

OIR: 2324/840

8 April 2024

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **13 March 2024** requesting the following information:

I am interested in the answer/comments made in paragraph 3 of Question 15, especially the highlighted section -

“Further this this, in New Zealand we are already witnessing the impact that climate change can have on our lives. Rather than waiting until the effects of climate change are actively impacting our backyard, we are adopting a proactive approach. By identifying the potential risks and hazards that may be present in our region we can plan ahead, implement protection measures early to help minimise the risk to our community. This will be a third step for which the community can have their say, and inform the investment and decisions that Council subsequently make in future years.”

As this is a definite statement; could you please send all attributions that you have used to make this statement. It would be better to add these attributions to the Workshop Questions Feedback.

This statement is attributed to information released by Statistics New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment in the [Our atmosphere and climate 2020](#) report. Chapter three is of particular significance, to the highlighted section above, with an overview of the impacts evidenced, including:

- More extreme weather events are starting to be seen – extreme rainfall, heatwave days, and dry spell days increased and frost days decreased at some places.
- Changes to seasons are becoming apparent.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

Further to this, the highlighted statement is consistent with those made by central government departments with responsibilities in this area. For example:

- The Ministry for the Environment in [Coastal hazards and climate change: guidance for local government \(2017\)](#) states on page 18:

“Climate change is already starting to impact how our coastal communities live and function, but sea level will continue rising for several centuries, even if global greenhouse gas emissions are reduced; this will only reduce the rate of rise.”


- The Ministry for the Environment in [Coastal hazards and climate change guidance \(2024\)](#) states on page 10:

The new assessments of the physical science – and of the projected and observed impacts, adaptation and vulnerability – show that hazards and their risks are compounding near coasts, estuaries and harbours throughout Aotearoa with impacts cascading more widely. In addition to the environmental risks, a wide range of social, cultural and economic values are at stake.

The climate and sea level are changing, and the pace is accelerating due to greenhouse gas emissions warming the atmosphere and melting of the ice sheets and glaciers. There is growing understanding of the scale and pace of change from ongoing and accelerating SLR and increased frequency of damaging weather events affecting coastal areas.

Thank you for the suggestion of adding these attributions to the Workshop Questions Feedback. I can confirm that we will make this amendment.

Ngā mihi,



Kris Pervan

Group Manager Strategy and Growth
Te Kaihautū Rautaki me te Tupu