

Call for evidence: National Climate Change Risk Assessment 2026

Information pack

Submissions open: 28 November 2024 Submissions close: 31 March 2025





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For queries related to this document or this call for evidence, please email <u>haveyoursay@climatecommission.govt.nz</u>

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Section 1: About this call for evidence

Every six years, He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission ('the Commission') will produce a **national climate change risk assessment** for Aotearoa New Zealand.

This assessment looks at the climate risks the country faces and identify priorities to focus on.

We are now developing the next risk assessment, which is due to be delivered to the Minister of Climate Change by August 2026.

We are calling for evidence now to ensure we have sufficient time to carefully consider a wide range of information and insights.

We are seeking evidence to help us understand what climate risks our nation faces, what the consequences of those risks are over time, and what actions *can* and *are* being taken to address those risks.

This document has been prepared by the Commission to provide information about the risk assessment and this call for evidence.

How to submit your evidence

Please share any relevant evidence by 31 March 2025.

There is an <u>online form on the Commission's engagement website¹</u> where you can upload or share links to evidence, as well as providing details that will help us understand the context for your evidence.

Wherever possible, please submit evidence using this online form. This will help us manage and analyse the evidence we receive.

If you are unable to use this online form, you can provide your evidence by email to <u>haveyoursay@climatecommission.govt.nz</u>, or by post to:

Call for evidence: NCCRA Climate Change Commission PO Box 24448 Wellington 6142

If sending evidence by email or post, please ensure your submission includes:

- Your evidence
- Your answers to the questions in Section 3 of this document.
- A completed consent form <u>Download a copy here²</u> [Microsoft Word XML, 158.7 KB]

Please note: Email and postal submissions must include a completed consent form. Submissions without a consent form will not be accepted.

¹ https://haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz/comms-and-engagement/call-for-evidence-nccra2026/ ² https://haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz/comms-and-engagement/call-for-evidencenccra2026/user uploads/2024-11-28-nccra-protected-consent-form.docx



Why we are doing this call

A core part of the Commission's role is to independently assess the risks that Aotearoa New Zealand faces from the current and future effects of climate change.

These include impacts related to sea level rise and heavy rainfall, cyclones and extreme weather events, erosion and landslides, warmer temperatures and heatwaves, and droughts, dry spells and wildfires.

The national climate change risk assessment will identify the most significant risks to Aotearoa New Zealand's economy, society, environment, and ecology. We will assess the nature of the risks, their severity, and the need for co-ordinated actions to respond to them.

The <u>first National Climate Change Risk Assessment</u>³ was produced by the Ministry for the Environment in August 2020.

The second assessment is due to be delivered to the Minister of Climate Change no later than 3 August 2026. We are calling for evidence now to ensure we have sufficient time to carefully consider a wide range of information and insights.

What we are looking for

We are seeking credible and high-quality evidence – including mātauranga Māori – on:

- Climate risks that Aotearoa New Zealand faces: This includes evidence on particular risks now and under different future scenarios; hazard, exposure and vulnerability related to these risks; the potential consequences and flow on effects of these risks (or cascading risks); tipping points and thresholds that may elevate the severity of the risk; physical science, climate observations and projections; mātauranga Māori and traditional knowledge and observations.
- Actions to address risks: This includes evidence about what actions can and are being taken to address risks, the measurable impact of actions on risk, and shortfalls in planned adaptation.

We are particularly interested in new evidence generated since August 2020 when the first risk assessment was released.

Evidence can take a range of forms, including:

- academic journal articles
- organisational reports
- information about community-led adaptation processes
- people's lived experience observing and adapting to the changing climate.

We are not looking for views or opinions at this stage – we will consider these later when we identify and prioritise the most significant risks.

³ https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change/first-national-climate-change-risk-assessment-for-new-zealand/



Evidence submitted to other consultations

If you have already submitted evidence as part of consultation run by government agencies that you think we should know about, please direct us to those submissions.

Please note the key information or material that relates to our call for evidence, and tag the evidence with our prompts so we can manage and analyse it accurately.

Forthcoming evidence

We are also interested in hearing about future evidence that may become available after the call for evidence closes.

What we will do with this evidence

We will use the evidence we receive to inform the national climate change risk assessment, and add it to the evidence base the Commission draws on for its wider work.

We will also ask your permission to publish your submission on our engagement website (in part or in full).

You can find more details about how we collect and manage your information in the Privacy section of our online form or offline consent form.

How to stay updated

If you would like to receive updates about this work as it progresses, please sign up to our mailing list for the national climate change risk assessment: <<u>https://climatecommission.govt.nz/nccra-updates</u>>



Section 2: Background information

This section sets out general background information, and information about our approach to this risk assessment. It provides some context for terms we have used in the questions set out in Section 3.

