

Shaping our **TOMORROW**

Ngā rā anamata

LONG TERM PLAN 2018-28

- FACT SHEET -



CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL HAZARDS IN THE WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT

Background

The flood events in April 2017 were a reminder that we live in a District and country that is vulnerable to natural hazards. The increasing effects of climate change are making this a growing concern.

Council is mindful that extreme weather patterns resulting from climate change can create risks for people and property across our District. Our District Plan also recognises that sea level rise poses a threat to subdivision, use and development of coastal and low-lying land within our District, and requires new development to address that hazard.

What's the plan?

Activities planned or underway to address climate change issues include:

- Continuing to actively monitor the effects of climate change and sea level rise
- Developing a Climate Change Action Plan for our District this year. This will ensure that we keep our carbon footprint and future climate change impacts in mind when planning and developing projects
- Our Infrastructure Strategy references climate change and includes it as a key consideration for new projects
- Investigating ways we can manage the effects of climate change we're already seeing
- Wherever possible, we'll work with and support other groups to enable everyone in our community to play their part in responding to, and reducing, climate change in Aotearoa New Zealand and the world.

What's happening now?

Projects to address flooding risks as a result of increasingly frequent severe rain events include:

- Stormwater improvements, such as upgrading the capacity of pumping schemes in Edgecumbe and the McAlister pump station in Whakatāne;
- Increasing the capacity of the Wainui Te Whara Stream channel and drainage improvements at Ōhope Beach; and
- Stopbank assessments by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Have your say

Our Long Term Plan consultation document – 'Shaping our tomorrow – Ngā rā anamata' – is seeking feedback on this and other matters. If you have a particular concern or suggestion relating to addressing the effects of climate change in the Whakatāne District, this is your chance to 'have your say'.

Tell us what you think by 5pm Monday, 23 April 2018

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