

OIR: 2324/856

19 April 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **20 March 2024** requesting the following information:

- 1. Have you read the Jacobs Report Volume 1 & 2 and do you have a comprehensive understanding of the technical and scientific data modeling that underpins the CAP recommendations for which you will be voting to accept or reject, in May this year?***

While I am not a scientist with expertise in this area, I believe I have a reasonable understanding of the Jacobs Report, the subsequent Addendum update to the Jacobs Report, and the wider information that the Coastal Advisory Panel (“Panel”) have considered through their deliberations.

I confirm that as a Council officer I will not be voting or making decisions on the Panel’s recommendations, at any point.

I want to clarify that:

- Elected Councillors will receive the Panel’s recommendations in June 2024; however, I don’t expect that specific decisions will be immediately made.
- Elected Councillors will be asked to receive the Panel’s Report at the Council meeting and will be briefed by the CAP on their recommendations.
- An accompanying paper prepared by Council officers will note that Council operations will provide advice to Elected Members on next steps for each recommendation at a later date. I anticipate that this advice would be provided in tranches over a longer timeframe (for example 6, 12, and 18 months); and that it will note the elements of further engagement with the community.
- Any subsequent advice on decisions would be scheduled through Committee meetings and be publicly available.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

- Any options that required significant change or additional work, from that already outlined in the Long-term Plan 2024-34, would need to be formally consulted with the community.

2. *Have you had a presentation by the C.A.L.M group which includes scientific evidence that challenges the outcome of Jacob's report?*

In attendance at several community board meetings, I have had a verbal presentation from the C.A.L.M group about their concerns around the Jacob's report. However, I have not received a presentation which includes scientific evidence that challenges the outcome of the Jacob's report.

3. *Do you agree with Jacob's reliance on SSP/RCP*.5H+ which informs their maps for the Coastal Adaptation Areas (CAA), and that this should be used for decision making?*

Local authorities, such as the Kapiti Coast District Council, are required to follow legislative requirements set by central government. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE), and Department of Conservation (DoC), confirmed in correspondence to Council the requirements that should be followed. This is available from the following website (see heading "Kāpiti Coast District Council clarification request to Central Government"):

[Takutai Kāpiti - Documents | Have Your Say | Kāpiti Coast \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/takutai-kapiti-documents-have-your-say-kapiti-coast)

The scenarios modelled by Jacobs in their report finalised in 2022 were consistent with the national guidance available at the time.

However, recent updates to international and national guidance led to the preparation by Jacobs of an Addendum to their report, informed by feedback from the MfE and DoC. Reflective of those updates, the Addendum removed the RCP/SSP8.5+ scenario for the purposes of coastal hazard assessment work (eg, risk assessments and adaptation planning).

The Jacobs Report is available at:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/pwynpxj1/coastal-hazard-technical-assessment-technical-report-volume-2-report.pdf>

The recent Addendum to the Jacobs Report is available at:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/5oocz2tw/addendum-to-k%C4%81piti-coast-coastal-hazards-susceptibility-and-vulnerability-assessment-february-2024.pdf>

4. *Do you think the Council should adhere to IPCC recommendations which are the internationally accepted standards?*

As noted in the answer to question 2, Council is legislatively required to follow the national direction set by central government on this matter. The guidance provided by MfE, on the behalf of central government, adheres to the IPCC's recommendations.

5. Do you think the seawalls should have been included when Jacobs created the CAA maps, which increased the hazard area and informs decision making?

I would like to clarify that the inland extent of the Coastal Adaptation Areas is based on hydrological modelling of where groundwater levels are influenced by sea level rise. This distance inland, which varies along the coast, has no relationship to how seawalls are accounted for in the Jacobs Report.

I can confirm that the Coastal Adaptation Areas are not “hazard areas”. Their purpose was simply to help the Coastal Advisory Panel focus their work.

Further information about the Adaptation Areas is available in the [Takutai Kapiti FAQs](#).

6. Do you think local historical data should also be used to inform decision making?

I can confirm that Council is open to considering any information which is useful to inform decision-making. CAP recommendations, informed by the Jacob’s Report and wider data and evidence, will be one source of such information.

7. Do you think Managed Retreat is a viable option for the Kapiti area before any events have occurred?

Council operations has no work currently underway around Managed Retreat.

I anticipate that national direction will inform options that local authorities consider about Managed Retreat, in future periods. Further work will be required before the viability of managed retreat can be determined.

8. Are you happy with the level of consultation with the community for the CAP process?

The CAP was tasked to undertake engagement to understand the preference of the community on key areas set by its Terms of Reference.

I believe that the CAP has taken genuine steps to engage the community as it has progressed its work. For example, the CAP has hosted multiple in-person engagement opportunities throughout their work including:

- Community engagement pop ups at Libraries; Community markets; Coastlands Shopping Centre; and the Ōtaki Expo.
- A district-wide public information event at Paraparaumu Beach Community Centre on 23 July 2022.
- Rangatahi session in Ōtaki on 31 August 2022.
- Community engagement workshop at Ōtaki Rotary Club on 24 September 2022 – for Northern Adaptation Area.
- Community engagement workshop at Otaihanga Boating Club on 6 May 2023 – for Central Adaptation Area.

- Series of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki wananga.
- Community feedback session at Ōtaki Baptist Church on 1 July 2023 – for Northern Adaptation Area.
- Community engagement workshop at Raumati Bowling Club on 29 July 2023 – for Raumati Adaptation Area.
- Community engagement workshop at St Peter’s Village Hall on 7 November 2023 – for Paekākāriki Adaptation Area.
- Various Community Board meetings.
- Ongoing opportunity for the community to provide feedback online through Have Your Say.

