



Notice is hereby given of the

# Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy Hearing deliberations

**Thursday, 20 June 2024 at 11.00 am**

**Southland District Council Chamber, Level 2, 20 Don Street, Invercargill**

24/CCS/34

## Hearing Panel

Cr Phil Morrison, Environment Southland (Chair)

Te Ao Mārama Inc, Dean Whaanga

Cr Keith Hovell, Gore District Council

Cr Tom Campbell, Invercargill City Council

Cr Matt Wilson, Southland District Council

(or their alternative representatives)

---



# Agenda

---

- 1 **Welcome | Haere mai**
- 2 **Apologies | Ngā pa pouri**
- 3 **Declarations of interest**
- 4 **Reports**
  - 4.1 Consideration of proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy - draft decisions and amendments



Rachael Miller  
**General Manager**  
**Strategy Science & Engagement**

RECOMMENDATIONS IN COUNCIL REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

# Consideration of proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy draft decisions and amendments



**Objective ID:** A1098481

**Report by:** Anke Habgood, Senior Strategy Advisor

**Approved by:** Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Science and Engagement

## Purpose

To conclude deliberations by the Regional Climate Change Working Group hearing panel (hearing panel) about changes to be made to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy, prior to it being recommended to each partner agency for consideration and adoption.

To provide the hearing panel with advice from staff to assist in their decision-making.

## Summary

The proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy attracted 60 submissions. At a meeting of the hearing panel 16 May 2024, 14 submitters were heard. At a meeting of the of the hearing panel 20 May 2024, one additional submitter was heard and then deliberations were undertaken reflecting on all submissions that had been received.

## Recommendation

**It is recommended that the Regional Climate Change Working Group hearing panel resolve to:**

- 1. continue consideration of the submissions received to the *proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy*;**
- 2. approve / not approve the draft decisions prepared in relation to the submissions;**
- 3. instruct staff to prepare the *final Regional Climate Change Strategy* in a way that reflects the decisions that the Regional Climate Change Working Group hearing panel has made at meetings held 20 May and 20 June 2024;**
- 4. advise submitters in writing of the Regional Climate Change Working Group hearing panel's decisions, as soon as practical after the conclusion of deliberations on the *proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy*;**
- 5. note that the *final Regional Climate Change Strategy* will be presented for adoption by each agency by processes to be determined by each individual agency during July/August;**

## Background

Following a Regional Climate Change Hui in July 2022 Environment Southland and Te Ao Mārama Inc. brought together a staff-level regional climate change working group, which has met regularly since October 2022. A governance-level regional climate change working group (RCCWG) was established in February 2023.

The RCCWG met seven times throughout 2023 to develop a proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy. The governance-level group is not a formal joint committee and does not have formal delegations. It is supported by the staff-level working group.

The proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy was endorsed by all Councils for consultation, late January/early February 2024. Environment Southland has co-ordinated public feedback on the proposed strategy on behalf of the agencies involved, via a concurrent process alongside the

Environment Southland 2024-2034 Long-term Plan consultation. Public consultation on the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy was open from 29 February 2024 to 8 May 2024.

The proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy attracted 60 submissions (including 12 late submissions). A summary of submissions, as well as full copies of submissions was made publicly available and circulated to the Regional Climate Change Working Group 10 May 2024; with late submissions being circulated 15 May 2024.

The hearing panel held a meeting 16 May 2024 and at this meeting, 15 submitters took the opportunity to be heard (10 in person and 5 online).

## Deliberations

The hearing panel began deliberations at their meeting 20 May 2024, reflecting on all of the submissions they had received. During this meeting the hearing panel assessed the following themes:

1. Southland community mandate for progressing a collaborative climate change strategy
  - Support for Councils identifying climate change as a priority
  - Support for science underpinning action
  - Mistrust of the science informing Council on what climate change is i.e. 'that it is outdated', 'that it is incorrect', 'the science is flawed'
  - That the climate has been changing for millions of years and will continue to do so
  - Scepticism of climate change i.e. 'that it is a hoax', 'that it is a joke'
  - That climate change action in Southland will not make any difference to climate change globally
  - Opposition to modelling\*
  - Support for modelling\*
  - Support for the collaborative approach being taken
2. Recommendations in respect of the strategy principles
  - That consideration of equity is required, as the impacts of climate change on communities will not be experienced equally
3. Recommendations in respect of the strategy aspirations
  - Support (with some recommending an earlier goal) for Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050\*
  - Opposition to Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050\*
  - Recommendations for refinements of the aspirations
  - Opposition to the aspirations to generate regional climate change action
4. Framework for Action
  - That the strategy is not enough on its own and action needs to be taken
  - Concern about the cost to ratepayers of regional climate change action
5. Other themes / recommendations
  - Precautionary approach
  - Ensuring transparency
  - Consideration of nature-based-solutions
  - Consideration of gravel
  - Consideration of the accuracy of the regional GHG graph on page 12

The hearing panel directed staff to make changes based on the meeting discussions 20 May 2024.

