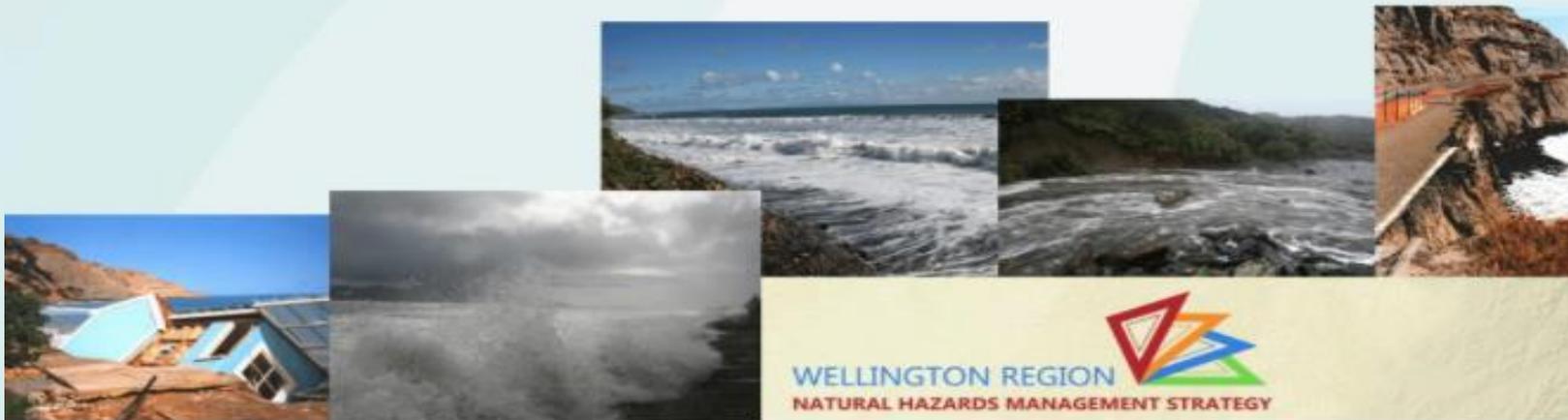


The Challenges Facing Greater Wellington and How the Region is Responding to Coastal Hazards

Cr Roger Blakeley, GWRC

RMLA Conference Coastal Management

Panel session, 11.30am Friday 21 September



Background

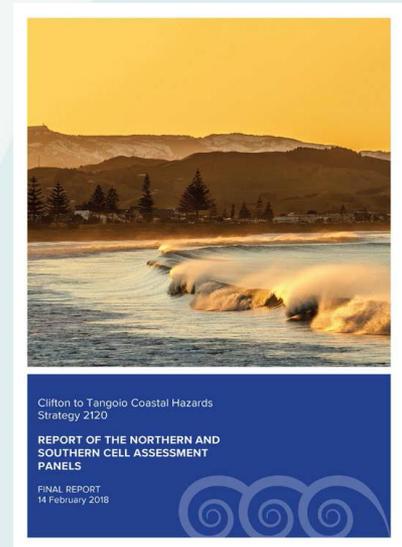
- The Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group (Working Group) was established in 2017 to oversee climate change issues across the region
- The Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy/ Steering Group identifies coastal hazards as a priority
- Both the Working Group and the steering group have been discussing a joint process to address this issue
- The Hawke's Bay joint coastal strategy methodology preferred option

Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group

In March the Working Group asked:

