



## Kia ora

**We're back, and things are starting to happen**

Lockdown and ongoing heightened COVID-19 alert levels have affected all of us – including our Takutai Kāpiti project. But we're back on deck and things are starting to happen, so we expect to be communicating with you more regularly from now on.

[Encourage others to sign up for updates](#)

We'd like to bring you up to speed by introducing our new community coastal adaptation panel and providing an update on the progress of the science report. You can read more about the panel below.

The panel will be meeting regularly, starting with a site visit at the end of the month where they'll see and hear first-hand about the coastal issues our district faces and how different stretches of our coastline are affected differently. This will be the beginning of a series of technical briefings the panel will receive, and they will start working out how they would like to engage with you as the project progresses.

[Find out what's happening](#)

Mayor Guru has also announced that Council will soon take delivery of a technical report to inform the panel's discussions. The 'coastal hazard susceptibility and vulnerability assessment' report is being written by coastal engineering consultancy Jacobs Ltd to update the science and other technical data about Kāpiti's coastline.

Read the full story below, at [Kāpiti coastal science report due soon](#).

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## Welcome to our coastal adaptation panel

We're delighted to welcome six incredible locals to our coastal adaptation panel. They bring a diverse range of skills and interests to the table, with expertise and experience in climate change research, law, community volunteering, community engagement, senior government leadership, business consultancy, science and ecology. Six iwi representatives will be announced as soon as they are appointed.

[Find out more about the panel](#)

Our panel was selected through an independent and robust recruitment process so it's taken longer than we hoped to get it up and running. We're sure you'll agree it's been worth it to be able to bring together a group of this calibre. The panel holds its first meeting next week, so we are looking forward to the project really ramping up.

Our project scope, including the make-up and role of the panel, was co-designed with Council

by a **working group (pictured below)** drawn from our iwi partners, Coastal Ratepayers United, North Ōtaki Beach Residents Group, Waikanae Estuary Care Group, and regional council staff.



The coastal adaptation panel's appointment is the next significant step forward for this project. It is tasked with working together to understand coastal hazards resulting from sea-level rise and climate change in our district.

The panel will draw on robust, transparent, accessible and evidence-based technical information to inform their decision-making. Council has also commissioned a coastal hazard susceptibility and vulnerability assessment which will be released soon to guide the panel's discussions. The panel will also take into account potential costs and legislative requirements and provide options for adapting to change.

The panel will use this information to present Council with a range of recommendations for how our community can manage and adapt to the coming changes.

Its recommendations should guide development of District Plan provisions to manage coastal issues and an approach for the district in dealing with coastal hazards.

The panel has been appointed to both represent and be informed by community views. The community will have multiple opportunities to engage before the panel makes its recommendations to Council. This will be followed by the District Plan coastal provisions process which will entail its own, additional consultation.

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## Kāpiti coastal science report due soon

Kāpiti Coast District Council will soon receive a report assessing potential future changes to its coastline to guide community discussions on the district's coastal planning, Mayor K Gurunathan says.

“The Takutai Kāpiti coastal adaptation project has now brought on board its community panel to lead the conversation on solutions for adapting to coming change. The ‘coastal hazard susceptibility and vulnerability assessment’ report will provide key evidence and technical data to inform the discussions.”

Council commissioned the report to assess potential changes to the Kāpiti coastline under various sea level rise scenarios over the next 30, 50 and 100 years to see how this could affect critical council infrastructure and community assets.

Mayor K Gurunathan says it is a Council priority to plan for the significant coastal changes that lie ahead for Kāpiti's coastal communities and infrastructure assets.

“In response to community concerns, Council has made important commitments to tackle the challenges posed by climate change and adapt to impacts on our coastline, so our district remains a great place for residents and visitors.

“Like Parliament and many communities around New Zealand, we have declared a climate emergency to underscore the need for urgent action. In July, we adopted a **climate emergency action framework** to embed thinking about climate change implications in our planning and work programmes,” Mayor Gurunathan said.

“In our **Long-term Plan** consultation, people told us they wanted Council to do more in response to climate change. Our community said it’s important Council plans for quality growth, particularly in relation to climate change. This needs to be balanced with ensuring our existing infrastructure is effectively maintained, managed, and expanded as we grow.

“This all adds up to deliver the strong message that we can no longer ignore what lies ahead. We need to understand the likely future changes to our coast in more detail, so we can make good decisions for the entire district. Our coastline belongs to all of us, and ratepayers expect us to invest sensibly when we build or maintain council infrastructure or property that belongs to us all.

“We know from the recent international report released by the IPCC that climate change action is more urgent than ever. We cannot afford to put this off any longer, but we also know the changes to our coast are not occurring evenly, so there is unlikely to be a blanket solution. The panel will look at this in detail and make recommendations to help Council develop a suitable approach for coastal management.”

Council commissioned international engineering and environmental consultancy Jacobs Ltd to undertake the assessment. It has been independently reviewed by Beca Ltd.

The **report methodology** is already on the Council’s website. A link to the methodology and final assessment will be placed on affected property LIMs. When the panel delivers its recommendations to Council these, along with potential costs and legislative requirements, should also guide development of District Plan coastal provisions which will be consulted on as usual. Once any changes become operative, the assessment report information may no longer be needed on LIMs.

For further information see the **Takutai Kāpiti project**, and Council’s response to **climate change**.