How are climate change risks assessed?

Different communities, sectors and ecosystems will experience different impacts from climate change.

Assessing the risks they face involves looking at three elements: the types of **hazards**, and their **exposure** and **vulnerability** to those hazards.

- **Climate hazards** can be gradual changes (such as sea level rise, warming temperatures and changing seasonal weather patterns) or extreme events (such as cyclones, droughts and wildfires). While extreme events are not necessarily caused by climate change, it makes them more frequent and more severe.
- **Exposure** is the presence of people or things of value in areas at risk from a hazard. For example, buildings and infrastructure located in a low-lying area on a floodplain are exposed to flooding.
- **Vulnerability** relates to factors that influence how much a hazard may impact a community or things of value. This includes factors that affect the degree of impact (sensitivity) and the ability to cope and change (adaptive capacity). For example, in a flood, a community with an older population is likely to be more vulnerable than one with more working age people.

What are climate hazards?

Climate hazards are **potential physical events or trends** that may impact people and our environment, damage property and infrastructure, affect people's livelihoods and the services we rely on, and cause social and economic disruption.

Hazards can be in the form of extreme events (e.g. cyclones, heatwaves, droughts, wildfires) or gradual climate changes (e.g. sea level rise, warming temperatures, changing seasonal weather patterns).

Extreme events occur irrespective of climate change. However, climate change causes them to be more severe and occur more frequently. For example, researchers estimate the extreme rainfall experienced during Cyclone Gabrielle was up to 20–30% more intense and up to four times more likely because of climate change.

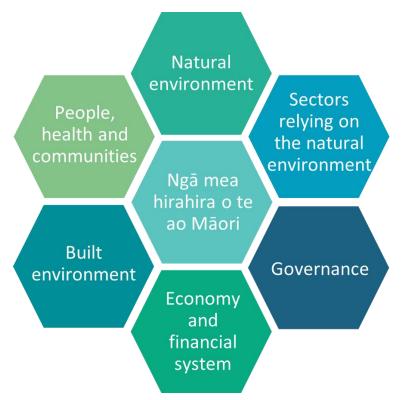
The seven domains of risk we are considering

The changing climate impacts many aspects of New Zealander's lives and livelihoods and the environment.

For example, the changing trends and more extreme weather affect people's homes and communities; marae and urupā; infrastructure like roads and water services; businesses and supply chains; people who make a living off the land; and the natural environment.



In carrying out the risk assessment, we are grouping risks into seven domains (interconnected topics):



- **Natural environment** coastal, freshwater, marine and land-based biodiversity and environments.
- **People, health and communities** people's identity, health, sense of community and social norms, and cultural values and traditions.
- Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori (things of importance in te ao Māori) Māori interests and investments, health and wellbeing, culture and practices.
- Sectors relying on the natural environment primary sectors, tourism and energy generation.
- Built environment buildings, urban spaces and infrastructure.
- Economy and financial system production, distribution, trade and consumption of goods and services, economic costs, and finance and insurance markets.
- **Governance** governing architecture and processes of interaction and decision-making that exist in and between governments, economic and social institutions.

We acknowledge these seven domains are somewhat arbitrary, as risks can span multiple topics and may be interconnected – that is, risks from one domain will flow through to risks in other domains.



Section 3: Questions

This section sets out the questions we have used in our online form.

You do not need to answer every question – if any of them are not relevant to you, please feel free to skip them.

Wherever possible, please use the online form to submit your responses. If you are unable to use the form and will be sending evidence by email or post, please provide your answers to these questions in your submission or email/letter. Doing this will help us to analyse and categorise your evidence.

If your evidence relates only to climate risks **or** actions, please only complete the relevant set of questions. If it relates to both risks and actions, please complete both sets of questions.

If you are providing multiple pieces of evidence that all relate to the same locations and topics, you only need to answer these questions once. If you are providing multiple pieces of evidence that relate to different things, please answer the relevant questions for each piece of evidence.

Questions about climate risks

Questi	Question		
1.01	Upload a file	If you would like to upload your evidence as a file, please do so on our <u>engagement</u> <u>website</u> ⁴ . Please make sure your file is under 25 MB. If you are uploading several files that all relate to the same thing, please upload them as a single ZIP file. If you are uploading several files that relate to different things, you will need to make multiple submissions.	
1.02	Share a link	If your evidence is already published online, please share the URL where it can be found. However, if a login or subscription is required to access the evidence, please also upload or send the file.	
1.03	Short description of this evidence	Please provide a short description (one or two sentences) to help us understand what your evidence relates to.	
1.04	Topics this evidence relates to	In carrying out this risk assessment, we are considering risks and actions to address risks across seven interconnected domains. For more information about these domains, see Section 2 of this document. Please select up to three domains your evidence most relates to. Natural environment People, health and communities Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori (things of importance in te ao Māori) Sectors relying on the natural environment Built environment Economy and financial system Governance	

