

Report No.	19-121
Decision Required	

PROPOSED CLIMATE CHANGE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE HORIZONS REGION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Members' endorsement of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on climate change. It is proposed to be agreed across councils in the Horizons region.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-121 and Annex.
- b. endorses the draft Memorandum of Understanding as at Annex A.
- c. endorses the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, to make minor amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding following feedback from councils across the region.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no financial impact arising from this item. Council will have decisions to make about resourcing the next parts of its climate change work in the coming months.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. Council will have decisions to make in the future about how it wishes to engage its communities in the development of climate change adaptation plans.

5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk associated with this item.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Council has embarked on preparing a climate change strategy. Strategy development has been the subject of previous workshops with Members. Development of a strategy recognises that, whilst operational work has been done, the issue of climate change is significant and serious and that a comprehensive policy response is required in addition to operational works.
- 6.2. Development of Council's strategy is in two parts. The first part is focussed on objectives and policies. This work is funded and underway and is expected to be ready for the incoming Council in October / November 2019.
- 6.3. The second part will be a regional vulnerability assessment. A draft scope is expected to be available for members to consider in November / December 2019.
- 6.4. These two areas are also being supported by science investment at a regional scale.

- 6.5. Other councils in the region are also preparing local climate change plans. For example, Whanganui District Council recently released its 'Climate Change Discussion Document'.
- 6.6. Regional mayors, chair and chief executives have agreed in principle the value of regional collaboration in order to help deliver the best outcomes for communities. The draft MoU in **Annex A** reflects the nature of the proposed regional collaboration.
- 6.7. The draft MoU will need the agreement of all councils in the region. The chair and mayors may consider embedding the MoU in the next triennial agreement.
- 6.8. The primary focus of the MoU is on working across the region on climate change adaptation. This reflects LGNZ's approach that adaptation is the key role for councils. However, the MoU also notes opportunities for collaborating to achieve mitigation.
- 6.9. The chair and chief executive have canvassed the MoU with mayors and chief executives across the region. There is broad support but final wording is yet to be agreed.

7. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 7.1. Should Council endorse the draft MoU, it will go forward to a meeting of the regional chair and mayors in early September. Signing may be influenced by the local body elections.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

- 8.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

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GROUP MANAGER STRATEGY & REGULATION

ANNEXES

- A Draft MoU: Working together to adapt to climate change