

Revised climate change assumption for 2018-2028

Long Term Plan

TO	Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM	Scott Summerfield - Policy and Planning Manager
DATE	10 January 2018
SUBJECT	Revised climate change assumption for 2018-2028 Long Term Plan

1 Purpose of report

This report presents a revised climate change assumption based on updated guidance from the Ministry for the Environment to be adopted as part of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

2 Background

Forecasting assumptions provide the basis for Council planning its activities over the coming ten years of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028. They identify possible significant future events and trends and examine their likelihood and potential impact on the community and the Council. As assumptions deal with matters of uncertainty and complexity, the actual results will likely vary; they are however based on the best information available at the time of writing.

Council adopted the forecasting assumptions for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan on 27 June 2017. As part of that report staff flagged that updated guidance was expected from the Ministry for the Environment later in the year relating to local government planning for climate change, sea level rise and coastal hazards.

This updated Ministry for the Environment guidance was released by the Minister for Climate Change in December 2017.

3 Issue

Council is advised to adopt a revised climate change assumption for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan provided in **Attachment A** following updated guidance released by the Ministry for the Environment.

4 Discussion

The revised guidance is a marked departure from the previous 2008 version, notably in the projected level of sea-level rise it contemplates and recommends councils plan for. The assumption adopted in June 2017 by Council reflected a possible sea level rise of 0.5m by 2100. The new guidance suggests this level of sea level rise is the minimum to be planned for with any kind of short-lived asset or service. For new coastal subdivision, greenfield developments and major infrastructure councils should plan for the highest projected sea level rise, being 1.4m by 2120 (the red line below).

The following diagram and table show differing sea level rise projections based on different scenarios, and the accompanying table sets out the recommended projected sea level rise to assume according to the scale, lifespan and nature of the relevant project.

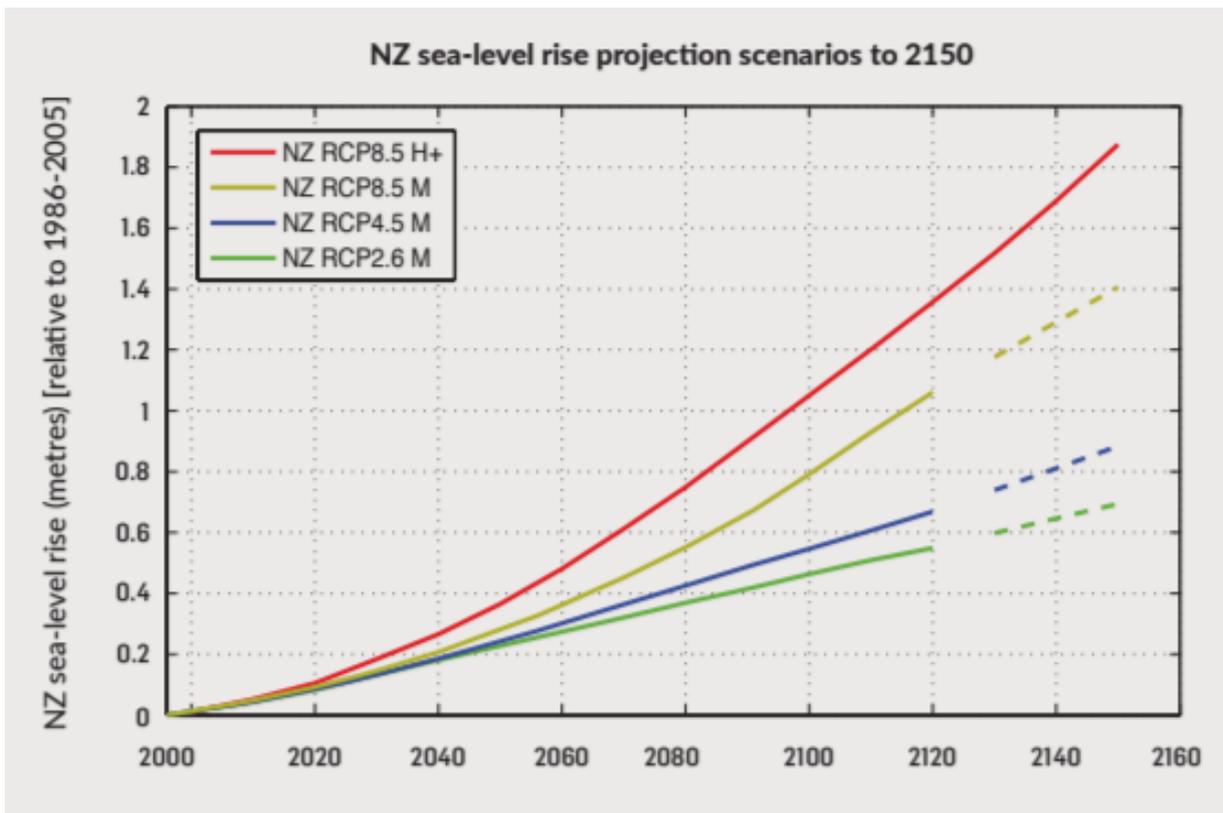


Table 2: Minimum transitional New Zealand-wide sea-level rise allowances and scenarios for use in planning instruments where a single value is required at local/district scale while in transition towards adaptive pathways planning using the New Zealand-wide sea-level rise scenarios.

Category	Description	Transitional response
A	Coastal subdivision, greenfield developments and major new infrastructure.	Avoid hazard risk by using sea-level rise over more than 100 years and the H+ scenario (the red line).
B	Changes in land use and redevelopment (intensification).	Adapt to hazards by conducting a risk assessment using the range of scenarios and using the pathways approach.
C	Land-use planning controls for existing coastal development and assets planning. Use of single values at local/district scale transitional until dynamic adaptive pathways planning is undertaken.	1.0 m sea-level rise
D	Non-habitable short-lived assets with a functional need to be at the coast, and either low-consequences or readily adaptable (including services).	0.65 m sea-level rise

All capital projects proposed in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan will be tested against this new assumption before adoption of the Long Term Plan in June 2018.

5 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Revised climate change assumption for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan' report dated 10 January 2018.
2. Approves the revising climate change forecasting assumption in **Attachment A** as the basis for development of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Revised 2018-2028 Long Term Plan climate change assumption*

Attachment A: Revised climate change assumption