

**HE POU A RANGI – CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
RESPONSE TO THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL’S WAI 3325 CLIMATE CHANGE PRIORITY INQUIRY**

21 MAY 2026



HE POU A RANGI – CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION’S RESPONSES TO THE TRIBUNAL’S QUESTIONS AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Waitangi Tribunal has invited He Pou a Rangi – the Climate Change Commission to assist the Tribunal in its Wai 3325 Climate Change Priority Inquiry by addressing the following questions:
 - 1.1 Can the Commission describe its functions, role and operations as it relates to the Wai 3325 Tribunal’s Statement of Issues?
 - 1.2 How does the Commission fulfil its obligations under sections 5M and 5N of the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (the **CCRA**), including in relation to the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori and impacts on iwi and Māori?
 - 1.3 How does the Commission approach consultation with Māori in line with sections 5M and 5N of the CCRA?
2. The Tribunal has also invited He Pou a Rangi to provide any other information we might consider useful for the Tribunal’s inquiry.
3. He Pou a Rangi has prepared this document to assist the Tribunal by answering the questions above.
4. At the risk of over-summarising the detail of the attached document, He Pou a Rangi would draw the Tribunal’s attention to the following:
 - 4.1 He Pou a Rangi was established in 2019. He Pou a Rangi is independent of the Crown. Our core statutory purposes are:¹
 - (a) to provide independent, expert advice to the Government on mitigating climate change (including through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases) and adapting to the effects of climate change; and

¹ CCRA, s 5B(a) and (b).

- (b) to monitor and review the Government’s progress towards its emissions reduction and adaptation goals.
- 4.2 He Pou a Rangi has various statutory functions and duties that include providing various forms of advice to the Minister for Climate Change.²
- 4.3 In performing our functions and duties, He Pou a Rangi must consider, where relevant, the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori and specific effects on iwi and Māori, amongst various other things.³ He Pou a Rangi must consider whether and how we provide for public participation and proactively engage with persons He Pou a Rangi considers relevant to its functions, duties, and powers.⁴ These statutory obligations necessarily require engagement with iwi/Māori. We take these obligations seriously.
- 4.4 This document addresses how He Pou a Rangi undertakes these functions in some detail.
- 4.5 A good example of our work is our recently released 2026 National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand (the **NCCRA26**). This was released in April 2026. The report identifies risks across seven domains: the natural environment, the built environment, people/health/communities, ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori, economy/finance, sectors relying on the natural environment and governance. Impacts on iwi and Māori are incorporated into each domain and particularly addressed in the domain: ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori.
- 4.6 Our findings under the domain of ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori were supported by a separate report commissioned by He Pou a Rangi, itself entitled *Ngā Mea Hirahira o te Ao Māori*.⁵ We provide more information about that report and its findings in this document. We commend that report to the

² CCRA, ss 5J-5L.

³ CCRA, ss 5M(f).

⁴ CCRA, ss 5N.

⁵ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/NCCRA/finals/2026-NCCRA-Climate-change-risks-to-Maori.pdf>

Tribunal. Importantly, our advice to the Minister in the recent NCCRA26 adopted the findings of *Ngā Mea Hirahira o te Ao Māori*. The following specific risks were identified:⁶

- (a) damage to Māori infrastructure;
- (b) loss of access to taonga species;
- (c) economic losses for Māori in primary industries
- (d) disruption to tikanga and hapū/iwi identity;
- (e) loss of indigenous knowledge systems
- (f) legal exclusion and governance failures for Māori;
- (g) increased Māori health vulnerabilities.

4.7 Our advice to the Minister was:⁷

Combined risks to te ao Māori were identified as one of the most significant risks

All seven of the assessed risks to Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori were rated at major severity in 2050. Four were assessed as insufficient (the lowest score) for readiness, while three were found to have significant gaps. We combined these risks as one of the most significant because they are similar in scope, they can be addressed by similar actions and combining them would support action. The combined risks satisfied the first two principles of our review for significance: they present high potential for adverse consequences by 2050 and, because of the very low base of current readiness, significant lead time is required to prepare for them. For more, see the separate write-up of this significant risk in the Priorities for action report.

