

<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Climate change will affect the district over the medium to long term in line with predicted national changes such as increased temperatures, increased sea level, increased heavy rainfall and storm events</p> <p>Regional projections assume increases in the amount and frequency of rainfall could cause more river flooding in some areas, while decreases may cause drought. Land use, such as cropping and forestry may need to change to suit new weather patterns.</p> <p><del>On the basis of Ministry for the Environment guidelines, we have assumed a base value sea level rise of 0.5m relative to the 1980-1999 average.</del> Council will assume the minimum transitional New Zealand-wide sea-level rise allowances and scenarios as provided in the <i>Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance for Local Government 2017</i> [<a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/climate-change-resources/guidance-local-government">http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/climate-change-resources/guidance-local-government</a>] in its future planning and will undertake an adaptive pathway planning approach as part of the coastal hazard/climate change work programme in the Thames-Coromandel District Council Coastal Management Strategy.</p> <p>Predicted sea level rise will affect low-lying areas and estuaries, including threats to Council and community infrastructure. Sea level rise will also affect aquifers - with sea level rise resulting in saline intrusion into existing water supply bores.</p> <p>Rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of storm events are predicted to occur from projected climate change. This is expected to worsen</p>	<p>Natural hazard events (including flooding, erosion, and drought) will gradually increase over time.</p> <p>Sea level rise will adversely affect fresh groundwater.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Over the medium to long term as climate changes become more prevalent Council will need to consider impacts and implications as part of planning for infrastructural and community resilience. Severe weather events (eg high rainfall, flooding, landslips, coastal inundation, erosion) may have implications for residential housing and settlements, commercial and industrial properties, the transportation network and other infrastructure.</p> <p>The short term will see continued demand by landowners to protect against natural hazards, and in particularly flooding and coastal erosion which are exacerbated by climate change. Consequently there is a cost to establishing new natural hazard defences, social dislocation, and a loss of natural character. This natural character is what epitomizes the Coromandel - its beaches and estuaries.</p> <p>The District Plan (proposed and decisions version) takes into account any increased coastal hazards and other location specific climate hazards and extremes. The building code also plays an important role in mitigating climate change; for example, in relation to wind loadings. Council will continue to respond to any climactic changes or trends through its asset planning.</p> <p>Infrastructure planning will need to ensure that future assets are of sufficient standard and have adequate capacity to cater for predicted climate change.</p> <p>Any future infrastructure building work (including renewals) or setting up of new assets should be considered against projections of sea level rise. Relocation of assets also needs to be considered if they</p>
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	<p>coastal erosion and flooding hazards and may drive a trend for long-term erosion.<sup>[1]</sup></p>		<p>are at risk. Where aquifers are at risk of being affected by salt water intrusion, alternative water supply methods will need to be considered.</p> <p>Council will continue to use the Ministry of Environment's guidance manuals for Local Government <i>including the Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance for Local Government 2017</i>; <del>including</del> <i>along with the</i> latest climate projections and impacts and tools to enable Council to be suitably prepared. This will assist in the management and delivery of assets and services, including in the updating of asset and activity management plans.</p>
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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://waikatoregion.govt.nz/Environment/Environmental-information/Environmental-indicators/Coasts/coastal-developments-at-risk-report/>