

Report No.	20-104
<b>Decision Required</b>	

## CLIMATE CHANGE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report outlines community engagement planned over the coming months to support Horizons' climate change work programme.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-104.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. Expenses associated with the activities proposed will be covered within existing budgets.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. Community engagement is the focus of this report.

### 5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. No significant business risk or impact associated with this advice has been identified.

### 6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. Over the past 12-18 months, Members and staff have been working to establish the foundations of a regional climate change response. A Memorandum of Understanding with territorial authorities was signed in September 2019. Provision was made in the 2020/21 Annual Plan for a **Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment (RCCRA)** to be conducted this financial year. In June 2020 (Report 20-82), Council resolved to incorporate a climate impact statement into all advice it receives from this September. A regional greenhouse gas inventory has been completed, and an initial regional action plan drafted. A separate report to this meeting recommends establishing a joint Climate Action Committee with the region's territorial authorities.
- 6.2. Other work will be ready for Council decisions before the end of 2020 – most notably Horizons' climate action strategy. Engagement with iwi on the strategy has progressed steadily, with discussions generating several improvements to the draft document. We anticipate making recommendations to Council in October.
- 6.3. The strategy being developed provides a broad approach to guide effort across Horizons' activities, reflecting the status of climate change as a key priority for our organisation. We anticipate Members will wish to consider what resource is required to tackle the challenges it presents through the 2021-31 **Long-Term Plan (LTP)** process.

### 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. There is an opportunity for focussed community engagement on climate change through the September-October 2020 period. These initial conversations with our community will

allow Horizons to highlight work coming to completion (as outlined above). They also allow us to inform people about the next phase of work – in particular, the RCCRA – and serve as a form of pre-engagement for LTP deliberations.

- 7.2. One of the first steps in our RCCRA process is to canvass community values that may be impacted by climate change. We propose to do so primarily through an online tool called 'Social Pinpoint'. This tool has been used previously in the region, by Palmerston North City Council and KiwiRail. It allows for a wide cross-section of the community to express their views, and for spatial as well as qualitative information to be collected. We are aiming to have the 'Social Pinpoint' survey open from 7 September. Further engagement with iwi is planned later in 2020 and early in 2021; validation of findings with the wider community would be possible toward the middle of 2021.
- 7.3. The 'Social Pinpoint' survey falls within the period in which Council will be gathering public feedback to inform its 2021-31 LTP. Broadening the community engagement effort somewhat could make a useful contribution to deliberations.
- 7.4. As part of the community engagement programme, further proposed communications channels include the use of media, social media, radio and newspaper advertising, as well as a dedicated *Across the Region* newsletter delivered to all households within the region. We will be seeking the support of our territorial authorities; Councillors may also wish to get involved directly.
- 7.5. We anticipate that this focus on public communication about climate change in September-October will provide a foundation upon which we can continue to build over time.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1. Staff have been working with counterparts at territorial authorities to plan for the RCCRA and associated public communications.

## **9. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS**

- 9.1. We are aiming to have the 'Social Pinpoint' survey open from 7 September. It will be accompanied by media / social media content.
- 9.2. An issue of *Across the Region* is being prepared for distribution around a week later.

## **10. SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Chrissie Morrison

### **MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**

Tom Bowen

### **PRINCIPAL ADVISOR, STRATEGY & POLICY**

## **ANNEXES**

There are no attachments for this report.