

Climate impact assessment? A guide for report writers

Why is there a climate change section in the Council report check list?

Hutt City Council, and New Zealand as a whole, has set a “Zero by 2050” carbon target, and impacts from climate change are expected to affect Lower Hutt significantly in the future. Hence, climate change is a strategic priority for Hutt City Council.

The report check-list requires you to make a climate change impact assessment, to ensure HCC staff consider, and elected members are fully informed about, any greenhouse gas emission and/or climate change impacts associated with a particular initiative, project or programme of work.

What do you need to consider?

To compile a climate impact statement, you will need to describe

- whether the decision/project will increase/reduce greenhouse gas emissions (in relation to both Council’s own emissions and city-wide emissions), and/or
- whether the decision/project will be affected by a changing climate (eg sea level rise, increased flooding risks, etc).
- what opportunities there are to reduce emissions or build resilience, and if any of those opportunities are *not* to be realised, providing appropriate justification

If climate change is a principal factor in your report or decision requested, then detailed analysis should also be included in the body of the paper.

What projects or decisions may require more detailed analysis?

More detailed analysis, including relevant statements in the body of the paper, should be carried out if your item involves a significant decision, such as new capital project or change in operating practice.

The below decision-tree provides a guide on when a climate impact assessment could be required. If unsure, please consult with the Manager Sustainability & Resilience.