## Draft decisions

Staff have undertaken to summarise the direction received from the hearing panel and make recommendations regarding changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.

A document has been prepared that includes a summary of the themes considered 20 May 2024, a summary of the hearing panel discussion/direction and suggested changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the hearing panel direction to date (see appendix 1 [attached](#)). This document also contains the summary of the submissions received and draft responses to individual submitters based on the hearing panel direction to date.

An additional document has been prepared that identifies some of the gaps, aspects of some submissions that have not yet been considered by the hearing panel as part of the consideration of themes to date (see appendix 2 [attached](#)).

At the meeting 20 May 2024, the hearing panel made a request for further information to enable consideration of the of the accuracy of the regional GHG graph on page 12 of the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy. Some of the proposed amendments in the draft decisions document have taken the information from Great South into account.

Lastly, appendix 3 [attached](#) is a revised version of the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy that includes the suggested changes based on the hearing panel direction to date.

These documents have all been prepared to aid the continuing deliberations by the hearing panel at this meeting 20 June 2024.

## Next steps

The next steps are to finalise any required changes to proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy, based on the final recommendations of the hearing panel to refine the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.

Once these changes have been made, the final Regional Climate Change Strategy will then be considered by each of the individual partner agencies for endorsement during July / August.

Each of the partner agencies involved in the Regional Climate Change Working Group (being Environment Southland, Te Ao Mārama Inc., Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council), will determine their own processes for this consideration and adoption.

## Implications/risks

The risks and implications of climate change are being felt across New Zealand, and failure to act represents a significant risk to the Murihiku/Southland region.

## Considerations

### **Financial implications**

The financial implications will be worked through by each of the partner agencies via their own planning and budgeting processes, for example as part of the development of Environment Southland 2024-34 Long-term Plan; as well as future annual planning and Long-term Plan processes.

### **Legal implications**

The Resource Management Act requires councils to consider the effects of climate change on their communities and incorporate climate change into existing frameworks, plans, projects, and standard decision-making procedures.

## Attachments

1. Draft decisions prepared for 20 June 2024 (A1086504)
2. Identification of gaps requiring additional deliberation 20 June 2024 (A1098233)
3. Revised version of the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy (A1091709)

Environment Southland

# Draft decisions

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – 29 February 2024

prepared by the staff Regional Climate Change Working Group following the hearing and deliberations – 16 and 20 May 2024



**Submissions 29 February – 8 May 2024:**

48 submissions received:

- 1 via ICC LTP process
- 33 directly on proposed RCCS
- 14 via ES LTP process

In addition, 12 late submissions via the ES LTP process (received by 5pm 13 May 2024) were accepted.

**Hearings 16 and 20 May 2024:**

16 submitters were scheduled to be heard:

- 10 in person
- 5 online via zoom
- 1 apology on the day

**Deliberations – 20 May 2024:**

Meeting purpose:

1. Reflect and agree on the key themes raised by submissions and the hearing
2. Direct whether there are any further information requirements prior to considering aspects of a submission
3. Develop an agreed response to each of the themes and direct staff to develop a draft decision based on the deliberation discussions
4. Agree on process requirements from here

Progressing each theme:

- *Can this be addressed via amending the strategy?*
- *Can this be addressed via progressing the regional Framework for Action?*
- *What other solutions could be considered?*
- *Is more information needed to consider this properly?*
- *Or do nothing because...*

**CONSIDERATION OF THEMES ARISING FROM SUBMISSIONS AND HEARINGS – 20 MAY 2024:**

Theme	RCCWG Hearing Panel Response	Changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy
<p>Councils identifying climate change as a priority</p>	<p>The hearing panel started with a high-level consideration of whether there is mandate for the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy. It was noted that in terms of numbers, one of the patterns that emerged were that those submissions that were ‘against’ were often individuals; compared to those submissions that were ‘for’ were often from organisations representing larger groups of people.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that it is probably not possible to achieve a 100% mandate on a topic such as regional climate change. The hearing panel recalled the 2023 community climate change perceptions survey which had also provided an indication for mandate. Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority..</p> <p>The hearing panel noted the overwhelming support for climate adaptation activities, acknowledgement that the climate is changing, and agreement that local government have a role in ensuring the resilience of communities.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that fewer submitters supported mitigation activities, however it was important to note that central and local government have obligations in relation to emissions reduction.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amendments to the foreword to reflect key themes arising from the submission and hearing process (NB: exact wording changes being drafted by Cr Morrison in the first instance);</li> <li>▪ Amendments to the principles and aspirations as noted in this report;</li> </ul>
<p>Science underpinning climate change action</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered the support for science underpinning the strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is quite a bit of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stronger acknowledgement within the strategy of the importance of science and mātauranga underpinning climate change action with an additional paragraph on page 8 to state: <i>Science and mātauranga are fundamental to guiding a regional response to a changing climate.</i></li> <li>▪ Stronger acknowledgement that the gaps in regional science and information with an additional paragraph on page 8 to state:</li> </ul>

