

## Low Carbon Auckland: 2018 Review and Update

File No.: CP2018/00541

### Te take mō te pūrongo / Purpose of the report

1. To approve the approach to the 2018 review and update of Low Carbon Auckland: Auckland's Energy Resilience and Low Carbon Action Plan.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua / Executive summary

2. In 2014 Auckland Council adopted Low Carbon Auckland: Auckland's Energy Resilience and Low Carbon Action Plan (ENV/2014/16 and REG/2014/72) with a view to a full review and update by 2018.
3. Low Carbon Auckland focuses on meeting the emissions reduction target of the Auckland Plan (40 per cent by 2040) and guides the first stage of transforming to a low carbon, energy resilient future. To date, it has delivered actions across five main areas: transport, energy, the built environment, waste, and agriculture/forestry (<http://tinyurl.com/LowCarbAkl17>).
4. Given the progress made and the focus on emissions reductions, there are only relatively small improvements that can be made under the current Low Carbon Auckland. An updated and refreshed plan will enable Auckland to make genuine progress towards emission reduction and climate resilience.
5. Through our membership of C40 Cities (AUC/2015/197), Auckland Council is committed to developing an adaptation strategy for the region to prepare for the impacts of climate change. It is proposed that this is incorporated into the review and update of Low Carbon Auckland, instead of being approached as a separate task. This will establish a coordinated approach to climate change, in line with international best practice, not just emissions reduction.
6. A full review and update is therefore timely to:
  - incorporate an adaptation strategy for the region and a robust monitoring framework;
  - identify and prioritise current programmes that will deliver the greatest impact in addressing climate change and will ensure value for money for current and future Aucklanders;
  - reflect new commitments made by Auckland since 2014 and incorporate emerging national and international priorities (e.g. the Paris Agreement and New Zealand government's intention to set a target of net zero emissions by 2050);
  - address new evidence to inform decision making, such as the NIWA climate projections report for Auckland and our updated greenhouse gas emissions inventory, both released late last year.
7. The review and update will be facilitated by Auckland Council, working with public, private and voluntary sectors and drawing in expertise as appropriate to enable learning from sectoral experts and developing opportunities for co-financing and resourcing of actions.
8. An Independent Advisory Group is proposed to support the process and development of the updated plan. The panel will consist of nationally recognised climate change leaders and experts to provide insight, check and challenge throughout and ensure that we deliver the best outcomes and value for Aucklanders.

### Ngā tūtohunga / Recommendation/s

That the Environment and Community Committee:

- a) approve the approach for the review and update of Low Carbon Auckland, as shown in the table at paragraph 33 of the report, to include both a mitigation and adaptation strategy for the region
- b) agree that the update of Low Carbon Auckland be presented to the Environment and Community Committee for decision by December 2018
- c) agree to the creation of an Independent Advisory Group, to provide on-going guidance, challenge and evaluation of the review and update of Low Carbon Auckland
- d) delegate the decision on the membership of the Independent Advisory Group to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment and Community Committee.

## Horopaki / Context

9. In 2014, Auckland Council adopted Low Carbon Auckland: Auckland's Energy Resilience and Low Carbon Action Plan. The plan sets out a 10-year action plan and 30-year pathway to meet the emissions reduction target in the Auckland Plan (40 per cent by 2040).
10. Low Carbon Auckland has delivered multiple outcomes and provides a guide to support Auckland's transformation into a successful, energy resilient, low carbon city through actions in five main areas; transport, energy, the built environment, waste and agriculture and forestry.
11. Of the 101 actions identified:
  - 21 per cent are now completed
  - 30 per cent have either stalled or are undeliverable in their current format due to either a lack of ownership or a shift in priorities and understanding
  - the remaining actions (50 per cent) are rated as 'in progress', however many of these are behind schedule (26 per cent).
12. Since 2009, Auckland's population and Gross Domestic Product have increased. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have also increased but the CO<sub>2</sub> increase per person has slightly declined. This is a small but positive trend and the proposed update will refresh momentum and improve governance, collaboration and the mandate for action.
13. In addition, the Government has stated a commitment to enacting a Zero Carbon Act, with a target of becoming a carbon-neutral economy by 2050 (net zero emissions). This has been further defined within Government's 100-day plan for climate change with a view for a Zero Carbon Bill to be presented to the House of Representatives in October 2018.

