

# Waikato River Authority — Workshop —

## OVERVIEW & AGENDA

### Responding to Climate Change for the Waikato and Waipā rivers – implications for Te Ture Whaimana / Vision & Strategy

## Background to this event

New Zealand is in the process of adopting the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill 2019, which is a step change in the policy framework to develop and implement clear Climate Change policies that contribute to the commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

**This Bill sets out long-term targets for all GHG emissions and it also puts a focus on adaptation, in recognition of the fact that climate is already changing and there is a need to adapt to that. Under current proposal, New Zealand will need to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, excluding biogenic methane emissions which will need to be reduced by 10% below 2017 levels by 2030 and between 24-47% by 2050.<sup>1</sup>**

Communities around the country are starting to explore emissions reduction targets and to assess the climate risks they are facing and how they can increase their resilience. The nexus of water – carbon – land use puts the spotlight on regional actions for climate mitigation and adaptation, including the question how to finance the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society.

### Waikato Regional context

A baseline emissions inventory developed by Waikato Regional Council in 2017 highlights the challenging context for the Region as a whole:

- Waikato per capita net emissions are 50% higher than the national average (18.3 vs 12.5 t CO<sub>2</sub>e/cap).
- Agricultural activities generate 75.5% of all emissions, and methane emissions (7,450,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>e) are around 71% of total agricultural emissions and almost half of the region's total gross emissions.

- The Forestry sector is an important carbon sink as it removes about 41% of the total gross emissions for the Waikato (5,595,391 t CO<sub>2</sub>e), more than double the national average (-12.5 vs -5.3 t CO<sub>2</sub>e/cap). However, over 90% of carbon sequestration comes from exotic forest.

The region has not set emissions reduction targets, but there is interest to explore this simultaneously with climate adaptation. Synergies with freshwater, biodiversity and cultural outcomes exist but are not quantified and priorities have not been identified.

### Waikato River Authority (WRA)

Since its establishment, the Waikato River Authority (WRA) has invested \$50 million on restoration related projects such as riparian planting, wetland restoration, afforestation and other forms of land and water conservation. These projects have directly contributed to climate adaptation and mitigation, in addition to water quality and ecosystem outcomes, and social and cultural impacts.

There is interest by the WRA to pursue more purposefully the challenge of Climate Change and further leverage the Vision & Strategy for the wellbeing of future generations.

1. [www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change)

## Hui purpose and agenda

The main purpose of this hui is to increase awareness and discuss the implications of NZ's climate policy agenda for the Waikato and Waipā River Catchments, consider how Te Ture Whaimana could be changed to influence Climate Change outcomes alongside water quality, and to explore how the investments of the Authority and its partners can reduce vulnerability to Climate Change.

Specifically, the hui will explore:

1. What are the implications of the Waikato climate projections the four wellbeings of the Waikato River catchment?
2. How will delivery of the current Vision & Strategy (V&S) be affected by Climate Change, and how the V&S might be positioned to support resilience to climate?
3. What is the iwi/Māori perspective on Climate Change?
4. What role will research, science and technology play in Climate Change adaptation/mitigation?
5. What solutions and collaborations can the Authority pursue to leverage investments to accelerate climate adaptation and water quality outcomes in Waikato River Catchment?

### 9.00am **MC Rahui Papa**

Welcome and introductory comments from the Co-Chairs of the Waikato River Authority, Hon John Luxton and Roger Pikia on the possible role of the V&S in Climate Change adaptation

### 9.15am **Science and Māori knowledge for climate resilience**

- Iwi perspective on the Climate Change challenge, Tipa Mahuta, WRC
- NZ/Waikato Climate Change projections, risks and adaptation, Petra Pearce, NIWA
- Regional resilience, Dr Mike Scarsbrook WRC
- Addressing biological emissions: mitigation and co-benefits on farms, Dr Stewart Ledgard, Principal Scientist AgResearch

**Presentations and Q&A**

### 10.30am **Morning tea**

### 11.00am **Potential implications for regions and catchments**

- Iwi perspective on policy direction, Manaaki Nepia, Waikato-Tainui
- What does the Zero Carbon Bill mean for regions and catchments? Craig Salmon, Manager Climate Change Policy, Ministry for the Environment
- The challenge of climate adaptation and mitigation in the Waikato region, Blair Dickie, WRC
- Freshwater policy and Climate Change: synergy and co-benefits, Rachelle Linwood, Manager Freshwater Policy, Ministry of Primary Industries

**Presentations and Q&A**

### 12.15pm **Lunch**

### 1.00pm **Financing our climate transition**

- Finance for climate action, Charles Ehrhart, Director Sustainable Value, KPMG New Zealand
- Addressing Climate Change through investment in global markets, Paul Brownsey, CIO Pathfinder Asset Management
- Climate Change and Impact Investment, Raewyn Jones, WEL Energy Trust

**Presentations and Q&A**

### 1.30pm **Fit for the future: parallel working sessions to gather perspectives and ideas**

- Sectoral perspectives – pastoral
- Sectoral perspectives – forestry
- Science and Technology – what are the opportunities for joint water / carbon outcomes

**Working groups**

### 2.15pm **Closing session**

- Report back from the working groups
- Thoughts from the WRA & next steps

2. Science based targets refer to GHG emission targets that are aligned with the goal of maintaining global warming to well below 2°C. Furthermore, new thinking is emerging around science-based targets for nature (nitrogen, land-use, biodiversity).