

Maturity index

This simple maturity index can be used by councils in order to gauge their approaches to managing climate risk and planning for adaptation. The levels range from 'starting out' to 'leading' and cover actions relating to *networks and cooperation* both internally and externally, *leadership and governance*, and specific *risk assessment and adaptation planning approaches*.

Example maturity index for climate adaptation

Level	Networks and cooperation	Leadership and governance	Risk assessment and adaptation planning
1. Starting out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No meetings with other councils or stakeholders regarding Climate Change. No working group within council. No public engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change not on the radar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no or limited understanding of infrastructure exposed to climate change. No understanding of risks to communities or to councils finances or reputation etc.
2. Making progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some ad-hoc meetings and cooperation beginning to take shape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to understand climate exposure and risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk and vulnerability assessment framework developed and commenced.
3. Developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular cooperation, working groups established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate risks identified and communicated internally and with the public. Adaptation plan developed and signed off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk and vulnerability assessments undertaken, high risks prioritised and options/pathways developed.
4. Leading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular cooperation, working groups established across disciplines and stakeholders. Linking to central government direction. Strong integration with civil defence, land use planning, asset planning etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation plan implemented, monitoring and review regularly undertaken. Climate change is a strategic priority that influences all plans and decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defend/accommodate/retreat options (could be part of a DAPP approach) are developed and implemented via appropriate channels/mechanisms. Risks reviewed and updated regularly. Community are aware and engaged in decision-making - within a robust and transparent process.

Climate change and local government

Key questions for elected members

August 2019



Key questions for elected members

Elected community leaders play a major role in determining the approach that a council and community takes to climate change adaptation. In order to make the most optimal adaptation decisions, elected members need to be provided with the right information.

The table of questions outlined below is designed to support elected members to prime and test council staff, constituents and stakeholders, to allow them to engage in the most effective long-term planning and

infrastructure investment decision-making. It provides guidance around the types of questions to ask in relation to sea level rise and inland flooding, data requirements, and cross-council integration. It also sets out some questions that elected members can ask to get a sense of how engaged the community is with the work that the council is doing to identify climate change risk, and plan accordingly (given the criticality of community engagement to the success of climate change initiatives).

Questions for elected members

Local government's role/context	Community engagement	Data/information collection and reporting processes		Planning, capacity and decision-making
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we understand local government's role in addressing climate change? Despite the uncertainty, why should we act? What has our council committed to doing to address climate change already? Have we addressed climate change in our long-term plan and/or infrastructure strategy? What are the biggest climate change related issues that our council needs to address? Is there any relevant national direction or guidance that we should be aware of? How is that direction or guidance informing the approach we are taking? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are the key stakeholders/members of the community that we need to engage with? Have we engaged with iwi/Māori? Have we allowed sufficient time to engage with communities/stakeholders? How much time has been allowed? Have the views of the community been sought on this information/issue/decision? What was the focus of the engagement that was undertaken? What are the community's views? How did we seek the views of the community on this decision/issue? Which members of the community have we not sought views from, or not heard from? How will we seek their input? Are there any members of the community with expert knowledge that we should seek views from? Should we be discussing the issue/decision with anyone at a national level? If so, who? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is responsible for data capture? Which teams/departments are using the data? Are steps being taken to avoid duplicating data being collected by other councils? Are we exploring options for taking a regional approach to data collection, if such an approach isn't being taken already? How is our data on climate, natural hazards and assets being reported and updated? What data gaps are there? What programme do we have in place to address these gaps? Is there funding in our Long Term Plan to address data gaps? If not, why? If we don't have data available, how long will it take to have data collected and then available to report on? Are various council departments working together on collecting and reporting on data, eg environmental, land use planning, civil defence, finance, asset management staff etc? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is our most exposed/at-risk infrastructure? What is the value of it and where is it located? What climate, natural hazard or asset data is this based on, and is the data current? Is there any information that we should have, which would help with decision-making, that we don't have? What are the limitations of the data or the analysis undertaken, and do we understand the uncertainty? Does our council have a robust environmental/natural hazards monitoring plan that captures relevant data on an ongoing basis, at an appropriate frequency and granularity, in order to enable planning for both gradual and event-based climate hazards? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there sufficient technical capacity within our staff to plan for climate change? What additional resourcing might we need? Do we have sufficient information on current and future exposure/risk to allow robust prioritisation of adaptation decisions and investments, based on what is most highly exposed or at risk? Are we adopting robust processes to inform climate change planning? Which 'best practice' processes are being followed? How and when are we communicating with affected communities about climate change risks and adaptation options? What does our community engagement model for climate change look like? When making decision on adaptation, are other opportunities and benefits also being considered (eg carbon reduction, water quality etc)? What additional resources or support do we need in order to do more to adapt to climate change?