		<p><i>While there is an abundance of international and national climate related science, there is currently still work to be done to ensure we more accurately understand the implications of this science for our region.</i></p> <p>In addition, the gaps in the regional science and information will be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Mistrust of the science informing Council on what climate change is i.e. 'that it is outdated', 'that it is incorrect', 'the science is flawed'</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered the submissions relating to the mistrust of the science informing the strategy and that there was varying degrees of acceptance or not, of climate change.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that some submitters were contesting the science and citing alternative sources of science that underpinned their opinions on climate change. It was noted that often these opinions differed to direction the Regional Climate Change Working Group had received internationally and nationally.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that there was limited value in debating this as part of these deliberations, but that instead that this sentiment be carried through as a consideration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revision of the foreword to acknowledge the varying degrees of trust in the climate change related science (NB: exact wording changes being drafted by Cr Morrison in the first instance);</li> <li>▪ Acknowledgement within the strategy that irrespective of individual belief on the nature of climate change, as local government we are obliged to consider international science and use this to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation with an additional paragraph on page 8 to state:</li> </ul> <p><i>It is acknowledged that there are some diverging views on climate science, however local government is required to adopt best practice approaches, including using international science and guidance to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation.</i></p> <p>Changes beyond the scope of the Regional Climate Change Strategy, which could be addressed by the development of a regional Framework for Action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The accessibility of data could also be improved, possibly via the progress of the regional data repository which is currently in development;</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>That the climate has been changing for millions of years and will continue to do so. Scepticism of climate change i.e. 'that it is a hoax', 'that it is a joke'</p>	<p>The hearing panel discussed this theme and acknowledged that there were a number of presentations that were challenging anthropogenic causes of climate change.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acknowledgement of the varying degrees of acceptance within our</li> </ul>

	<p>The hearing panel also noted that these submitters often referred to climate change as a normal function of the earth’s cycles. Some of these submitters agreed that this could still result in sea level changes for example and that there is still a need for resilience to extreme weather events regardless of the cause.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that the causes of climate change continue to be contested. The hearing panel noted that anthropogenic causes of climate change is accepted nationally and internationally and the Regional Climate Change Working Group is required to proceed on this basis. The hearing panel also noted that regardless of the causes of a changing climate, local government has a role to ensure community resilience.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that there was limited value in debating the causes of a changing climate as part of these deliberations, but that the varying views around the causes of climate change be taken into consideration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>community of the causes of a changing climate in the foreword, with amendments on second paragraph on page 6 as follows:</p> <p><i>While the concept of a changing climate has been something that ‘will happen sometime in the future’, it is now accepted. Within Murihiku Southland there are still some that dispute that human activities are contributing to a changing climate. However, it is generally acknowledged that our region is already experiencing the effects of increasing severe weather events.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acknowledgement that regardless of the causes of climate change it is still important for local government to address, with the addition of a new paragraph to page 6 as follows:</li> </ul> <p><i>Regardless of the causes of changes to our climate, local government have a range of obligations to respond proactively and ensure long-term community resilience.</i></p> <p>In addition, the general sentiment can also help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>That climate change action in Southland will not make any difference to climate change globally</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged concerns that climate change action in Southland may not make a significant difference globally, however also that New Zealand is often a small player on a global scale and that we still need to ‘do our bit’ as even the smallest bit of action can make a difference.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that local government currently has a statutory role to address the changing climate.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Opposition to modelling</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted there were a number of comments about the use of RCP 8.5, however this is not actually something that is stated in the strategy. Instead aspiration 9 indicates that agreeing on climate change scenarios is something that the Regional Climate Change Working Group are aspiring to. The panel considered that making progress on this aspiration will be important as part of the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that there were a number of challenges of how GHG inventories are calculated. However that this is governed by standards and this is not something that can be addressed as part of this</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

