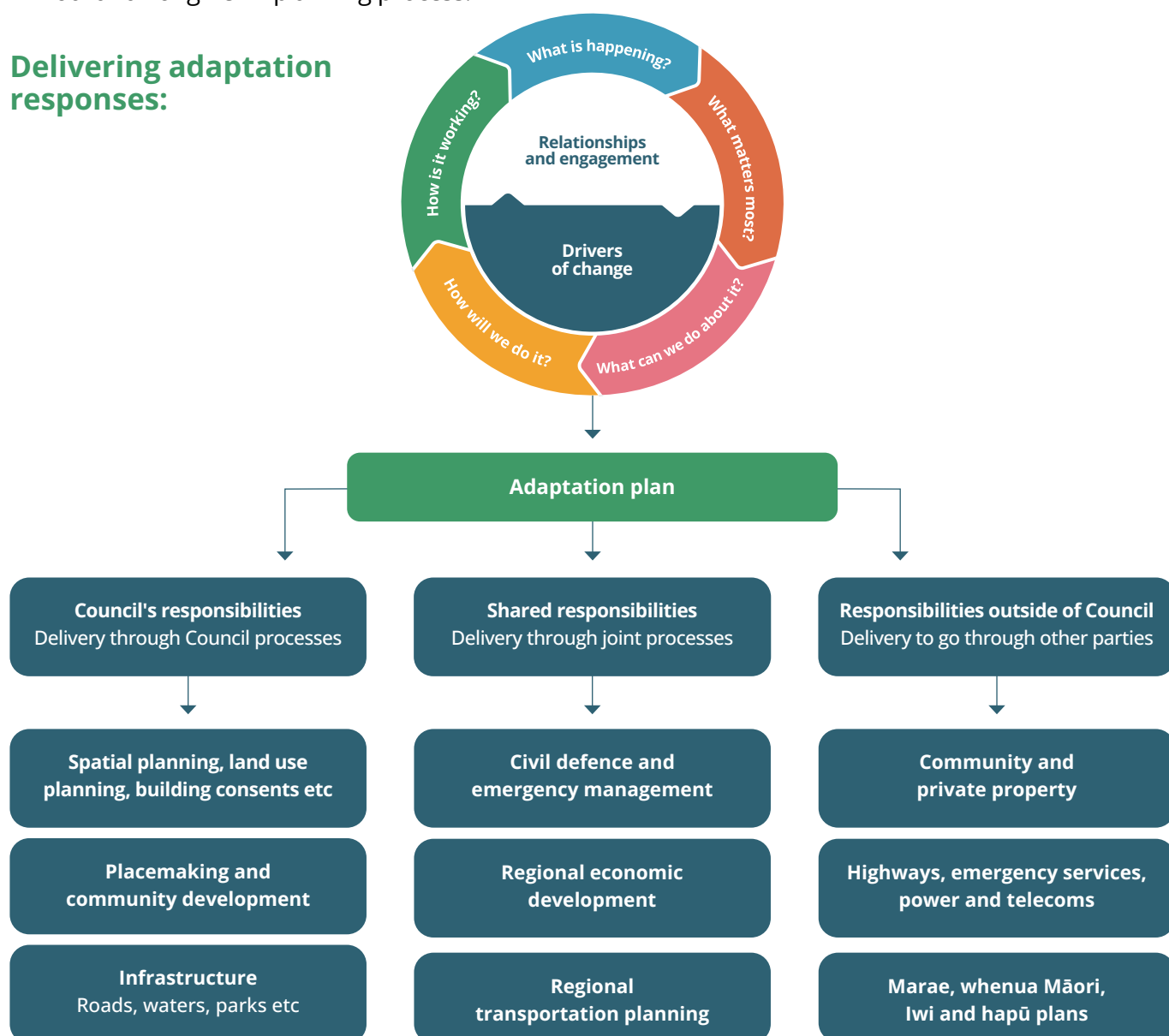
The delivery of any adaptation responses and actions in adaptation plans will be the responsibility of a range of entities, depending on the elements of value included.

It is expected that Council will be responsible for the delivery of many of the adaptation responses and actions in the adaptation plans. How these are funded depends on the specific activity, and will be subject to consultation through the Annual and Long-Term planning process.

Iwi and hapū, regional and central government authorities and agencies, infrastructure providers and community groups, are likely to be involved in delivering adaptation plans.

Council will seek to work collaboratively with other parties to enable the coordinated delivery of all adaptation responses. In some cases, funding from other government agencies or involved parties may be available.

## Delivering adaptation responses:







# What is Council's role and responsibility in adaptation?

Council's role is to facilitate community adaptation planning and to deliver adaptation responses that come under our legislative responsibility. Council also has a role of coordinating actions across key parties, such as Northland Regional Council, hapū, iwi, infrastructure providers, and government agencies. Individuals, community members and private landowners also have adaptation responsibilities.

