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Date: 25 May 2023

To: Waikato District Council Councillors

From: Waverley Jones and Simon Bendall of Traverse Environmental

Subject: Waikato District Adaptation Planning – 30 May Councillor Workshop

## 1 Purpose of workshop

Waikato District Council (WDC) and Waikato Regional Council (WRC) have requested the development of a scoping report to guide climate change / natural hazard adaptation planning efforts in the Waikato District.

As part of developing the scoping report, this workshop is being held with Councillors to:

1. Introduce adaptation planning, and the Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning approach (DAPP); and
2. Discuss and seek feedback on key elements being considered by the scoping report.

This workshop will be facilitated by Jim Ebenhoh from WDC and Simon Bendall and Waverley Jones of Traverse Environmental. Traverse has been contracted to develop the scoping report based on their experience in adaptation planning, including the ongoing work at Port Waikato and the Wharekawa Coast 2120 project.

## 2 About the Waikato District Adaptation Planning Scoping report

### 2.1 Scoping Report Purpose

The purpose of the scoping report is to assist WDC and WRC to design and implement long term adaptive planning for natural hazards using the DAPP methodology in the Waikato District.

The report will:

- Look strategically at natural hazard and climate risks across the Waikato District;
- Define the aim and objectives of Waikato District adaptation planning, as well as the scope, limitation and roles and responsibilities of key contributors; and
- Develop a methodology and recommendations for implementing DAPP.

### 2.2 Hazards in Scope

The following natural hazards are being considered as **'in scope'** for the project. These have been chosen because there is existing central government guidance on these hazards.

- Coastal inundation
- Coastal erosion
- Groundwater intrusion
- River flooding
- Landslip/ slope stability

The following hazards are deemed **out of scope** for the current project. However, it is noted that hazards will not be completely excluded, and they may need to be scoped in the future.

- Earthquake
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Tsunami
- Liquefaction

### 2.3 Development Process

The scoping report is being prepared by Traverse Environmental, under a jointly resourced approach by WDC and WRC. Staff from both Councils are involved in the development of the report through a series of staff workshops. This workshop with Councillors is also a key part of the development process.

The final scoping report will be presented to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on 28 June 2023.

### 2.4 Outcomes

The scoping report is intended to assist WDC and WRC to commence adaptation planning project(s) in the Waikato District. This will be a multi-year programme of work.

## 3 Workshop Session

In addition to general discussion and Q&A, the following key topics will be presented for discussion with WDC Councillors (and WRC Councillors if in attendance) at the workshop on 30 May.

	Topic	Discussion points	Questions to Councillors
1	Priority communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard planning work has started in Port Waikato but not yet advanced to DAPP stage.</li> <li>• How should communities be prioritised district-wide?</li> <li>• Could we run two or more communities / projects in parallel?</li> <li>• WDC – which communities are displaying or communicating concerns (social)</li> <li>• WRC – from your info, which communities have a high level of exposure (technical)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are you hearing from communities about natural hazards? Where is the highest level of concern?</li> <li>• Considering hazards in scope for this work (see Section 2.2 above), what are your views on top priority communities or assets for adaptive planning?</li> </ul>

	Topic	Discussion points	Questions to Councillors
2	Iwi / hapuu partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Port Waikato project has attempted, but not been successful at effective engagement – efforts are ongoing.</li> <li>Effective Iwi/hapuu engagement is fundamental to a successful adaptation planning project.</li> <li>How does this work align with the priorities of Iwi/hapuu?</li> <li>It is recommended that an early and targeted discussion occurs with iwi/hapu to determine and co-design an approach for identifying values to inform and guide decision-making and adaptation planning efforts for the Waikato District.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-level discussion on effective Iwi/hapuu engagement and principles / approach to adaptation planning in the Waikato District</li> </ul>
3	Governance structure for WDC adaptive planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated governance arrangements for adaptation planning projects are important to successful project outcomes.</li> <li>We have identified four potential governance structures that could be implemented to oversee climate change adaptation planning in the Waikato District. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Project Steering Group</li> <li>b. Existing Council Committee</li> <li>c. Joint Working Party</li> <li>d. Joint Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There are pros and cons to each. Refer to <b><u>Attachment One: Adaptive Planning Governance Options</u></b> for an overview of these models.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDC's view on effective governance structures</li> <li>Waikato Regional Councillor involvement important – how best to achieve this?</li> <li>Discuss options and seek input on Councillor's preference.</li> </ul>
5	Timing of programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping Report due in June</li> <li>A range of urgent natural hazard issues existing in the District.</li> <li>Significant change is coming in legislation - the Government is repealing the Resource Management Act (1991) and enacting new laws to transform the way we manage the environment.</li> <li>A core piece of legislation – Climate Change Adaptation Act (CCA) – is still being drafted and is not yet in bill form. MFE expect to engage on this act soon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is WDC's view about responding to significant changes coming from central government e.g. CAA? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue with adaptation planning?</li> <li>b. Wait for new legislation?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Note: projects will need to align Council planning cycles e.g. 3-year LTP review cycles</li> </ul>

## 4 Next Steps

Feedback received during the workshop will inform the completion of the scoping report. This will initially be developed in draft form for feedback from WDC and WRC staff, before the final report is presented to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on 28 June 2023.

Once a final scoping report has been adopted it is anticipated that a programme of DAPP projects for the Waikato District will be developed, and DAPP project work will commence in priority communities.

Staff are also keeping a watching brief on central government work programmes to ensure that adaptive planning approaches in the Waikato District align with current central government guidance and direction.

## Attachment One: Adaptive Planning Governance Options

	Governance Option	Description	Benefits	Disadvantages
1.	Project Steering Group	Senior staff from WRC and WDC form a project steering group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most straight forward to establish.</li> <li>• Lowest administration burden</li> <li>• Flexible and straight forward to call meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not provide direct connection to elected representatives.</li> <li>• Least formal arrangement – may not provide sufficient governance weight to process.</li> <li>• Limits opportunity for WRC + Iwi governance involvement (unless staff and Iwi representatives are appointed)</li> <li>• Likely to double up on Technical Advisory Group functions / less division between operations and governance.</li> <li>• Recommendations to Council may carry less weight than other options.</li> </ul>
2.	Existing Council Committee	An existing committee of WDC providing governance functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes use of existing governance arrangements</li> <li>• Recommendations to Council will carry more weight than Option 1 or 3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limits opportunity for WRC + Iwi governance involvement</li> <li>• Does not provide dedicated / focused structure, may limit access / focus on adaptation planning.</li> </ul>
3.	Joint Working Party	An informal Joint Working Party is formed, with Councillor (WDC + WRC) and Iwi representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More flexible than a Joint Committee – meetings can be more readily called / less limited by process requirements.</li> <li>• Provides opportunity for WRC + Iwi governance involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less formal than a Joint Committee – may struggle to secure Councillor attendance.</li> <li>• Recommendations to Council may carry less weight than Option 2 or 4</li> </ul>

4.	Joint Committee	A formal Joint Committee is established (Clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act) with Councillor (WDC +WRC) and Iwi representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most formal arrangement, provides gravitas / recognises critical nature of the issue.</li> <li>• Provides opportunity for WRC + Iwi governance involvement.</li> <li>• Governed by LGA requirements for openness / transparency / standing order application etc.</li> <li>• Recommendations to Council will carry weight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest administrative burden</li> <li>• All meetings must be publicly advertised, reducing flexibility.</li> <li>• May be seen to be adding additional / unnecessary sub-committee structures to Council.</li> </ul>
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