	<p>strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that this remains something that is contested. However considered that there was limited value in debating this as part of these deliberations, but that instead carry this sentiment through as a consideration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	
Support for modelling	<p>The hearing panel noted that modelling of a variety of scenarios would be important to help inform an assessment of what is acceptable community risk as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
Support for the collaborative approach being taken	<p>The hearing panel noted that there was a strong mandate and support for a collaborative, regional response to climate change.</p> <p>The hearing panel also acknowledged that a number of submitters that had been heard, who also commented that they would like to become a part of this collaborative process. In addition there were many comments about the need to be more inclusive and transparent about the process.</p> <p>It was noted that aspiration 11 supports a broader engagement approach being undertaken. The hearing panel agreed that this is something to consider as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action. In particular with how to create action pathways towards achieving aspiration 11.</p>
That consideration of equity is required, as the impacts of climate change on communities will not be experienced equally	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged the concern that the impacts of climate change will not be experienced equally and considered whether the strategy needed to be more explicit about this.</p> <p>It was noted that the ‘tree diagram’ on 13 refers to equity as part of the principle Kotahitanga <i>Inclusivity</i>, however this was not carried through into the detailed principle over the page. The hearing panel agreed that this is a key term and it should be carried over into the detailed version of the principle as well.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to include stronger acknowledgement of the need for the consideration of equity, with the additional wording to the principle of Kotahitanga <i>Inclusivity</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point on page 14 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ‘Create a fair and equitable transition to our future’.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, that equity would also be an important consideration as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
Support (with some recommending an earlier goal) for Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050	<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy regarding the regional net zero GHG goal 2050.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged that there were submitters that requested the consideration of an earlier regional net zero GHG goal, however on balance there was not enough mandate for this.</p> <p>It was noted that those submitters in support of an earlier regional net zero GHG goal are likely to already be undertaking their own measurements and actions towards achieving this as individuals/organisations. The hearing panel considered that aspiration 7 implies that the first step that needs to be undertaken for local government is to understanding its role as part of this.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed to not make any change to the regional net zero GHG goal. However, it was noted the organisations could still establish an earlier organisational net zero GHG goal.</p>	
<p>Opposition to Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that the opposition to becoming a net zero region by 2050 was related to (1) the idea that the focus shouldn't be on CO2 emissions and (2) that there is opposition based on assumptions of how local government may act based on aspiration 7.</p> <p>The hearing panel determined that in part this may be due to the word 'leading' stated in aspiration 7, when collective action will be important to achieving a regional net zero GHG goal of 2050. The hearing panel concluded that the word 'enabling' would more accurately describe what needs to happen to achieve a regional net zero GHG goal of 2050 and that 'understanding the local government role' needs to be progressed urgently as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy regarding the regional net zero GHG goal 2050.</p> <p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to clarify aspiration 7 on page 16 to replace the word 'leading' with the word 'enabling', so that it now states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 7. Councils understand their role in <b>leading enabling</b> Murihiku Southland to become a net zero region by 2050.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the hearing panel intends to progress gaining an understanding of the local government role as part of aspiration 7 urgently as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Recommendations for refinements of the aspirations</p>	<p><u>Advocacy of aspirations nationally:</u></p> <p>The hearing panel considered submissions regarding the geographic extent of Southland, compared to Southland's GDP, the amount of GHG that is produced in Southland, as well as the natural carbon sinks we have within Southland. The hearing panel discussed and determined that as a region we need to do what we can to advocate for our region nationally.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to more strongly acknowledge the need for regional advocacy nationally, with additional wording on page 15 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 'The following aspirations reflect the collective intent of local government agencies to support <b>and advocate for</b> effective responses to our</li> </ul>

*proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024*

	<p>But that this is not limited to the net zero aspirations, but the adaptation aspirations as well.</p> <p><u>Measurability of aspirations:</u> The hearing panel considered the concern raised by some submitters that the aspirations as they are currently written are not measurable. The hearing panel agreed that this is something that is intended to be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action. As part of phase 2, it is intended that there will be consideration of various pathways towards achieving the aspirations and that there could be different metrics that accompany these pathways.</p> <p><u>Similarity between aspirations 3 and 8</u> The hearing panel considered that the purpose of aspiration 3 relates to both mitigation and adaptation, while aspiration 8 is specific to adaptation. The hearing panel agreed that there is a need to keep both aspirations.</p>	<p><i>changing climate across Murihiku Southland’;</i></p> <p>In addition, the potential for advocacy nationally can also help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of the measurability of the aspirations. It is intended that appropriate metrics will be determined as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of the similarity between aspirations 3 and 8.</p>
<p>Opposition to the aspirations to generate regional climate change action</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered this in general terms and reflected back that this had been discussed as part of working through whether there was enough mandate for the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy to be developed.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>That the strategy is not enough on its own and action needs to be taken</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that the proposed regional climate change strategy was only intended to be phase 1, as the foundation for considering what action needs to be taken.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this concern is likely to be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Concern about the cost to ratepayers of regional climate change action</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered the investment concerns, the potential cost to ratepayers and the risk of bankrupting future generations. However the hearing panel noted that there is also a cost of inaction. The hearing panel noted that at this stage costs the strategy does not provide an indication of costs associated with regional climate change action and that the concern is likely a result of anticipation of what might</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to reference the consideration of affordability and cost-effectiveness of action more explicitly. Additional wording to the second paragraph on page 18 so that it now states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>‘It will be important to determine what the ongoing steps will be, the</i></li> </ul>