## Council's adaptation responsibilities include:

- Reduce risk from emergency events
- Prepare for, respond to and recover from emergency events
- Provide natural hazards information.
- Manage the risks of natural hazards.
- Provide infrastructure services to the relevant standards.
- Guide appropriate resource and land-use planning.
- Give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

## Individual and community responsibilities include:

- Meet the consenting standards for building and development.
- Bear the costs of investing in their own assets or relocating if required.
- Invest in their own protection – this is optional and not an obligation.
- Prepare for emergencies at the individual and family level.

## What's included?

Some of these roles and responsibilities may change as central government legislation changes.

The **Community Adaptation Programme** will always support Council to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to comply with legislative requirements.

We may go above and beyond legislative requirements in order to best promote the wellbeing of current and future communities.




# How we will make sure each adaptation planning process is a success


**Council is committed to delivering a high-quality adaptation planning process. This means we will aim to:**



Build strong working relationships between Council staff and tangata whenua.



Use the best practice, evidence, latest science and local experiences.




Follow kōrero tuku iho, pūrākau, mātauranga Māori and Te Atuatanga Māori.



Support the development of plans that are ready for uptake and implementation by Council.




Align Council and other groups' services, resources and functions with adaptation plans.




Respond to the readiness, needs and aspirations of communities.



Support community capacity and capability to identify adaptation needs and advocate for adaptation responses.



Awhi tamariki and rangatahi voices and ensure they have real power in adaptation decisions.



Actively support tangata whenua-led resilience and adaptation planning.



# How we will get it right

## Working alongside tangata whenua and communities

- We will be community centred. Each Pou 1. Community adaptation planning project will always have some form of a community panel or community advisory group that provides formal recommendations to Council.
- We will always seek tangata whenua collaboration and participation. This will be guided by tikanga and rooted in relationships, including Council's tangata whenua governance model and existing relationship agreements.
- We will work with iwi, hapū, marae and whānau across takiwā, rohe and haukāinga areas of interest. This will always be agreed upon by tangata whenua and can vary from operational input to Māori technical expertise and formal representation.
- We will use focused engagement with groups, organisations, neighbourhoods, schools, etc. that make up different communities, as well as community-wide consultation and opportunities for input.
- We will always be open to tangata whenua – led adaptation and resilience planning. We will take a supportive role that will be agreed upon in each project.

## Using the best available technical information

To ensure our adaptation plans are robust, our work will be grounded in the latest scientific and technical information.

Where Council doesn't have the in-house expertise, we will seek support from other councils, research institutes, consultants and stakeholders to access the highest quality technical information and advice. This includes compensated Te Ao Māori expertise and mātauranga-ā-hapū / ā-marae representation.

This might include datasets (e.g. sea level rise projections), models (e.g. hydraulic flood models), methods (e.g. risk assessment) and advice (e.g. technical and engineering support for adaptation options).

Council works in close partnership with Northland Regional Council to identify gaps and opportunities for improving information on climate hazards and risk.

Pou 1. Community adaptation planning will always include a formal technical advisory structure, supported by a terms of reference, to ensure that all adaptation plans are fit for purpose and meet delivery requirements across the involved parties.



### **Our commitment for how we will access the best technical information:**

- Seek the highest quality data and use peer reviewed approaches.
- Partner with other technical and research organisations to deliver technical information.
- Support the analysis of local hazards and risk where needed.
- Adequately compensate Te Ao Māori expertise.

# Supporting information

You can view this programme and supporting information on:

**FNDC Climate Action and Resilience website**

<https://www.fndc.govt.nz/district/climate-action>

**Te TaitokerauCAN**

<https://ttcan.nz/>

**Community Adaptation Programme Risk-Screening Report: Multicriteria Analysis**

Council engaged Urban Intelligence and Adaptterra Ltd. to undertake a risk screening and multicriteria analysis to identify high risk areas in the Far North District and help prioritise Council-facilitated community adaptation planning. A spatial risk analysis identified exposure and vulnerability of infrastructure assets, community assets, private assets and tangata whenua cultural assets. Risk was assessed across four types of hazards (coastal erosion, coastal flooding, river flooding and tidal inundation), at a range of timeframes from present-day to 2130. Criteria identified by councillors prioritised areas for the adaptation programme. Recommended sites were phased to balance geographic representation, community needs and available resources.

**Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy and Priority Actions**

Northland councils and tangata whenua representatives adopted Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy in April 2022. The Strategy establishes a framework for climate adaptation work across Northland. The Strategy outlines a comprehensive programme of actions covering four areas where the Northland councils can improve their response to climate change. It commits Far North District Council to undertake community adaptation planning.

## References

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Cover photo:

Ahipara & Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe | Ninety Mile Beach



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