4.8 The Tribunal may also be particularly interested in our advice concerning the risk to the Crown’s ability to uphold Te Tiriti in adaptation governance and decision-making from unclear roles, mandate and resourcing, exacerbated by

⁶ He Pou a Rangi 2026 *National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand* at 221-222.

⁷ He Pou a Rangi 2026 *National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand* at 222.

the increasing frequency and severity of climate hazards.⁸ A summary of our advice on that risk is:⁹

The Crown's ability to uphold Te Tiriti/The Treaty in relation to adaptation governance is at risk. While some local initiatives demonstrate what Te Tiriti/The Treaty-consistent adaptation can achieve, progress remains fragmented and dependent on individual leadership. The Commission has a legislated role to consider the Crown–Māori relationship but does not evaluate or assess potential or alleged breaches of Te Tiriti/the Treaty.

It is unclear if or how the National Adaptation Framework and associated reforms will clarify the role of iwi/Māori or the Crown–Māori relationship in adaptation, or set out enduring resourcing or mechanisms for Māori-defined adaptation initiatives. Without these structural foundations, the governance system is likely to remain reactive and inequitable, reproducing and potentially exacerbating the vulnerabilities it seeks to reduce.

Taking action now to strengthen the foundations of the Māori–Crown relationship, and the Crown's abilities to uphold its Te Tiriti/The Treaty responsibilities, will help ensure that as climate change intensifies and governance systems generally come under increasing and competing pressures, appropriate systems and frameworks are in place to support Te Tiriti/The Treaty to be upheld.

HE POU A RANGI'S FUNCTIONS, ROLE AND OPERATIONS

Establishment

5. He Pou a Rangi was formed alongside work to set Aotearoa New Zealand's climate targets in November 2019. At the time, there were persistent calls from government (local and central), NGOs, business and other advocates for an independent government organisation focused on climate action. Those groups also called for a comprehensive, evidence-based plan for Aotearoa New Zealand to follow towards our climate goals. The result was the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019. That Act amended the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (the **CCRA**), established He Pou a Rangi and provided for setting emissions targets and budgets. The Zero Carbon Amendment Act passed with multi-party support.

⁸ He Pou a Rangi 2026 *National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand* at pp 320-325.

⁹ He Pou a Rangi 2026 *National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand* at p 324.

6. Before the Zero Carbon Amendment Act was enacted, our predecessor was the Interim Climate Change Committee.¹⁰ Formed on 1 May 2018, the Committee began work on how Aotearoa New Zealand transitions to a net zero emissions economy by 2050 and its work was our foundation. Lisa Tumahai (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Waewae) was the Deputy Chair of the Committee and is now the Deputy Chair of He Pou a Rangi. You can find out more about the Committee on its website, now held in the National Library's web archive.¹¹

Purpose and functions

7. The CCRA sets out the purposes of He Pou a Rangi, which are:¹²
 - 7.1 to provide independent, expert advice to the Government on mitigating climate change (including through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases) and adapting to the effects of climate change; and
 - 7.2 to monitor and review the Government's progress towards its emissions reduction and adaptation goals.
8. The CCRA prescribes a repeating cycle of advice, monitoring and assessment reports that we develop and deliver through time to support the CCRA's purpose – we refer to these as our statutory reports. The CCRA sets the scope and timeframes for He Pou a Rangi's statutory reports.¹³ We **attach** as **Appendix C** a table that aligns our functions set out in s 5J of the CCRA with their associated timeframes. The table provides a more detailed explanation of how often our work is delivered and what it is. The Minister of Climate Change may also make a specific request to He Pou a Rangi to report on matters related to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and adapting to the effects of climate change.¹⁴

¹⁰ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/interim-climate-change-committee-announced>.

¹¹ <https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/webarchive/20190818201028/https://www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/>.