	<p>be included in phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>At this stage what specific actions or investments might occur in response to the aspirations has not been determined. The hearing panel appreciated ideas that had been put forward as part of submissions that could be considered as part of the phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that there is clearly not unlimited resources to progress regional climate change action and that it is important to explicitly state that affordability and cost-effectiveness are key considerations as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that an additional paragraph on page 18 should be included that references the need for a full understanding of costs and opportunity costs associated with action pathways that are developed.</p>	<p><i>costs and opportunity costs associated with these steps as well as and the role and responsibilities of each agency to support these pathways.'</i></p> <p>As well as additional wording to the third paragraph on page 18 so that it now states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The resulting pathways will inform the setting of regional priorities. There is a need for a balanced assessment and understanding of costs of action and inaction (economic, social, cultural and environmental costs) to help inform future long-term planning cycles; keeping in mind the agreed principle of doing what we can now, with what we have now.</i></li> </ul> <p>In addition this general sentiment can help also inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Support and opposition to a broader engagement approach being taken</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that the strategy as it is currently written expresses a commitment to building understanding and building a community of learning – that the Regional Climate Change Working Group does not currently know all the answers but there is a desire to develop this understanding over time and to share this knowledge in a way that is transparent and inclusive.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that a number of groups had signalled their interested in being involved in and provide assistance to Regional Climate Change Working Group progressing into the next stage. These included people and organisations that support and oppose the current strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that the diagram on page 18 could be improved to confirm the intent of taking a broader engagement approach as part of phase 2, developing the regional Framework for Action. This could either be by including additional text in this diagram, or by better illustrating this connection.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that some submitters referred to unwanted anxiety that a broader engagement approach may create. The hearing panel considered various ways that engagement could be tailored and that these ideas could be considered more thoroughly as part of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to amend the diagram on page 18 to reflect the intention to take a broader engagement approach to phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>Reflect TAMI involvement and wider stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Noting in the text the intention to engage with a wider set of stakeholders as the framework for action is developed</li> <li>- Refer to 'regional stakeholders' in the illustration</li> <li>- Ensure TAMI is reflected at the partnership level in the illustration</li> </ul> <p>(NB: Request has been put through to ES graphic design team to reflect these changes in the illustration on page 18)</p> <p>In addition, the importance of ensuring that a tailored engagement approach is considered as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>



	The hearing panel agreed that as part of feeding back on submissions as part of this process, a question could be posed to each submitter regarding their preferences for engagement.	
Additional aspects deliberated on:	RCCWG Hearing Panel Response	Changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy
Precautionary approach	<p>It was noted that the word ‘precautionary’ is not currently referred to in the strategy, however it is implied. The hearing panel considered whether a precautionary approach needs to be made more explicit. The hearing panel considered whether the concept of an iterative approach conflicts with a precautionary approach or aligns with a precautionary approach (as per the principle Mōhioatanga <i>Understanding</i>). Alongside this whether it is instead something that fits more with the principle of Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i>.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that a precautionary approach in this context is making decisions on the basis of the information available, but being prepared to change these decisions (iteratively) as information improves over time. The hearing panel directed that a stand alone bullet point be drafted to address this as part of the principle Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i>. The hearing panel also reviewed aspiration 8 with the precautionary approach in mind. The consideration was that the words ‘fully understand’ implies a cautious approach, when what was intended is a precautionary approach. The hearing panel agreed that it is appropriate to delete the word ‘fully’ from aspiration 8.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to include an additional bullet point to refer to the precautionary approach, as part of the detailed principle of Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i>. This principle now states:</p> <p><b>Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise our duty of care to safeguard our environment’s fundamental life supporting capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Adopt a precautionary approach towards mitigating and adapting to the effects of a changing climate.</b></li> <li>• Create a balanced framework, which supports many inter-connected strands.</li> <li>• Value the wellbeing and livelihoods of our present and future generations.</li> </ul> <p><u>And/or</u> the following could also be considered:</p> <p>That an additional word ‘precautionary’ be added to the detailed principle of Whakarāneinei Anticipation to state:</p> <p><b>Whakarāneinei Anticipation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think and act with a long-term perspective, valuing and reinvesting in our environmental capital.</li> <li>• <b>Create proactive and precautionary pathways for action, doing what we can now with what we know now.</b></li> <li>• Ensure relevant regional science and information underpins a data-led approach.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to remove the word ‘fully’ from aspiration 8, so that it now states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>We <b>fully</b> understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland.</b></li> </ul>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

