

Pathways to Change

A four-step process to help councils and coastal communities adapt to climate change

Climate change will lead to cumulative changes in our coastal environments. People living in coastal communities need to learn as much as possible about the changes likely to affect them locally. They then have two clear choices: accept the changes and cope with them reactively, or start adapting now so that they, and future generations, are more resilient to climate change impacts as they occur.

Adaptation is the preferred journey, but it is also the most complex and challenging one.

So, as part of its Coastal Adaptation to Climate Change project, a NIWA-led partnership has developed guidelines to help local authorities and coastal communities plan and implement actions that will make them better prepared for the impacts of climate change. We call this adaptation journey, and our guidelines, ***Pathways to Change***. There are four steps to take:



Step 1: Awareness & Acceptance

This step is about informing people within your council and your communities of the potential effects of climate change. It is also about accepting there's a potential problem on our coasts and that an intentional response is needed.

Step 2: Assessment

This step is about gathering knowledge to be better informed on the scale and scope of potential effects of climate change.

Step 3: Planning a way forward

This step is about planning what needs to happen to adapt to climate change. Actions need to be embedded into a wide range of council activities. The adaptation plan also needs to be regularly reviewed, in order to incrementally build community resilience to the cumulative risk being faced.

Step 4: Implementation, Monitoring & Review

This step is about building the actions into budgets and undertaking the actions. It is backed up by monitoring change over time of coastal hazards, the environment, of scientific information, of implementation progress and policy effectiveness. The monitoring results feed into regular reviews of the adaptation plan.

Pathways to Change presents:

- A framework which describes the steps that need to be taken along the pathway to adaptation
- A discussion of key drivers and options available for undertaking each step on this journey
- Case study examples from New Zealand and overseas relevant to each of the steps
- Indicators for measuring and reviewing progress
- A range of reference material.

The longest journey begins with the first step

(ancient Chinese proverb)

We wish you well on your adaptation journey

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