¹² CCRA, s 5B.

¹³ CCRA, pts 1A-1C.

¹⁴ CCRA, s 5K.

9. The CCRA requires He Pou a Rangi to draw from the best available evidence and analysis and think broadly about the impacts of climate change and the implications for Aotearoa New Zealand over time.¹⁵ He Pou a Rangi must consider where relevant, among other things, the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori (the Māori world), and specific effects on iwi and Māori.¹⁶
10. Our work helps decision makers understand what is possible for Aotearoa New Zealand, the implications of different choices, including how costs, benefits and risks may fall differently across communities, regions, households and sectors, and where there are clear benefits to acting in a timely and coordinated way.

Role in the climate change system

11. As an independent Crown entity under the Crown Entities Act 2004, we are responsible for using the information available to us to provide credible, evidence-based advice and communicating this to the government and the wider public.
12. As an advisory body, we do not run or implement government policies or programmes. The government's role is to make decisions, informed by the recommendations we make, and to set the direction of policy. The government has choices on what decisions it makes. Our advice helps the government understand the different choices and how they add up.
13. He Pou a Rangi's role is also to monitor and report on the progress Aotearoa New Zealand is making towards meeting the 2050 target, emissions budgets, and emissions reduction plans. We also monitor the progress the country is making to adapt to a changing climate. This means monitoring implementation of the national adaptation plan as well as assessing its overall effectiveness.
14. **Appendix D attaches** figures from our Te Whakatau Matua Statement of Intent 2023-2027 that illustrate our role Aotearoa New Zealand's climate policy and action system and our strategic framework.

¹⁵ See, for example, CCRA, s 5M.

¹⁶ CCRA, s 5M(f).

Resources

15. To give the Tribunal an understanding of the size of our organisation, He Pou a Rangi receives funding from the Crown each financial year. Our appropriation for the 2025/26 financial year is \$15.5 million.¹⁷ The budget for 2025/26 reflects the 7.5% decrease to the appropriation as confirmed through the Budget 2024 process. We currently have 65 to 70 staff with the staff complement varying across project delivery cycles.

Consultation

16. The CCRA specifies that we need to engage, and may undertake other types of consultation, in performing our functions and duties and exercising our powers. There are two main parts to this. The first is that we “must proactively engage with persons we consider relevant to our work”.¹⁸ Our engagement spans a broad range of people across our communities, including iwi/Māori, business and industry representatives, non-profit organisations, local government, scientists, youth, and community leaders. Our proactive engagement is led by our Chair and Chief Executive, but all Commissioners, as well as relevant staff, are also actively involved, especially in their areas of expertise.
17. The second part requires us to consider whether public participation is necessary.¹⁹ Where we consider it is, we invite public submissions on discussion papers or draft reports that we have made available.
18. Where we are required to consult, or where we believe we have the resources to do it in a way that will strengthen our advice, we use all channels available to us to highlight in advance when our consultation process will be open, how long it will last and how people can be involved.

¹⁷ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Corporate-publications/SPE/SPE-2025-26/CCC-Statement-of-Performance-Expectations-2025-26.pdf> at 22.

¹⁸ CCRA, s 5N(1)(a)

¹⁹ CCRA, s 5N(1)(b) and 2(a).

19. We work to make our consultation process and questions as simple as possible for people to engage with, and we run our consultation in an open and publicly available way on our dedicated consultation site: haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz. At the end of each consultation process, we publish a short summary of what we asked, where in our work you can find what people told us, and the final resulting advice on our website.
20. For some work, we may run a call for evidence. This is where we ask people to share with us any evidence they may have to help as we build our evidence base to inform our analysis and draft advice. We specifically ask for high-quality, credible evidence, across the broad spectrum of knowledge including ‘Western’ science and evidence from mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori.
21. Our advice needs to be both ambitious and achievable. To navigate this, we place engagement at the core of our approach, building our understanding of the needs, expectations and constraints faced by those affected by climate change and climate policy. This helps ensure our advice is grounded in real-world conditions and capable of being acted on.
22. Engagement with iwi/Māori, communities, local government, businesses and others provides insights into what is already underway, what is feasible now, and where barriers or capability gaps exist. This informs our assessment of what is achievable in practice and where there are opportunities to unlock further action.
23. Drawing on these insights, we focus on identifying actions that are robust across a range of future scenarios, clarifying what needs to happen now versus what can reasonably be deferred, and making explicit the trade-offs that decision-makers face across interconnected systems.