<p>Ensuring transparency</p>	<p>The hearing panel agreed that ensuring transparency is important and considered whether this needs to be more explicitly stated as part of the strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel directed that an amendment to Communications and Engagement Aspiration 11 be drafted by staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to more strongly acknowledge the importance of transparency, with an amendment to aspiration 11, on page 17, so that it now states: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 11. We build a regional community of learning. <b>With transparency, we collectively improve</b> our understanding of the complexity of our changing climate and its implications for Murihiku Southland.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Staff note: the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy also refers to 'transparency' as part of the principle 'Kotahitanga Inclusivity' (within the 'tree diagram,' as well as within the first bullet point of the detailed principles).</p>
<p>Consideration of nature based solutions</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered some submitters comments that nature-based-solutions should be more explicitly stated in the strategy as a preferable option to consider.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that it may be a bit premature to conclude that this will be a definite way forward, but that it is an example of option that can be explored as part of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that it would be appropriate to reference nature-based-solutions as another example in the footnote for aspiration 10.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to acknowledge nature-based-solutions as another example as part of the footnote for aspiration 10, on page 16; so that it now states:</p> <p>** Examples are: carbon forestry, sustainable transport, water availability, waste management, biodiversity, <b>nature-based-solutions</b> etc. The intention is that these RCCWG discussions will be ongoing and aligned pathways for action will be able to be incorporated into the planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037 and beyond.</p> <p>In addition that nature-based-solutions will be a consideration as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Consideration of gravel</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that there were a number of submitters that raised concerns about gravel.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that these concerns are likely to be addressed in some way as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Consideration of the accuracy of the regional GHG graph on page 12</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged that several submitters raised concerns about the accuracy of the regional GHG illustration on page 12 of the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there seemed to be confusion about whether the work that was undertaken by Great South was focused on gross emissions and/or net emissions. The hearing panel also noted that the intention of providing this illustration is to provide a snapshot.</p>	<p>Further information has been requested from Great South regarding clarifying regional gross and regional net emissions illustrated on page 12 of proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>Proposed changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to include amendments on page 10-12 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional explanatory text on page 10 to state:</li> </ul>

	<p>The hearing panel considered that it may be appropriate to provide a bit more explanatory detail on page 12 of the strategy, but that it would be appropriate that further information first be sought from Great South to assist with clarifying this matter.</p>	<p>In 2018, a baseline emission inventory for the region was established. This was undertaken following the methodology outlined in the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (WRI, 2021) and Measuring emissions: A guide for organisations (MfE 2023).</p> <p>This baseline inventory highlighted that we all contribute to our regional... ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An addition to the footnote on page 10 to read: * Southland Regional Carbon Footprint 2018 – <a href="http://www.greatsouth.nz/resources/southlands-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2018">www.greatsouth.nz/resources/southlands-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2018</a> (please refer to this report for an understanding of the methodology used and the data sources).</li> <li>▪ The replacement of the word ‘overall’ with the word NET, in the main paragraph on page 12 so that it states: Southland regional net greenhouse gas emissions 2018 to 2022 as measured by Great South. This graph illustrates that overall net regional greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 14.8% from 2018 to 2022.</li> <li>▪ Two additional footnotes on page 12 to state: * CO<sub>2</sub>e stands for ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ to enable the comparison to six key GHG gases: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).</li> <li>** Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. The regional emissions inventory currently only includes forestry related sequestration (due to current data limitations for other sources of sequestration).</li> <li>▪ A change to the graph on page 12 to instead refer to ‘sequestration’ instead of forestry.</li> </ul> <p>The addition of the key words and associated definitions, into the glossary as follows:</p> <p>CO<sub>2</sub>e – Includes the six GHGs: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). REFERENCE</p> <p>Gross emissions - Gross emissions include emissions include emissions from the following key sectors: Transport; energy and industry; agriculture; waste; fluorinated gases. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions</p>
--	---	---

		<p>Reduction Plan.</p> <p>Net emissions - Net emissions refer to the overall balance of emissions and carbon dioxide removals (sequestration). Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.</p> <p>Sequestration – The process of storing carbon in a carbon pool IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary <a href="#">https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/ipcc_ar6_wg1_chapter02.pdf</a></p> <p>Possibly need to still determine appropriate text related to the relevance of NZ's split gas approach for the Murihiku Southland region?</p>
--	--	--