⁴ https://haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz/comms-and-engagement/call-for-evidence-nccra2026



1.05	Climate hazards this evidence relates to	Risks may flow from one or more climate hazards. Please select up to three hazards this evidence relates to. Sea level rise and coastal flooding River and surface flooding Shoreline change and coastal erosion Storms, and extreme rain and wind Changing rain and wind patterns Heatwaves, cold snaps and rising average temperatures Drought and dry spells Wildfires and changing fire weather Ocean warming and acidification Landslides Other (please specify below) If you selected 'other', please specify:
1.06	Cross-cutting themes this	You may have evidence that is of a cross-cutting nature, and relates to many domains and many hazards.
	evidence	
	relates to	If so, please select the main cross-cutting themes this evidence relates to.
		If you do not know, please leave this blank.
		\square The physical science basis, including climate observations and projections for
		Aotearoa New Zealand Mātauranga Māori and traditional knowledge and observations
		Cascading risks, where impacts interact and domino to have broader
		consequences
		 Tipping points and critical thresholds Other (please specify)
		If you selected 'other', please specify:
1.07	Date of	Please indicate the date that this evidence was released, generated or collected. If
	evidence	you don't know the exact date, please provide an estimate.
		Day (dd) – Month (mm) – Year (yyyy)
1.08	Type of information	Please select the main type of evidence this evidence is.
	internation	Peer reviewed journal article
		Research reports
		Modelling / data / tools Rhote (video / audio / podsact)
		 Photo / video / audio / podcast Mātauranga Māori
		Lived experience, observations, and localised insights
		□ Climate-related risk assessments and disclosures
		□ Other (please specify)
		If you selected 'other', please specify:



1.09	Location(s) this evidence relates to	Does your evidence relate to Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole, or specific location(s)?
	relates to	National
		□ Specific location(s)
		If your evidence relates to specific locations, please provide more details below. You do not need to answer any or all of the following location-based questions – please only select the options that you think best describe your data.
1.10	Specific	If your evidence relates to specific region(s), please select those that apply:
	location:	
	Regions	Northland Te Tai Tokerau
		🗌 Auckland Tāmaki-makau-rau
		Waikato
		Bay of Plenty Te Moana-a-Toi
		🗌 Gisborne Te Tairāwhiti
		🗌 Hawke's Bay Te Matau-a-Māui
		Taranaki
		Manawatū-Whanganui
		□ Wellington Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara
		Tasman Te Tai-o-Aorere
		Nelson Whakatū
		Marlborough Te Tauihu-o-te-waka
		West Coast Te Tai Poutini
		Canterbury Waitaha
		Otago Ōtākou
		Southland Murihiku
1.11	Specific	If your evidence relates to specific territories or districts, please select those that
	location:	apply:
	Territories /	
	districts	Far North
		🗌 Whangārei
		🗌 Kaipara
		Auckland
		Thames-Coromandel
		🗆 Hauraki
		🗆 Waikato
		🗌 Matamata-Piako
		Hamilton
		🗆 Waipa
		□ Ōtorohanga
		South Waikato
		Waitomo
		🗆 Taupō
		Western Bay of Plenty
		Tauranga
		🗆 Rotorua



	🗌 Whakatāne
	🗌 Kawerau
	🗆 Ōpōtiki
	□ Hastings
	Central Hawke's Bay
	□ New Plymouth
	South Taranaki
	Ruapehu
	Palmerston North
	Horowhenua
	□ Kāpiti Coast
	Porirua
	Upper Hutt
	Masterton
	Carterton
	🗌 South Wairarapa
	Tasman
	Nelson
	Marlborough
	Buller
	Grey
	Westland
	🗌 Kaikōura
	🗆 Hurunui
	🗌 Waimakariri
	Christchurch
	🗆 Selwyn
	🗆 Timaru
	Mackenzie
	🗆 Waimate
	Chatham Islands
	🗆 Waitaki
	Central Otago
	Queenstown–Lakes
	🗆 Dunedin
	🗆 Clutha
	Southland



		Gore Invercargill
1.1	2 Specific location: Draw or describe location	 If your evidence relates to specific locations that do not align with the categories above, or if you would like to provide more detail, you can do so either: By drawing location(s) on an interactive map in our online form By describing location(s) using text