*The Board*²⁰

24. He Pou a Rangi's Board comprises the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Commissioners and the Chief Executive. The CCRA specifies a certain process for how Commissioners are appointed, which reinforces our independence. The Minister of Climate Change recommends appointments to the Governor-General. The Minister may only recommend people who have been nominated by a nominating committee. The Minister must also have regard to various matters, which require the Minister to have regard to (amongst other things) the need for He Pou a Rangi to have technical and professional skills, experience and expertise in, and an understanding of innovative approaches relevant to te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and te ao Māori (including tikanga Māori, te reo Māori, mātauranga Māori, and Māori economic activity).²¹
25. Current Board members are:
- 25.1 our Chairperson Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy;
 - 25.2 our Deputy Chairperson Lisa Tumahai (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Waewae);²²
 - 25.3 Commissioner Dr Tanira Kingi (Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Rangitihī, Te Arawa);²³
 - 25.4 Commissioner Dr Judy Lawrence;
 - 25.5 Commissioner Devon McLean;
 - 25.6 Commissioner Professor Steven Ratuva;
 - 25.7 Commissioner Dr Andy Reisinger; and

²⁰ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/who-we-are/our-people/our-people-2>.

²¹ CCRA, ss 5D-5H

²² Lisa Tumahai is the Kaiwhakahaere (Chairperson) of the Tribal Parliament of Ngāi Tahu. She has served in the Tribal Parliament for over 20 years and has held the role of Kaiwhakahaere for the last seven. She is also an active and important leader for her hapū, Ngāti Waewae, and a commercial director for her Papatipu Rūnanga (Marae entity) on Te Tai Poutini West Coast.

²³ Dr Tanira Kingi is an agricultural economist with over 30 years' experience in New Zealand's primary industries as a research scientist. He holds several government and Ministerial advisory group appointments on Māori land tenure and environmental policy reforms and is affiliated to Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Rangitihī, Te Arawa.

25.8 Commissioner Felicity Underhill.

26. He Pou a Rangi's Chief Executive is Jo Hendy.

Pou Herenga advisory committee and Manahautū Māori (Chief Advisor Māori)

27. He Pou a Rangi has taken steps to enable it to consider effectively, as it is required to, the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori and specific effects on iwi and Māori and undertake appropriate consultation.

28. He Pou a Rangi has an advisory board called Pou Herenga.²⁴ Pou Herenga is an advisory committee under the Crown Entities Act 2024 that the Board established in 2023. Pou Herenga provides expertise and support to the Board to give effect to the legislative requirement that Commissioners have knowledge in Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, and te ao Māori (as noted above).

29. A 2025 review of the Terms of Reference for Pou Herenga, undertaken by the Board, recommended that Pou Herenga members are independent of the Board and staff. This has been implemented. The Terms of Reference expand on the purpose of Pou Herenga:²⁵

The purpose of the Pou Herenga is to support and augment the Board's leadership, through the provision of independent Te Ao Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi expertise and strategic advice relating specifically to the rautaki Māori (Māori work programme), and other kaupapa Māori matters generally. In particular, the Pou Herenga will provide advice to assist the Commission to fulfil its obligations under the following provisions of the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (the Act):

- section 5M(f) of the Act, which requires the Commission, in performing its functions and duties and exercising its powers under the Act, to consider matters such as cultural circumstances, the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori and specific effects on Māori; and
- section 5N of the Act, which requires the Commission, in performing its functions and duties and exercising its powers under the Act, to consult, including proactive engagement with relevant persons

²⁴ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/who-we-are/our-people/pou-herenga>

²⁵ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Pou-Herenga/PDF-Pou-Herenga-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>.