**DRAFT DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY 5pm 8 MAY 2024:**

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
<b>Submitters Being Heard</b>			
02	<p>Laura Pope on behalf of Vince Barry, NPHS Te Waipounamu Health New Zealand Whatu Ora</p> <p><i>In person</i></p>	<p>Submitter commends the development of the Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy and is supportive of it. Recommends that equity is considered across the strategy as the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change on the communities will not be experienced equally.</p> <p>Do you agree with aspirations for Southland Councils to generate regional climate change action – submitter is broadly supportive, but has some recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aspiration 1 – commends aspiration 1;</li> <li>- Aspiration 2 – supports aspiration 2 noting that this also supports equitable outcomes;</li> <li>- Aspiration 3 – notes similarity between aspiration 3 and aspiration 8, but with the addition of aspiration 3 explicitly discussing the desire to “act courageously, building resilience to respond and thrive”. Submitter suggests that aspiration 3 could be edited to focus solely on this point, whereas aspiration 8 can capture the desire to fully understand the impacts of climate change on Southland;</li> <li>- Aspiration 4 – suggests that it is not clear what “meaningful change” looks like, or what will be meaningfully changed. Also suggests that the timeline be shortened to 10 years;</li> <li>- Aspirations 5, 6 &amp; 7 – supports these aspirations;</li> <li>- Aspiration 12 – notes the strategy mentions the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation, however, none of the aspirations make explicit reference to climate change adaptation, therefore recommends that aspiration 12 be edited to “We support individuals, businesses, community groups and organisations to understand the impacts of climate change; and we work alongside them to support them in adapting to climate change”.</li> </ul> <p>Do you support Southland becoming a Net Zero region by 2050 or earlier? – strongly supports Southland becoming a Net Zero region by 2050.</p> <p>What local climate change impact are you most concerned about? – most concerned about the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change. Notes that the actions developed by the strategy can lessen the impacts of climate hazards on health and wellbeing. Notes also the strategy has a critical role to play in strengthening community resilience to climate change through supporting initiatives and community organisations that build connectedness and social capital.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged the importance of equity. The hearing panel agreed that the strategy could be strengthened in relation to equity, with additional wording to the principle of Kotahitanga Inclusivity, 3rd bullet point on page 14 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ‘Create a fair <b>and equitable</b> transition to our future’.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the hearing panel agreed that equity would also be an important consideration as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered this submitter’s comments in relation to the aspirations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No change to aspiration 1, 2, 5, 6 &amp; 7 in relation to this submission.</li> <li>- Aspiration 3 and 8: the hearing panel considered that the purpose of aspiration 3 relates to both mitigation and adaptation, while aspiration 8 is specific to adaptation. The hearing panel agreed that there is a need to keep both aspirations.</li> <li>- <b>Aspiration 4: this aspiration requires additional deliberation 20 June 2024, as it is not addressed by the deliberation of themes held 20 May 2024.</b></li> <li>- Aspiration 12 – the hearing panel considered that the purpose of this aspiration relates to both mitigation and adaptation and no changes were drafted in relation to this submission.</li> </ul> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages that the measurement of the aspirations is something that can be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged the submitter’s concern about the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change and envisages that this could be considered as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>Do you have any other comments? – supports guiding principles, particularly “Hauora, Wellbeing – interconnectedness of a healthy environment for community wellbeing and resilience” as it enables equitable and health-centred responses to climate change.</p> <p>Also supports next steps of the strategy and asks that the committee consider partnering with NPHS Te Waipounamu in the next steps to provide a health lens over climate change actions as they are developed.</p> <p>The submitter would also like to offer support by providing Climate Change and Health workshops.</p>	<p>This submitter's interest in being involved as part of a collaborative approach to phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action was noted. The hearing panel thanks this submitter for their offer of providing climate change and health workshops and considers this could be useful as progress is made as part of phase 2.</p>
23	<p>Doug Fraser <i>In person</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Comments that while Local Government may aspire to generate a climate action plan, it has neither the capacity or responsibility to quantify a community response. The presumption of developing a Southland Strategy without first quantifying their own footprint (not planned until 2026) and using data that lacks scientific rigour defies logic;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier. Using data supplied by Great South lacks credibility;</li> <li>- is concerned that the political drive to net zero has created barriers to a prosperous viable community;</li> </ul> <p>Comments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the process is flawed;</li> <li>- no ratepayer input sought until now ensuring there is no wider examination of the strategy;</li> <li>- there is no apparent cost benefit analysis or commitment to complete such an analysis;</li> <li>- there is no supporting evidence for the statement “we fully understand the risks and opportunities to our communities”;</li> <li>- the strategy reports councils will “create regional pathways for action” e.g. carbon forestry which is commercial decision, not one for local government;</li> <li>- aspirations 11, 12 and 13 are essentially propaganda.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>It is noted that Environment Southland, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council have all taken steps to undertake an organisational GHG inventory to understand their own footprint. Gore District Council is planning to complete their first organisational GHG inventory before 2026.</p> <p><b>The hearing panel requested further information from Great South to reassess the information on pages 10, 11 and 12 of the proposed strategy and multiple changes are being made to improve the communication of Great South inventory data used illustrated in the strategy.</b></p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the feedback on the process to date and acknowledges that phase 1 of this work has been largely local government-focused, ensuring the key local government partner agencies were able reach agreement on a way forward. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies.</p>