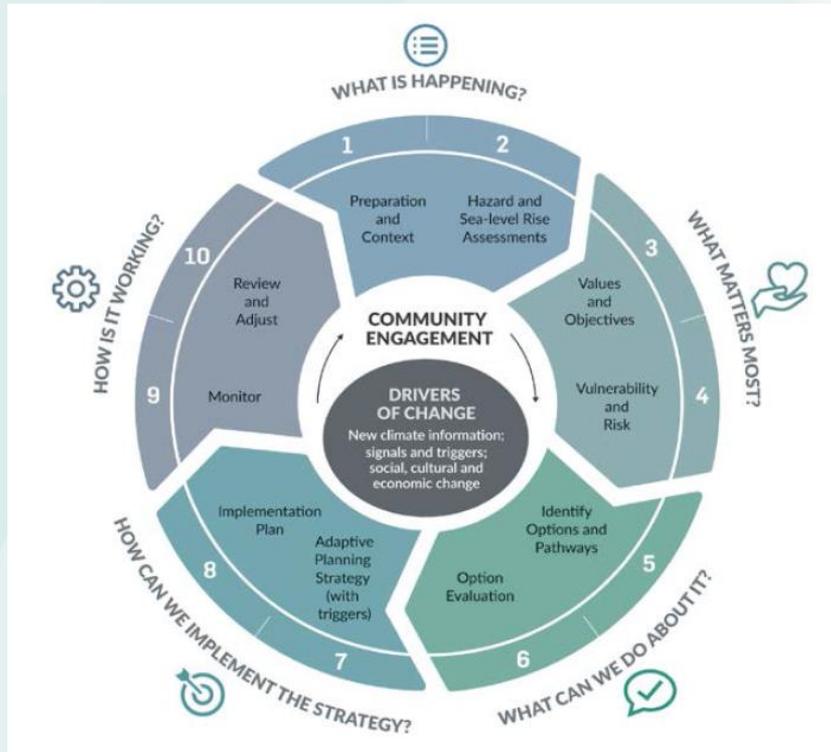
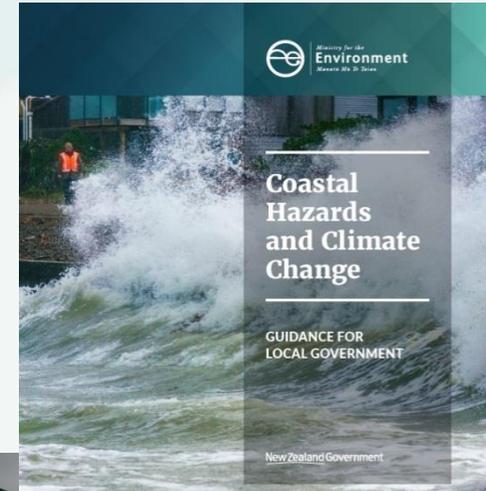
“Would there be merit in picking up the methodology used in the Hawke’s Bay Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazard Strategy 2120 and applying it to the Greater Wellington Region?”

- A key feature of the Hawke’s Bay methodology was that it was a joint approach developed between iwi, the regional council and partner territorial authorities
- Short answer is Yes, but will require ‘buy in’ from partner councils and careful set-up planning



Coastal hazards and climate change guidance

- PCE 2015 report recommended that “Councils develop whole of coast plans for dealing with sea level rise”
- MfE provides guidance for collaborative community based decision making and the development of 100 yr coastal adaptation strategies



Why this approach?

- Based on international best practice
- Successful in the Hawke's Bay creating "pathways" for each priority part of the coast
- Is flexible and can be customised to deal with issues faced by different communities in the Region
- Fits in with risk based and dynamic adaptive pathways planning
- Creates consistent approach to coastal hazard management throughout the region
- Collective resourcing creates a robust engagement process with good economy of scale

Are we ready?

- There is greater awareness of climate change and coastal hazard issues and communities are ready to engage with local government on the issue
- We have a structure with the regional hazards strategy and the Working Group is the start of a collaborative process which is grappling with climate change issues across the region
- Wellington City Council is using the MfE community-led approach for Makara Beach
- The Whaitua process and Riverlink projects have used the collaborative approach, thus we have already seen success with these processes



Coastal changes, including sea level rise and storm surges are going to impact the way we live, work and play in Makara Beach. We need to plan for this.

Makara Beach is a harsh and dynamic coastline. AND this is what we love about it. As you might know, Makara Beach was badly impacted by ex-Cyclone Gita in February this year, and we know it will happen again, sooner or later.

So, we're setting up a panel of community representatives who want to be part of a small and empowered team helping to create the 100 year strategy for Makara Beach.

Locals who live here, divers and boaties who fish and swim here, walkers who hike here - if you're interested in being involved in this panel, or want to know more about the process - we invite you to come along to the information session.

**June 28: Makara Beach Cafe: 7.30pm - 8.30pm
(a snack and drink will be provided)**

For more information phone Jacqui 021 87 67 87



Figure 13. Map showing areas around Paraparaumu Beach and Otaihanga that could be permanently inundated by the end of the century (dark red) under a sea level rise of 1.5m

Coastal erosion and attempts at protection on Kapiti Coast



Coastal erosion and protection at Days Bay, Eastbourne



Coastal Erosion and Protection at Titahi Bay and Plimmerton, Porirua City: July 2016



Where we are at...

- A **Subgroup on Community-led Coastal Adaptation** (of the climate change working group) is overseeing the process at a political level
- GWRC has given agreement and support to such an approach
- Each individual council will consider and discuss such an approach following the support of the Mayoral Forum
- Vulnerability assessment is underway to ensure we identify initially the two communities across the region most in need of this process - and establish community-led panels.