By sharing key insights and perspectives from Te Ao Māori (including tikanga, te reo, mātauranga, and the Māori Economy), the Pou Herenga will support the Commission's Board and Chief Executive to give effect to the Māori specific aspects of the Commission's work programme. Through consideration of current deliverables, the Pou Herenga will also advise the Board and the Chief Executive on how different decisions or approaches, including approaches to engagement, may impact on outcomes for Iwi/Māori.

30. The current membership of Pou Herenga is (with a recruitment process currently underway):
- 30.1 Tui Shortland (Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Raukawa te au ki te Tonga, Kāi Tahu, Te Arawa) – Tumuaki;
 - 30.2 Hayden Swann (Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga a Māhaki, Ngāitai) – Tumuaki Tuarua;
 - 30.3 Tiana Jakicevich (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Pahauwera, Hineuru Rongomaiwahine, Ngāi Tūhoe);
 - 30.4 Miriana Stephens (Ngāti Rārua, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui) – whose term ends in May 2026, but who is able apply again; and
 - 30.5 Sheridan Waitai (Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Rehia, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi, Tainui) – whose term ends in May 2026, but who is able apply again.
31. In addition, He Pou a Rangi has established the position of Manahautū Māori (Chief Advisor Māori) as part of the Executive Leadership Team. He Pou a Rangi has employed Tipene Wilson (Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Tura Te Ngākau) in this role. Tipene's role is to embed ao Māori capability across the organisation.

Quality Management System – quality expectations

32. The Commission has a comprehensive organisation wide approach to quality management outlined in the Quality Management System (the **QMS**). This system is owned by He Pou a Rangi's Chief Science Advisor. The QMS sets out quality expectations:

- 32.1 Our work is guided by and adheres to all required legislation.
- 32.2 We treat people with respect.
- 32.3 We weave reciprocal relationships with iwi/Māori that are mana-enhancing and enduring.
- 32.4 We value and use the expertise of Commissioners and staff.
- 32.5 We assist the Crown to meet its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi by accurately presenting the views and perspectives of iwi/Māori in our mahi.
- 32.6 We understand and reflect the broader context our work sits within.
- 32.7 Our outputs are robust and well evidenced.
- 32.8 Our data is openly available.
- 32.9 Our outputs are produced with people in mind.
- 32.10 Our outputs or approach are externally tested or reviewed.
- 32.11 Our work follows approved methodologies, policies and processes, while ensuring compliance with QMS procedures.

Internal Cultural Capability Framework

- 33. He Pou a Rangi's approach is informed by our internal Cultural Capability Framework, which is centred on te ao Māori, mātauranga Māori, and meaningful engagement with iwi, hapū, and whānau as being essential to climate response.
- 34. Waharoa is an internal gateway to our pātaka rauemi designed to build our internal capability across te ao Māori. It holds cultural capability information that we have gathered since 2021, including:
 - 34.1 Targeted discussions and lecture series (42 Lectures so far). Topics include: Mātauranga Māori, United Nations Appearances (UNDRIP), COP, UN General assembly, Māori Forestry, Mana Wahine Leadership (Nation Building),

Marae Resilience, the Writing of the CCRA, Science Challenges, Māori Economy, Mental Health, Urban Māori, Human Rights, Palaeontology, Wai 262, Data Sovereignty, Māori Economy, Science/Mātauranga interface (Mauri Ometer, Mauri compass), a range of Mātauranga Māori lectures (on Hau, Water cycle etc.), local area knowledge and history.

