

KĀINGA STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

A plan to improve housing outcomes for Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau

Issues paper: July 2019

Auckland's Climate Emergency

Auckland Council Environment and Community Committee declaration of a climate emergency

On 11 June Auckland Council's Environment and Community committee unanimously passed a [resolution](#) declaring a climate emergency:

Auckland Council declares a climate emergency and commits to:

- *continue to robustly and visibly incorporate climate change considerations, in practical terms, into council work programmes and decisions*
- *continue to provide strong local government leadership in the face of climate change, including working with local and central government partners to ensure a collaborative response*
- *continue to advocate strongly for greater central government leadership and action on climate change*
- *continue to increase the visibility of our climate change work*
- *continue to lead by example in monitoring and reducing council's greenhouse gas emissions*

In affirming that the science illustrating climate change, offering insights into the pathway forward, and impacts of various degrees of temperature rise is now irrefutable, the resolution also affirmed the following statement in regard to the [IPCC's Special Report](#) from October 2018:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report in October 2018 stated that we have twelve years to turn greenhouse gas emissions around to limit global warming to the Paris Agreement target of 1.5-degrees, or face an uncertain future. This requires 'rapid and far-reaching transitions...

Those watching the international movement to address climate change gain traction over the last 12 months will recognise that these statements draw on and incorporate the leading global positioning toward a 1.5 degree change, not 2 degree change, future.

Climate emergency - intersections with the kaupapa of kāinga, and the Kāinga strategic action plan

Housing policy and approaches will not achieve a safer climate future, but they can certainly provide support to reduce emissions which is now absolutely recognised as the key driver of climate change and therefore the key factor we need to address.

Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities provides an entirely new context and driver for intensification of housing and the coordinated and presumable climate sensitive delivery of urban development.

Three years ago the Auckland Unitary Plan was another new context and driver for intensification, but the deletion of inclusionary zoning provisions at the last hurdle meant that it did not become a driver for sharing the cost of mixed tenure intensification across the public and private segments of the market.

Inclusionary zoning in Auckland would mean that developments fitting a certain profile – for example, developments of over 10 units in strategic positions to access work and transport – would be required to provide an element of affordable supply. In real terms this either comes out of the pipeline as land supply for ‘at-cost/not for profit’ community housing provider developers, or as a set of smaller units within the development which promotes affordability, and doubles down on the level of intensification enabled by the Unitary Plan.

Auckland needs intensification. It enables more people to reside near work or education, or near transport links to get there. This on aggregate is among council’s strongest levers to actively and directly promote a reduction in transport emissions, especially when the bus fleet is electrified.

Additional development is also promoted by quick and efficient public sector systems, such as consenting. Property development is the arena that invented the phrase ‘time is money’, so faster consenting and engagement systems promote not just bigger profit, but more appetite for and capacity to manage the risk.

The Independent Māori Statutory Board supported the council in declaring the climate emergency, and with others the Board is keen to see it have real impact and be the cause of some real change.

A Unitary Plan change should be one of the ways council puts action behind the declaration.

Climate emergency – implementing a responsible response to the climate emergency

Along with the housing context discussion above, giving meaning to Auckland Council’s declaration of a climate emergency and ensuring that it has an impact on Auckland’s climate outcomes requires that it has an impact on council’s financial and service planning.

For example, despite the upcoming election, planning is or will shortly be underway for council’s Annual Plan (2019/2020), the single year financial planning tool that directs year on year expenditure within the context of the 10 year Long-term Plan (LTP). The LTP itself will be returned to again next year on its usual 3-year cycle.

So what could or should the next annual plan and LTPs look like if led by the need to respond to Auckland’s climate emergency?

From another angle, the IPCC has made it clear that human behaviour change on the grandest global scale is required to limit likely climate change to 1.5 degrees this century. All of council’s expenditure and services have a link to the way we behave as Aucklanders - from roading and car parking (and the extensive range of incentives and disincentives already in action and possible), to water, to public transport, housing, food production and consumption in the context of land use, to weekend sporting activities on recreational facilities, and the embedded primacy of transport options.

So what will shift within council, or what will council shift, to make behaviour change real for and in Auckland?