

28 March 2025

Call for evidence: NCCRA  
Climate Change Commission  
PO Box 24448  
Wellington 6142

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### **Call for Evidence: National Climate Change Risk Assessment**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence in support of the next National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA). The evidence we provide covers Council's work and engagement on coastal hazards.

Council has been involved in ongoing conversations with its communities around coastal hazards since the commencement of our second-generation district plan review in 2008. In response to past litigation on that plan review process, Council initiated the Takutai Kāpiti project in 2020 to help guide our response, as a community, to the impacts of projected sea-level rise.

Community engagement on that project (which was completed in June 2024) has highlighted the difficulty in achieving agreed perspectives for assessing coastal hazards, the challenges in forecasting over timeframes of 50-years plus, and the resulting challenges to achieving cross-community buy-in founded on credible science, irrespective of significant engagement with our communities.

To help resolve these difficulties, Council has sought clarity and greater guidance from government (the Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment). While the responses have been broadly helpful, they do not provide councils with definitive parameters with which to work with their communities; further to this they do not set out a pragmatic option for planning, given the uncertainty of potential estimates of impact out to the 100 year mark. Without nationally consistent process and parameters, councils and communities are navigating these hazard identification, assessment and response processes 'anew' each

time, and views and division on some fundamental elements continue to arise. It is extremely expensive for councils and communities having to revisit these matters that could be settled through stronger and more detailed national guidance. Arising from your review of the NCCRA, Council looks forward to government taking more of a leading role in framing this conversation in the future.

Evidence relating to this work for the Kāpiti Coast District Council can be found on Council's [Coastal hazard risk science](#) webpage. This information includes:

- Council-commissioned assessments by Jacobs NZ Ltd, including coastal area-specific risk assessments, a hazard and susceptibility assessment, and the coastal hazards GIS map viewer allowing you to assess how any particular property may be affected.
- A community commissioned coastal hazard risk assessment report by Dr Willem de Lange.
- Advice from the Ministry for the Environment and the Department of Conservation on coastal hazard risk identification and management of coastal risks.
- References to national and regional work by NIWA and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The webpage is updated as existing information is reviewed and/or new information comes to hand. As such, the Commission may treat the webpage as an ongoing conversation on coastal hazard science in the Kāpiti district.

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Pervan', written in a cursive style.

Kris Pervan  
Acting Chief Executive  
Kāpiti Coast District Council