- 34.2 There are sections dedicated to: Te Reo learning, Mātauranga, Crown Māori relations, Māori world view, World view knowledge, Specific effects on Iwi, Māori engagement, Ngā take o te wā, Hauora, Climate Change iwi case studies, Tikanga and Kawa, Māori economy, Waiata, and Free online resources.
- 34.3 The pātaka also houses: Te reo lectures, courses, booklets and programmes, science articles, literature reviews, documents (including Mātauranga booklets from educational and private institutions), and our own cultural capability booklet.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Position Statement and Action Plan

35. He Pou a Rangi’s first Statement of Intent (July 2020 – June 2024) included “Build” as one of the three strategic pillars (along with “Perform” and “Connect”).²⁶ This reflected that He Pou a Rangi was a new organisation with a significant role. We knew the journey to a mature organisation would take time. This cascaded to the work we did in those years to build our ao Māori capability. In our second statement of Intent (2023 – 2027), we recognised that “as we mature from a start-up organisation, we need to embed and refine processes and policies that are necessary for our effective and efficient operation”.²⁷
36. Aligned with maturing as an organisation, we commissioned a review in 2024 to assess our internal functionality in relation to Te Tiriti. While acknowledging progress in this area, the review recommended that there would be greater clarity if He Pou a Rangi had a Tiriti o Waitangi position statement and action plan.

²⁶ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/CCC-SOI-July-2020-June-2024.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/who-we-are/corporate-publications/statement-of-intent-2/statement-of-intent-2023-2027> at 19.

37. In 2025, we engaged the organisation that had led the independent review to undertake a literature review and work with Pou Herenga members, all staff, and the Board to develop a plan.
38. In April 2026, the Board approved: Te Tiriti o Waitangi Position Statement and Action Plan. We attach this as **Appendix E**. Regular reports on progress against the plan will be given to Pou Herenga and the Board. The plan is underpinned by the guiding values of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, and kotahitanga. Thirteen specific actions are distributed across five Te Tiriti principles of tino rangatiratanga, partnership, participation, protection and equity. Expected outcomes from the proposed actions are noted. The plan has internal and external facing actions.

HOW THE COMMISSION FULFILS ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER SECTIONS 5M AND 5N OF THE CCRA

39. In addition to the internal structures and strategies referred to above, we primarily fulfil our obligations in relation to Māori under ss 5M(f) and 5N of the CCRA through the development of the statutory advice and reports we release. The following sections of this document set out how we consult Māori in the development of our advice, what we have heard from Māori, and how our advice reflects what we have heard.

THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION WITH MĀORI

40. With iwi/Māori having multiple competing priorities, we have actively approached our engagement with a long-term relationship building perspective.
41. Our approach to consultation with Māori is across pertinent work streams and case studies. We are in the process of transitioning from a previous strategy²⁸ to a new organisation wide iwi/Māori communications and engagement strategy. He Pou a Rangi primarily relies on Project Initiation Documents to plan iwi/Māori engagement on a case-by-case basis. The process and results of the engagement are a matter of public record in the release of our reports and case studies.

²⁸ Wai 3325, #3.2.325(b) at 9.

42. Following changes to the fiscal operating environment, we began holding wānanga to help support multiple streams of our work programme. The wānanga approach, alongside case studies (see, for example, the explanation of Maui Tech below) and targeted engagement, has been the basis for us meeting our obligations to Māori under ss 5M(f) and 5N and continues to be our approach for many of our statutory deliverables. Examples of wānanga and targeted engagement are described in the appendices to this document.

Maui Tech

43. Our Maui Tech project is a multimedia initiative that captures rohe-based insights on climate change from across Aotearoa New Zealand, highlighting te ao Māori perspectives alongside examples of mātauranga Māori, technology, and innovation for mitigation and adaptation.²⁹
44. To support He Pou a Rangi's duty to consider the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori, and specific effects on iwi/Māori, between 2021 to 2023 we partnered with iwi and Māori communities to develop 13 case studies across diverse rohe, including Te Taitokerau, Te Tai Hauāuru, Te Tairāwhiti, Te Tau Ihu, and Waiariki/Te Arawa Waka.³⁰ These case studies reflect the voices of whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori organisations across sectors such as agriculture, forestry, geothermal, and coastal environments, showcasing the varied impacts of climate change. They provide valuable, locally grounded mātauranga and allow iwi/Māori to share their experiences and priorities for a low-emissions future, informing He Pou a Rangi's advice. This knowledge is part of the body of evidence we used to test and finalise our 2023 advice on the direction of policy for the second emissions reduction plan.³¹

²⁹ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/get-involved/maui-tech>.

