

# Climate Action Joint Committee

## Manawatū-Whanganui Region

### AGREEMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

June 2021

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Action Joint Committee is as follows:

- To receive scientific evidence and Mātauranga Māori to inform strategic leadership on how the Manawatū-Whanganui Region could achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
- To inform the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives, share information, and facilitate collaborative action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts.

#### Committee Membership

The Committee consists of the following members:

- The Mayor/Chair or designated delegate of each local authority within the Manawatū-Whanganui Region (total 8 members); and
- Up to eight non-Councillor members, to represent the views of Tangata Whenua. These appointments will be made by Horizons on the recommendation of iwi leaders, taking into consideration their skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the work of the Committee.

This Committee may invite advisers to attend relevant portions of the Committee's business.

#### Election of Co-Chairs

The committee will elect Co-Chairs by the system described in clause 25(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The governance group will have two Co-Chairs:

- A Councillor member of the group, and
- A Tangata Whenua member of the group.

Each Co-Chair shall be preside on an alternate basis. If a Co-Chair is absent from a meeting at which they are scheduled to be the presiding member, the other Co-Chair shall preside at the meeting.

#### Meetings

The Committee will sit at least twice each year.

## **Quorum**

The quorum will consist of:

- Half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an even number; or
- A majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an odd number.

Non-elected positions to which no appointment has been made are not considered to be vacancies for the purposes of forming a quorum.

Meetings may be held in person or by other means (such as audiovisual link) as the Committee agrees where permissible under New Zealand law and the standing orders of the parties.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### ***Objectives***

The operating objectives are:

- Collaborate on action to build organisational, community, and regional resilience in the face of climate change;
- Oversee a comprehensive climate change risk assessment for the region;
- Make use of available environmental, social, cultural and economic research, skills and capabilities to leverage opportunities and mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- Advise on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and prepare for climate change (adaptation) to inform the development of a regional climate action plan for adoption by the member councils, and to monitor and report annually on achievement of the plan;
- Work collectively as a region to engage with Central Government, including any actions to deliver on responsibilities under the Climate Change National Adaptation Plan;
- Promote consistent and effective leadership, advocacy, communication and engagement on climate change issues to enable individual and collaborative action;
- Champion the integration of partner strategies, programmes, and plans and encourage partnerships with iwi and others in central and local government, health, education, youth, NGOs and business; and
- Share climate change evidence and guidance to inform council work programmes and support explicit consideration of climate change impacts in decisions.

### ***Power to Act***

- To receive regular monitoring reports and presentations on the matters set out in the objectives above.

### ***Power to Recommend***

- To provide recommendations for member Councils' action and partnership in respect of climate change actions; and
- To recommend an appropriate response/course of action in respect of policy effectiveness reports and monitoring outcomes.

## **Variations to this Agreement**

Amendments to this agreement will be made by resolution of the Regional Chiefs on an as required basis.

Terms of this agreement will also be reviewed annually by Regional Chiefs.

## **Delegations**

The Committee has no general decision-making or financial delegations but from time to time may be given such delegations by Regional Chiefs for specific matters.