

Memorandum of Understanding

Working together to adapt to climate change

Our councils recognise the urgent need to address the challenge presented by climate change. We acknowledge that action is needed now to avoid its worst effects and achieve a just transition to a resilient, sustainable future. It is a matter of great significance to the communities our councils serve.

We believe local government has an important role to play in helping communities in the region adapt to a changing climate. We see this as the most significant area of work for local government. We also have a role in helping to mitigate climate change by making our contribution to reducing the causes of climate change.

The purpose of this MoU is to enshrine a collaborative approach across the Horizons region with a focus on how we work to adapt to a changing climate

As a group of Councils working on climate change we undertake to:

- collaborate across our organisations on action to build organisational, community and regional resilience in the face of a changing climate;
- collaborate across our organisations to take action to mitigate the effects of climate change;
- Collaborate and communicate within our organisations and our communities, openly sharing how our community can transition to a sustainable future and a significantly lower contribution to the causes of climate change;
- Place priority on developing strategies to address climate change;
- communicate openly, sharing what we know about likely effects and response options;
- engage and involve our communities in decisions that affect them;
- give effect to our engagement responsibilities with iwi and hapū in our areas of responsibility and arrangements detailed in Treaty of Waitangi Settlements;
- report regularly on work going on to address climate change adaptation and mitigation across the region;
- support each other with skills and knowledge from our respective organisations;
- work collectively as a region to engage with central Government.

Our councils are signatories to the Local Government Declaration on Climate Change. The forthcoming Triennial Agreement is an opportunity to consider further cooperation in response to climate change. We will seek agreement from our respective Councils to include the content of this MoU in the next triennial agreement.

Signed on 3/9/19 by

Mayor of Ruapehu District Council

Mayor of Whanganui District Council

Mayor of Rangitikei District Council

Mayor of Manawatu District Council

Mayor of Palmerston North City Council

Mayor of Tararua District Council

Mayor of Horowhenua District Council

Chair of Horizons Regional Council