³⁰ The case studies can be accessed here: <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/get-involved/maui-tech>

³¹ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/advice-for-preparation-of-emissions-reduction-plans/2023-advice-to-inform-the-strategic-direction-of-the-governments-second-emissions-reduction-plan-april-2023>

Iwi/Māori perceptions research

45. In 2025, He Pou a Rangi conducted its third independently facilitated perceptions survey. As part of this work, we included a survey to understand iwi/Māori experiences of engaging with He Pou a Rangi, to better understand how to target the iwi/Māori communications and engagement strategy, and to provide a benchmark against which we could test effectiveness of the strategy.
46. This was the first time that the perceptions research included a specific iwi/Māori component. To explain the purpose of the work, two online introduction hui were run prior to the survey being conducted, and a further two online hui were held to present the survey findings. Though the sample size was modest at 24, respondents were from across the country, with multiple whakapapa and professional connections.
47. The survey provided us with insights into what engagement and communications activity was seen as most valuable to respondents. This reinforced the approach He Pou a Rangi has taken with iwi/Māori engagement, with respondents highlighting the value of kanohi ki te kanohi engagement with He Pou a Rangi decision-makers (both in person, and online) and the importance of us building trust through communicating frequently and focussing on building and sustaining meaningful relationships.
48. The survey had a number of “free text” opportunities and feedback was qualitative.

THE COMMISSION’S ADVICE AND REPORTS

2026 National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand

49. In May 2026, He Pou a Rangi released the 2026 National Climate Change Risk Assessment, including:³²

³² <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/adaptation/national-climate-change-risk-assessments/2026-national-climate-change-risk-assessment>; and CCRA, ss 5J(g) and 5ZQ.

- 49.1 a full assessment report;³³
- 49.2 a priorities for action report;³⁴
- 49.3 a summary of method report;³⁵ and
- 49.4 a companion report: *Ngā mea te hirahira o te ao Māori: Climate change risks to the Māori domain*.³⁶

Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori: Climate change risks to the Māori domain

- 50. *Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori* is a separate piece of analysis undertaken by the Bioeconomy Science Institute Manaaki Whenua – Land Research Group and Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. They completed the independent Māori climate risk assessment in 2021 and were contracted to carry out the analysis for *Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori*.
- 51. The name *Ngā mea hirahira o te ao Māori* translates to “things of importance in the Māori world”.
- 52. This independent assessment involved reviewing recent evidence since 2021 and aligning findings with the He Pou a Rangi’s risk assessment framework. The report provides an independent kaupapa Māori assessment of seven national climate-related risks that specifically affect iwi/Māori.
- 53. It is published in full alongside He Pou a Rangi’s final risk assessment and can be read as a standalone Māori climate risk assessment. He Pou a Rangi accepts its findings. Further information about how the findings are reflected in the conclusions of He Pou a Rangi’s final risk assessment can be found in **Appendix F**.

³³ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/NCCRA/finals/2026-NCCRA-Full-assessment.pdf>

³⁴ https://haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz/comms-and-engagement/cc2f075f/user_uploads/2026-nccra-priorities-for-action---lo-res.pdf

³⁵ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/NCCRA/finals/2026-NCCRA-Summary-of-method.pdf>

³⁶ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/NCCRA/finals/2026-NCCRA-Climate-change-risks-to-Maori.pdf>

2026 NZ ETS unit limits and price control settings for 2027–2031

54. In April 2026, we released our “Advice on NZ ETS unit limits and price control settings for 2027–2031”.³⁷
55. The scope of this annual advice is narrow and highly technical – the CCRA sets out the scope of the recommendations we must provide, which are about technical updates to NZ ETS settings in regulations to keep it aligned with current budgets and targets.³⁸ The advice does not make recommendations on broader issues such as reform of the NZ ETS, the place of the NZ ETS in the government’s climate strategy or Aotearoa New Zealand’s level of ambition.
56. This narrow scope informs our approach to s 5M(f) factors for this work. For example, we focus on identifying people who are interested in engaging with us at a relatively technical level on NZ ETS issues.
57. Further information about this ETS advice can be found in **Appendix G**.