Questions about actions to address climate risks

Question		
2.01	Upload a file	If you would like to upload your evidence as a file, please do so on our <u>engagement</u> <u>website</u> ⁵ . Please make sure your file is under 25 MB. If you are uploading several files that all relate to the same thing, please upload them as a single ZIP file. If you are uploading several files that relate to different
		things, you will need to make multiple submissions.
2.02	Share a link	If your evidence is already published online, please share the URL where it can be found. However, if a login or subscription is required to access the evidence, please also upload or send the file.
2.03	Short description of this evidence	Please provide a short description (one or two sentences) to help us understand what your evidence relates to.
2.04	Topics this evidence relates to	In carrying out this risk assessment, we are considering risks and actions to address risks across seven interconnected domains. For more information about these domains, see Section 2 of this document. Please select up to three domains your evidence most relates to:
		 Natural environment People, health and communities Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori (things of importance in te ao Māori) Sectors relying on the natural environment Built environment Economy and financial system Governance
2.05	Type of action	 Please select the type(s) of action this evidence relates to. Risk assessment – including at iwi/hapū, sectoral, local, or regional scale Sectoral climate scenarios and action plans Government policy, processes, rules and standards Regional and district long-term planning Emergency management Funding mechanisms / grant schemes Community adaptation planning process Asset planning and management

⁵ https://haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz/comms-and-engagement/call-for-evidence-nccra2026/



		Environmental management
		Data, information, guidance and tools
		Engagement and outreach with communities and mana whenua
		□ Specific project or action to reduce climate risk
		Other (please specify)
		If you selected 'other', please specify:
2.06	Date of	Please indicate the date that this evidence was released, generated or collected. If
2.00	evidence	you don't know the exact date, please provide an estimate.
		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
		Day (dd) – Month (mm) – Year (yyyy)
2.07	Type of	Please select the main type of evidence this evidence is.
	information	
		Peer reviewed journal article
		Research reports
		Modelling / data / tools
		🗆 Photo / video / audio / podcast
		🗆 Mātauranga Māori
		□ Lived experience, observations, and localised insights
		Climate-related risk assessments and disclosures
		Other (please specify)
		If you selected 'other', please specify:
2.08	Location(s) this	Does your evidence relate to Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole, or specific
	evidence	location(s)?
	relates to	National
		Specific location(s)
		in specific location(s)
		If your evidence relates to specific locations, please provide more details below. You
		do not need to answer any or all of the following location-based questions – please
		only select the options that you think best describe your data.
2.09	Specific	If your evidence relates to specific region(s), please select those that apply:
	location:	
	Regions	🗆 Northland Te Tai Tokerau
		🗆 Auckland Tāmaki-makau-rau
		🗆 Waikato
		Bay of Plenty Te Moana-a-Toi
		🗆 Gisborne Te Tairāwhiti
		🗆 Hawke's Bay Te Matau-a-Māui
		🗆 Taranaki
		🗆 Manawatū-Whanganui
		Wellington Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara
		🗆 Tasman Te Tai-o-Aorere
		🗆 Nelson Whakatū
		Marlborough Te Tauihu-o-te-waka
		🗆 West Coast Te Tai Poutini
		🗆 Canterbury Waitaha
		🗆 Otago Ōtākou



		🗆 Southland Murihiku
2.10	Specific	If your evidence relates to specific territories or districts, please select those that
	location:	apply:
	Territories	
	/ districts	🗆 Far North
		🗆 Whangārei
		🗆 Kaipara
		Auckland
		Thames-Coromandel
		🗆 Hauraki
		□ Waikato
		🗆 Matamata-Piako
		Hamilton
		□ Ōtorohanga
		South Waikato
		Taupō
		U Western Bay of Plenty
		□ Tauranga
		□ Whakatāne
		□ Kawerau
		Gisborne
		Central Hawke's Bay
		New Plymouth
		Stratford
		South Taranaki
		Whanganui Dengitikai
		□ Rangitikei □ Manawatū
		□ Palmerston North
		☐ Horowhenua
		Upper Hutt
		Lower Hutt
		□ South Wairarapa



		Grey
		Westland
		🗆 Kaikōura
		🗆 Hurunui
		🗆 Waimakariri
		Christchurch
		🗆 Selwyn
		□ Ashburton
		🗆 Timaru
		Mackenzie
		🗆 Waimate
		Chatham Islands
		🗆 Waitaki
		Central Otago
		Queenstown–Lakes
		Dunedin
		🗆 Clutha
		Southland
		□ Gore
		Invercargill
2.11	Specific	If your evidence relates to specific locations that do not align with the categories
	location:	above, or if you would like to provide more detail, you can do so either:
	Draw or describe	 By drawing location(s) on an interactive map in <u>our online form</u> Bu describing location(c) using text
	location	 By describing location(s) using text
	location	

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to submit your evidence. We appreciate your participation. The evidence you share will help to make our work stronger.

If you would like to receive updates as this work progresses, please sign up to our mailing list for this project: <<u>https://climatecommission.govt.nz/nccra-updates</u>>

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