## Preparing for climate impacts (adaptation)

14. In August 2017 the Environment and Community Committee was presented with an initial summary of activity to prepare for climate change. Many successes were highlighted but it also demonstrated that climate change considerations are not universally integrated into council and wider council family activities and decisions, particularly as they relate to the long-term stresses that climate change will bring.
15. To better address these considerations, Auckland Council, Watercare, Auckland Transport, Panuku and the three Auckland-area District Health Boards jointly commissioned the

National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) to provide insights into how Auckland’s climate is likely to change<sup>1</sup>.

16. The insights will deliver the best available evidence to support decision making and underpin a broader risk and vulnerabilities assessment for the region. The report was launched with a media briefing on 6<sup>th</sup> December with representation from the Chief Sustainability Office, CDEM, Healthy Waters, Engineering and Technical Services and NIWA’s Chief Scientist.

### C40 Cities

17. Auckland’s membership of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (AUC/2015/197) commits us to global leadership and innovation in climate adaptation and mitigation. It also enables the region to benefit from C40’s research, best practice and resources.
18. International best practice, now integrated into C40 participation standards, recommends combining adaptation and mitigation activities into climate action plans to maximise efficiencies and opportunities for cities and regions.

## Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu / Analysis and advice

19. Staff have identified three options for the review and update of Low Carbon Auckland. The options are:
- 1) Status quo (i.e. Low Carbon Auckland remains and no adaptation strategy is developed)
  - 2) Review and update Low Carbon Auckland and develop a separate adaptation strategy (current commitment)
  - 3) Integrate an adaptation strategy into the review and update of Low Carbon Auckland

Option	Benefits	Risks
1.) Status quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional resource requirement for plan development.</li> <li>• Onus on all of council and council-controlled organisations to embed climate-related work into business as usual, in order to meet existing requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing climate-associated costs, such as maintenance and repair, through inadequate joined-up decision making.</li> <li>• Given new evidence and progress to date, Low Carbon Auckland will not deliver the required level of emissions reductions.</li> <li>• May leave council open to substantial future costs and risks of litigation through not addressing the implications of climate change despite known impacts.</li> <li>• Failure to meet commitments including C40 and LGNZ Leaders Declaration.</li> <li>• Does not address appetite across stakeholders to improve joint working in this area and missed opportunities to identify potential co-financing across sectors.</li> </ul>
2.) Refresh Low Carbon Auckland and develop a separate adaptation strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear delineation between mitigation and adaptation.</li> <li>• Known Low Carbon Auckland brand maintained.</li> <li>• Adaptation strategy addresses identified gaps of Low Carbon Auckland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of ‘climate change’ strategies overall and lack of joined up approach, potentially weakening each and leading to stakeholder fatigue.</li> <li>• High risk of duplication between strategies, leading to confusion.</li> <li>• Reduced opportunities to build a clear business case and prioritisation criteria for actions that demonstrate multiple benefits and value for money.</li> <li>• Greater resource requirement, both financially and with regards to staff time.</li> </ul>
3.) Integrate an adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A more collaborative and joined-up approach, enabling clearer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential loss of recognised <i>Low Carbon Auckland</i> brand, as adopted by council in</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publication/?mid=1748&DocumentType=1&>

Option	Benefits	Risks
strategy into the review and update of Low Carbon Auckland  <b>Recommended option</b>	communication and opportunities to deliver improved value for money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated stakeholder engagement to maximise resources and deliver efficiencies.</li> <li>• Enables greater opportunities for innovation and to build capacity to deliver the scale of emissions reduction and resilience needed.</li> <li>• Greater coordination across associated strategies and frameworks (e.g., Coastal Management Framework; Water Strategy; Natural Hazards Management Action Plan; Urban Forest).</li> </ul>	2014, given that the final plan may need a new title to reflect climate change action more broadly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will require resourcing for delivery and implementation to ensure a collaborative approach, but through delivering in partnership, duplication is reduced and efficiencies delivered.</li> <li>• Potential confusion if some actions need to be completed prior to adoption of update plan.</li> </ul>

20. Option 3 is recommended as it enables:

- prioritisation of actions across multiple outcomes and embeds value for money approach
- greater scope for innovation and collaboration to address challenges and opportunities
- identification of opportunities for co-financing of actions
- streamlining of processes to reduce stakeholder fatigue and save money.