To date, not including the feedback received from the engagement pop-ups that the CAP is running between 15 – 24 April 2024, over 2,500 responses have been received.

9. Are you aware that reference to the Jacobs Report and its CAAP maps are already on all Kapiti LIM's when a decision has not been made yet?

Yes, I am aware that since February 2022 all newly issued LIMs for all properties within the district (including any LIM requested [REDACTED]) have included the following wording referring to the Jacobs Report:

“Coastal Erosion and Inundation Hazards

Council holds a set of reports prepared by environmental engineering consultancy Jacobs NZ Ltd covering susceptibility and vulnerability assessments of the coastal areas of the District based on a range of sea level rise scenarios over periods of 30, 50 and 100 years. The Council intends using these reports to inform future district plan work which will consider any necessary changes to land use and subdivision controls in areas which may be affected. Various parties have raised concerns regarding the approach taken in those reports. Those concerns will be addressed during consideration of the submissions received during the plan change process. The information on coastal hazards that the Council holds is available on the following link: www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastal-science”

However, Adaptation Areas have not (and will not be) put on LIMs as they do not define Hazard Areas, nor are they relevant for district planning purposes. Their meaning and purpose are not considered relevant to LIMs. As I previously mentioned, for further information on Adaptation Areas please see the [FAQs on the Takutai Kapiti website](#).

10. Are you aware that Kapiti ratepayers have raised a substantial amount of private funding for a risk assessment report?

I understand that Coastal Ratepayers United has engaged the Waikato University to develop a Coastal Hazard risk assessment.

11. Do you think CAP are responsible for their recommendations that they make to Council form which the Councillor will be required to vote on in May 2024?

As outlined in the response to question 1 above, Elected Councillors will not be asked to make decisions, or vote, on the CAP's recommendations in June 2024.

Yes, the CAP is responsible for its recommendations. However, the CAP does not have any decision-making powers delegated by the Council. The CAP's scope, as approved by Council (Elected Members) at the 10 December 2020 Council Meeting, requested that their recommendations cover:

- *The Panel is to recommend coastal adaptation options for Council's consideration. The recommendations, including any potential cost associated with those options, should also guide development of District Plan provisions to manage coastal issues and an approach for the district dealing with coastal hazards.*
- *The Panel will have access to cultural, technical, social, and economic advice to inform their report.*
- *The Panel will actively seek wider community feedback and input as part of the process.*
- *The Panel will have wider engagement with the Kāpiti community about the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise and potential responses by Council and community.*
- *The Panel will have the ability (at the discretion of the Chair) to invite others to attend and participate in Panel activities.*
- *The Panel will need to be aware of and informed by other related processes and projects underway at the same time (which is likely to include the Waikanae ki uta ki tai project, and Kāpiti Whaitua).*

12. Do you think that you as Councillors are responsible for any hardships that may arise from this process?

While I am not a Councillor, below are my brief observations in relation to costs.

Preparing for the possible future impacts of climate change is likely to impose costs over many decades on communities throughout the district. What those costs will be, and how those costs will be distributed is a question that will require further work, and discussion with the community beyond the life of the Takutai Kāpiti process.

It is important that I reiterate that the Panel is only making recommendations to Council. The Panel has yet to finalise those recommendations, and Council has yet to receive them and, at a later date, to make decisions on them. After Council makes those decisions, more work and community engagement will be needed around next steps, which may include implementing the Panel's recommendations.

In relation to the costs of adaptation, as noted in the response to question 1 above, should Council wish to undertake any significant expenditure on any new adaptation actions not already budgeted for in the Long-term Plan, it will need to formally consult the public about how that will be paid for in future Annual or Long-Term Plan processes.

There will also be public consultation opportunities to make submissions on a future district plan change dealing with coastal hazards. This process will also occur after completion of Takutai Kāpiti.

13. Do you realise that insurance companies may increase their premiums or withdraw cover as they will be remiss not to take potential hazards into account once individually identified?

The Insurance Council of New Zealand determines insurance settings, and I can confirm that Kāpiti Coast District Council has not direct involvement in this process. An insurance company's decision on whether or not to insure a property will be based on their own policies.

I acknowledge that the potential impact to insurance premiums as a result of identifying potential risk hazards is a concern for many homeowners. I can confirm that Council will be writing to the Insurance Council of New Zealand on this matter, with a view to understanding how any perceived increase in risk (if that is confirmed as an issue) can be mitigated or reduced at a local level.

14. Should ratepayers have the opportunity to vote on pathways developed by CAP?

Yes. As outlined in response to question 7, the CAP is:

- Holding in-person engagement pop-ups between 15 – 24 April 2024 to provide an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on their draft pathways.
- Additionally, people can share their feedback online through Have Your Say until 25 April.

15. Can I also extend this OIA to include a copy of my lim report. I can give you the address?

The provision of a LIM is governed by section 44A of the LGOIMA. LIM reports are not automatically held on file by Council for all properties within the district. It can take up to 10 working days for a LIM to be prepared and sent to the requestor. If you would like to request a copy of the LIM for your property, you can submit an application form along with the application fee as outlined [here on our website](#).

As outlined in response to question 9, we have included the wording that is included on all LIMs within the district regarding the Jacobs report.

Ngā mihi,



Kris Pervan

Group Manager Strategy and Growth
Te Kaihautū Rautaki me te Tupu