2025 Monitoring report: Emissions reduction

58. In July 2025, we released “Monitoring report: Emissions reduction, Assessing progress towards meeting Aotearoa New Zealand’s emissions budgets and the 2050 target”.³⁹
59. Chapter 5 of the report is “Whakahekenga Rehukino”, which assesses the progress, risks and further opportunities in emissions reduction actions centred on iwi/Māori.⁴⁰ It also looks at the impacts of Government policy and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on iwi/Māori and on the Crown Māori relationship. We have also published

³⁷ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/nz-ets/our-advice-on-the-nz-ets/nz-ets-2027-2031>

³⁸ CCRA, ss 5J(fa) and 5ZOA.

³⁹ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring/emissions-reduction-monitoring/erm-2025>; and CCRA, ss 5J(f), 5ZI-5ZL.

⁴⁰ At 60-67.

a summary of Whakahekenga Rehukino, and further information can be found in **Appendix H**.⁴¹

2024 National Adaptation Plan Progress Assessment

60. In August 2024, we released “Progress report: National Adaptation Plan, Assessing progress on the implementation and effectiveness of the Government’s first national adaptation plan” (**NAPPA24**).⁴²
61. NAPPA24 focuses on assessing the implementation and effectiveness of the government’s national adaptation plan. The first national adaptation plan was released in 2022 and is the focus of this assessment.
62. There is a specific chapter in NAPPA24 (Chapter 4: Te pae tawhiti, te pae tata) focused on how the first national adaptation plan considers iwi/Māori and te ao Māori and identifies key challenges to adaptation progress for iwi/Māori.
63. Further information about how the findings are reflected in the conclusions of NAPPA24 can be found in **Appendix I**.

2024 Advice on the fourth emissions budget (2036–2040) and review of the 2050 emissions target, international shipping and aviation

64. In November 2024, we released:
 - 64.1 “Advice on the fourth emissions budget (2036-2040)”.⁴³ This report provides our advice to the government on setting Aotearoa New Zealand’s fourth emissions budget (covering the period 2036–2040). As part of this work, we also advise whether revisions are needed to the first, second and third

⁴¹ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Monitoring-and-reporting/ERM-2025/Monitoring-report-Emissions-Reduction-whakahekenga-rehukino-summary.pdf> (English); and

<https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Monitoring-and-reporting/ERM-2025/Monitoring-report-Emissions-reduction-whakahekenga-rehukino-te-reo.pdf> (te reo Māori).

⁴² https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/public/Monitoring-and-reporting/NAPPA-2024/CCC-NAPPA_bookmarked2.pdf; and CCRA, ss 5J(h) and 5ZU.

⁴³ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/preparing-advice-on-emissions-budgets/advice-on-the-fourth-emissions-budget>; and CCRA, ss 5J(b) and (c), 5ZA and 5ZE.

emissions budgets, and on the rules that apply to emissions budgets. It follows consultation on draft advice in April–May 2024.

64.2 “Review of the 2050 emissions target including whether emissions from international shipping and aviation should be included”.⁴⁴ This included translation into te reo Māori of the Chair’s message, Chief Executive’s message, and information about He Pou a Rangi.

65. Further information on this advice can be found in **Appendix J**.

⁴⁴ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/review-of-the-2050-emissions-target/2024-review-of-the-2050-emissions-target/final-report>; and CCRA, ss 5J(a) and 5R-5T.