## Ngā whakaaweawe ā-rohe me ngā tirohanga a te poari ā-rohe / Local impacts and local board views

21. The update will require local insights and engagement with local boards throughout to reflect the diversity of the Auckland region. In some cases, local solutions will be required and these will be worked through with Local Boards.
22. Working with Local Board Advisors, staff propose that local board views are sought at key stages throughout the process, including through workshops held in June. These workshops will build on and complement broader Local Board engagement such as through the Sustainability Initiatives team, Parks and CDEM.

## Tauākī whakaaweawe Māori / Māori impact statement

23. Climate change will affect areas over which Māori have kaitiakitanga; impacting ecosystems, shaping community vulnerability and resilience and linking to economic outcomes. Increasing water scarcity and temperatures will impact Māori communities and businesses, including fisheries and forestry. Cultural sites may also be at risk from rising seas and coastal inundation.
24. Given the diverse climate sensitivities that exist for Māori across Auckland and New Zealand there is a clear need to know more about the implications (and risks) of a variable and changing climate on different iwi/hapū/whānau.
25. The review and update will integrate learning from the Māori Working Group established through Low Carbon Auckland. Māori stakeholders will be engaged throughout the process to increase awareness and promote and integrate mātauranga Māori across the plan from inception through to delivery.

## Ngā ritenga ā-pūtea / Financial implications

26. Financial costs for option 2 (separate approaches) are estimated at \$220,000.

27. Financial costs for option 3 will mainly be for stakeholder engagement and workshop facilitation. This is estimated at \$140,000 (excluding staff time).
28. Option 3's coordinated approach represents a saving to council and partners of around \$80,000.
29. Identified cost will cover governance, workshops and facilitation, consultancy for evaluation and modelling work, design and edits. It is anticipated that costs will be met through current operating budgets and partner contributions, including C40 Cities. A similar partnership funding approach was used to co-commission-the NIWA climate projections.
30. Many actions identified through the updated plan will result in implementation costs. These costs may or may not be able to be found within existing budgets and could form part of Annual Plan and prioritisation discussions. To support this:
- a full review of financing opportunities and models will be undertaken
  - all actions will have an associated cost benefit analysis to assess and demonstrate value in the short to long term
  - all actions will outline associated implementation costs.
31. Costs associated with the Independent Advisory Panel are included in the costs of both options 2 and 3.

## Ngā raru tūpono / Risks

32. Risks are discussed as part of options appraisal and so are not repeated here.

## Ngā koringa ā-muri / Next steps

33. The indicative key steps in the review and update of Low Carbon Auckland are provided in Table 1 with a view for completion by December 2018:

Key stages	High level action summary
<b>Stage 1: Initiation and Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proposed approach to committee</b></li> <li>• Establishment of Steering Group and Informal Advisory Group</li> <li>• Review of Low Carbon Auckland</li> <li>• Climate risk and vulnerability assessment based on projections</li> <li>• Identification of current state, gaps and best practice in relation to mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>• Cross-council strategy and policy review</li> <li>• Stakeholder analysis</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 2: Action identification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Committee workshop</b> on risks and vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Communication strategy for broader public engagement</li> <li>• Local Board workshops</li> <li>• Mana whenua engagement (integrated throughout)</li> <li>• Stakeholder workshops</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 3: Prioritisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Committee workshop</b> on prioritisation criteria and identified actions</li> <li>• Cost benefit and total value analysis</li> <li>• Review all actions against prioritisation criteria</li> <li>• Draft plan</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 4: Consultation and approvals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultation draft to committee</b></li> <li>• Consultation (linking to other plans, approach tbc)</li> <li>• Updates to action plan and consultation report</li> <li>• Adoption of updated plan by council and partners</li> </ul>

34. In addition, establishing an Independent Advisory Group is proposed, consisting of high level experts in climate change and policy from across New Zealand. This group will provide greater surety in Auckland's approach whilst providing a strong academic and business link regionally and nationally, supporting implementation of the plan.
35. If the recommendations in this report are approved, it is proposed that membership of the group will be agreed by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment and Community Committee.

## Ngā tāpirihanga / Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

## Ngā kaihaina / Signatories

Authors	Sarah Anderson - Principal Specialist Sustainability and Climate Resilience
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