

Pae Tawhiti Pae Tata

This summary provides an English and te reo Māori overview of the findings from *Chapter 5: Pae Tawhiti Pae Tata* in our second adaptation progress report. The chapter assesses the effectiveness and implementation of current national adaptation planning from an iwi/Māori perspective.

The summary includes the overall findings and recommendations from the report.

Snapshot of our findings

Iwi/Māori are driving significant climate adaptation work, but a lack of consistent government support and processes aligned to supporting the Crown–Māori relationship limit their ability to lead effectively and contribute to national adaptation efforts.

- Iwi/Māori are leading climate adaptation initiatives across Aotearoa New Zealand, with many hapū, marae, and pakihi Māori driving action that strengthens resilience, protects taonga, and supports communities during climate events.
- The first national adaptation plan does not adequately address key challenges facing iwi/Māori, and stronger government action is needed to remove barriers that slow or limit iwi/Māori-led adaptation.
- There is opportunity for central government to accelerate adaptation action by providing a sufficient and sustainable approach to funding, and greater certainty and clarity around roles and responsibilities at the national and local level. These are critical for effectively supporting the significant adaptation efforts that are ongoing amongst iwi/Māori.
- It is important to address potential impacts of relying on relationships that depend too heavily on local political will, rather than shared decision-making and consistent processes that are aligned with Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi. It is currently unclear what formal roles and responsibilities iwi/Māori have in adaptation planning at national and local levels.
- In wānanga and other kōrero we have heard that useful tohu for monitoring adaptation for iwi/Māori would be: funding allocation for Māori-led climate initiatives; iwi/Māori adaptation plan coverage; and iwi/Māori representation in governance structures. We will continue to build out tohu in future reports.

Focus of the chapter

Chapter 5: Pae Tawhiti Pae Tata identifies key adaptation challenges for iwi/Māori, and assesses how well national adaptation planning addresses those challenges. This chapter also continues the focus on He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission's (the Commission) monitoring through tohu/indicators.

This is the second iteration of Pae Tawhiti Pae Tata, the ao Māori-specific chapter that sits within our adaptation progress assessment reports. This chapter considers the effectiveness, implementation and adequacy of the first national adaptation plan in relation to iwi/Māori and the Crown–Māori relationship.

The name of this chapter comes from the following whakataukī: Ko te pae tawhiti whāia kia tata, ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina (draw distant horizons closer and maintain that which is already close). This whakataukī speaks to the short- and long-term nature of adaptation in Aotearoa New Zealand, a theme that came through the first adaptation wānanga in 2023, which has shaped the approach to and whakaaro within this chapter.

Some of the analysis in this chapter draws on engagement the Commission has carried out over the last two years through wānanga and case studies. This engagement has provided a rich, shared evidence base, which has also informed other Commission work including our recent monitoring report on emissions reduction. A glossary of te reo Māori terms is provided in the report.

Overall findings of the 2026 report

The national response to climate change is still patchy and the need is intensifying

- Our 2026 assessment of progress has found adaptation is not keeping pace with escalating climate risks in Aotearoa New Zealand, and in some cases is slipping further behind.
- This reflects our 2024 finding, that the work underway is not enough to make the country resilient to current pressures, let alone into future decades. The progress made since 2024 has been uneven and serious gaps remain.
- This matters, critically. As climate impacts intensify, weaknesses in the country's response increase in consequence – as harm and costs experienced by families, communities, hapū and iwi, and workers and businesses across the motu.
- Aotearoa New Zealand is – too often – paying to react and recover after damage occurs, rather than preparing ahead of time. This is becoming increasingly unsustainable as climate risks and impacts continue to grow.

Accelerating action depends on completing the foundations for adaptation

- The next national adaptation plan can help accelerate the action needed, but the foundations for effective adaptation need to be completed first.
- Because of the increased urgency, our recommendations in this report are more specific than our 2024 advice. We are direct about what needs to happen and who is responsible for getting it done.
- The recommendations are focused on six essentials for immediate action: funding and financing; legal requirements for local adaptation planning; aligned legislation; national climate risk information; iwi/Māori-led adaptation; and a stronger national adaptation plan in 2028.

Our recommendations at a glance

Our recommendations for action

Recommendation 1:

We recommend that central government establishes funding and financing pathways to enable adaptation at a local level.

Recommendation 2:

We recommend that central government puts in place legislative requirements for local adaptation planning, along with appropriate tools and guidance, to ensure that adaptation planning is a priority for local government.

Recommendation 3:

We recommend that central government embeds climate change into key pieces of legislation that govern the natural and built environment and ensures they are aligned (not at cross purposes).

Recommendation 4:

We recommend that central government coordinates, governs and invests in building and maintaining national climate risk information and guidance to assist informed decision-making at all levels.

Recommendation 5:

We recommend that central government establishes funding and financing mechanisms and models for iwi/Māori, so they can continue adaptation efforts in line with their tikanga and whakaarotau.¹

Recommendation 6:

We recommend that central government ensures the next national adaptation plan:

- has goals and objectives that will drive action at the pace and scale needed
- prioritises action based on the consequence and urgency of climate-related risks
- has investment and workforce strategies to support effective implementation of the plan.

¹ Whakaarotau – priorities. See Te reo Māori glossary for *Chapter 5: Pae Tawhiti Pae Tata* in the full report.

About adaptation progress reporting

This is our second monitoring report on the progress Aotearoa New Zealand is making on adapting to climate change.

The task of He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission (the Commission) under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (the Act) is to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the national adaptation plan. This monitoring supports timely review and adjustment to encourage effective responses to the climate challenge.

Chapter 1: Introduction in the report sets out how we have approached this monitoring task in 2026, in the context of existing and projected climate change impacts in Aotearoa New Zealand and the adaptation response that requires.

Our assessment and advice are focused on the national level. They aim to inform decision-making by the Government and support work on the country's second national adaptation plan, which will address the most significant risks from the second national climate change risk assessment. The next national adaptation plan is due in 2028, and is already under development.

This report presents the findings of our monitoring, and sets out our advice.

- *Part A* contains our advice and recommendations for action, including in the next plan. It draws on our assessment of the effectiveness of current adaptation planning (the progress assessment), and the priority areas for action identified in the second national risk assessment.
- *Part B* summarises the findings of our updated evaluation of national adaptation planning. It also provides some snapshots of action on the ground, as illustrations of adaptation underway at the local level.

A companion report – National insights relevant for adaptation planning – presents metrics on exposure and vulnerability to climate-related hazards alongside our assessment of adaptation progress.

Want to read more?

The dedicated chapter within the full report, *Pae Tawhiti Pae Tata*, provides more detail of our assessment of the effectiveness and implementation of current national adaptation planning from an iwi/Māori perspective. Other matters of importance to iwi/Māori are covered in other chapters, including our advice and recommendations for action, progress towards achieving current objectives, the quality of the plan and implementation and delivery.

The full report – along with the report of quantitative insights, a free-standing executive summary and a one-page summary of our findings – is on the Commission's website:

climatecommission.govt.nz/NAPPA-2026