

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS POSITION STATEMENT



This statement defines the position that Councils have collectively adopted on climate change. We commit to playing our part in helping New Zealand face the climate change challenge. The key role we will play is to lead community responses to the risks and opportunities of climate change.

Councils provide a wide range of ratepayer funded services which will be impacted by climate change. These include stormwater management, flood control, biosecurity, land-use and transport planning, civil defence emergency management and water supply. Council services need to be future proofed and made resilient to the impacts of climate change.

We acknowledge that the evidence shows that climate change is occurring and that our understanding of climate change impacts in New Zealand will continue to grow. We will work with our communities to prepare for the future

### OUR POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

We recognise that we must respond to both the actual and potential physical impacts of climate change.

We understand that there are challenges, risks and opportunities for local communities in responding to and managing the impacts of climate change.

We recognise that action now will reduce the future threats and costs of climate change. We know we must plan ahead.

Solutions to climate change challenges will not be a matter of "one size fits all" and we recognise that climate change impacts on communities will vary around New Zealand.

Councils will individually show leadership and environmental responsibility by adopting mitigation and adaptation practices that fit with their community's needs and aspirations.

We have an active interest in shaping Central Government's mitigation policy. We will assist Central Government help local communities to prepare for climate change.

We will work with Central Government to make sure information and research is accessible to our communities. It should help them make informed choices about responding to climate change risks and opportunities.

### OUR POSITION ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

We have a responsibility to help our communities prepare for and to adapt to the physical effects of climate change.

We will build on the existing work of Councils and communities – recognising that "business as usual" will not get us to where we need to be and that a community-wide effort will be needed to address the impacts of climate change.

Councils will support and actively engage with initiatives that provide guidance and expert advice on adaptation that can be applied at the regional and local level.

We will seek Central Government's support for the development of climate change information and modelling that delivers "local numbers" for local use.

We acknowledge that we will often need to lead on developing engineering and resilience responses to climate change impacts.

Councils will ensure that Resource Management and Local Government legislation is used to encourage adaptation to climate change – particularly when dealing with land-use change.

### OUR POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

It is Central Government's role to engage internationally on climate change and to lead mitigation action on behalf of New Zealand.

We have an active interest in providing advice to Central Government on the local consequences of, and the opportunities presented by, international and national policies to reduce green house gas emissions.

Councils will choose their own mitigation projects to meet Central Government requirements and to assist in delivering New Zealand's emission reduction targets.

Councils will support individuals, communities and businesses to lower their emissions and will advocate for Central Government to develop tools that will assist the development of low carbon options for goods and services.

### THE FOLLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS SUPPORT THIS POSITION STATEMENT:

*R. Sanikball*

Mayor of Thames-Coromandel District Council

*John Emi*

Chair of Environment Bay of Plenty

*John Len*

Mayor of Opotiki District Council

*Mark C. Jammita*

Chair of Northland Regional Council

*W. O. P.*

Mayor of South Waikato District Council

*Stephen*

Chair of Otago Regional Council

*R. G. K.*

Mayor of Tasman District Council

*Pete ?*

Mayor of New Plymouth District Council

*Chlorophyll*

Chair of Horizons Regional Council

*[Signature]*

Mayor of Dunedin City Council

*Stuart Bella*

Chair of Environment Southland

*[Signature]*

Mayor of Marlborough District Council