OIR: 2627/134

19 October 2026

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted]

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

[redacted] You requested the following information:

1. ***What is Council's primary climate scenario or planning assumption for the Coastal Environment Plan Change?***

   I can confirm that Council has not yet chosen a 'primary' climate scenario or planning assumption for the Coastal Environment Plan Change. That will be set as part of the decision Council is asked to make to finalise a notified plan change.

   Further to this I note that:

   - Legislation and the guidance frameworks for Coastal matters propose that Councils assessing coastal hazard risk consider a range of climate change scenarios, including SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5.
   - The purpose of using a wider range initially is to 'stress test' the best and worst case, and to then use evidence to identify a preferred planning scenario.
   - This approach aims to support Council's to understand the range of potential coastal hazard risks that may affect a district over time, and to inform the development of appropriate planning responses.
   - The use of 'worse' case scenarios, such as SSP5-8.5, is consistent with current national guidance. However, it does not mean that Council has determined this as the most likely future outcome. Rather, it supports assessment and identification of a preferred scenario.

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- The legislative and guidance framework is set out in Paragraphs 4-6 of the Strategy and Policy Committee Paper on 'Consideration of Climate Change Scenarios as Part of Council's Coastal Hazard Planning'.

As noted in the paper shared with Council:

- Officers are currently working through the implications of the Coastal Expert Science Panel's report.
- For clarity, this includes a cautionary note about use of the existing 'science' available via the Jacob's and De'Longhi reports due to gaps identified in data, models, and assumptions in respective reports.
- On this basis, Council Officers are refining proposed next steps which Council will be briefed on in advance of Christmas.

2. ***Are SSP5-8.5 or RCP8.5 being used to determine the extent of coastal hazard maps or the planning controls that result from them?***

   Please refer to the Response to Question 1. Further to this, I can confirm that Council has not otherwise updated its *current* coastal hazard maps in the operative District Plan.

3. ***If so, what is the scientific and statutory justification for using an extreme-end scenario as the basis for those decisions, given the Minister's advice?***

   Please refer to the Response to Question 1.

4. ***How has Council assessed the financial and wider consequences for affected property owners and ratepayers?***

   I can confirm that assessment of financial and wider consequences of Council's approach will be included in the information provided to Council, to support decision on the notified plan change.

   This assessment will occur through the evaluation required under the Resource Management Act 1991, alongside analysis of alternative options and their implications for affected property owners, communities, ratepayers and Council.

5. ***How will Council demonstrate that the resulting planning controls are proportionate to the risk actually being managed?***

   I can confirm that assessment of the proportionate response of the proposed planning controls to the actual risk being managed will be included in the information provided to Council, to support decision on the notified plan change. Of note:

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- Council will be required to demonstrate, through the plan-making process, that any proposed planning provisions are supported by appropriate evidence and are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives of the plan change.
- This includes consideration of the nature and scale of the hazard risk being addressed, the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed controls, and the reasonably foreseeable costs and benefits of alternative approaches.

Further to this, I can confirm that any proposed provisions or changes to existing provisions will be subject to public consultation, submissions, further assessment and independent scrutiny through a statutory hearing process.

Ngā mihi,



Kris Pervan
Group Manager Strategy and Growth
Te Kaihautū Rautaki me te Tupu

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