04	<p>Federated Farmers of NZ (Jason Herrick)</p>	<p>Submitter agrees with the importance of including science in the collective values. Considers there is potential risk with aspiration 4 “we will create meaningful</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
	<i>In person</i>	<p>change within one generation” or 25 years as that timeframe may not be enough to be able to record or measure change.</p> <p>Submitter supports the science led approach and encourages a robust and transparent science led approach that addresses rural communities and catchment issues.</p> <p>Notes the primary sector in Southland represents many generational farms with a stewardship view of their properties in terms of their future generations. Suggests the wording for 4 could be adjusted to “We will create meaningful change and inspire future generations to continue this work”.</p> <p>Submitter would like to see early engagement with stakeholders including the primary sector to ensure a robust future plan is in place.</p> <p>Acknowledges the sensible approach taken of a joint approach by all four councils in this strategy to ensure transparency, collaboration, and engagement. Having a collaborative approach that involves early engagement and stakeholders will help identify and address issues early.</p> <p>Submitter refers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- point 8 “we fully understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland” and comments the term “communities” needs to be interpreted broadly to encompass the full range of people, places, environments, that this includes;</li> <li>- point 9 “councils align on climate change scenarios to inform key regional decisions”. Comments that a collaborative and transparent process that engages directly with rural communities is preferred;</li> <li>- point 10 “collaborate to create regional pathways for action, acknowledging the inter-connectedness of specific issues”. Views the collaborative approach as a good thing but would like to ensure that the rural sector are part of these collaborations.</li> </ul> <p>Submitter refers to the Ministry for the Environment grant for the climate adaption project “Murihiku Slow the Flow” and comments it would like to see where this project has got to in terms of its project milestones, especially in terms of its involvement with the local rural communities.</p>	<p>The hearing panel envisages that the measurement of the aspirations is something that can be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel has made some changes to the proposed strategy to strengthen the expectation of transparency as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p><b>Aspiration 4: this aspiration requires additional deliberation 20 June 2024, as it is not addressed by the deliberation of themes held 20 May 2024.</b></p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges that phase 1 of this work has been largely local government-focused, ensuring the key local government partner agencies were able reach agreement on a way forward. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies.</p> <p>The hearing panel agrees that the term ‘communities’ should be interpreted to encompass the full range of people, places and their environments.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages additional collaboration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action will include the rural sector and rural communities.</p> <p><b>NB: it could be appropriate to include a brief update on the Slow the Flow project as a response to this submitter</b></p>
17	Noel J Peterson <i>(apology on 16 May)</i>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agrees with the aspirations to generate climate change action, though the process seems to slow and lacks the high profile and priority it deserves;</li> <li>- supports Southland becoming a net zero region earlier than 2050. Considers</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>that by 2034 should be the priority for effective climate education to be installed, mitigation and adaptation strategies should be well understood and underway;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- mostly concerned about lack of climate education. A change in community attitude is urgently needed and climate change needs to be seen as a priority. All councils need to be proactive in providing effective climate education;</li> <li>- comments that the strategy needs to provide education regarding practical climate neutral lifestyle choices.</li> </ul>	<p>and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the lack of climate education and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
05	<p>University of Otago (Department of Geology) (Dr Rebecca McLeod)</p> <p><i>Via zoom</i></p>	<p>Submitter broadly supports the “net-zero target for Southland by 2050 or before” statement and feels it is important to point out that it views this statement as feasible and very likely beneficial to the region.</p> <p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- supports the measure-to-manage approach of establishing a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory;</li> <li>- encourages the efforts to use these principles to broaden support for communities;</li> <li>- notes that the focus of the strategy is very much on changing climate (extreme weather events, flooding, drought), and there is scant reference to sea level rise. Suggests that projected sea level rise and the potential implications of that on Murihiku Southland is expanded upon.</li> </ul> <p>Submitter comments in alignment with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- aspiration 2, its programme identifies specific opportunities under aspiration 7 and notes increasing recognition of natural infrastructure and become a fruitful way to combine understanding from science and mātauranga;</li> <li>- aspiration 7, considers there is considerable potential in managing for blue carbon sequestration, as well as enhanced carbon uptake and burial in Fiordland’s sediment stores and significant wetlands;</li> <li>- aspiration 10, emphasises the potential to work with research organisations such as its programme and its participants to develop the substantial potential for carbon sequestration and transitions to net zero emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p><b>The limited reference to sea level rise requires additional deliberation 20 June 2024, as it is not addressed by the deliberation of themes held 20 May 2024.</b></p>
30	<p>Michael Weusten</p> <p><i>In person</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as the science is far from settled and any focus on CO2 reduction must be absolutely treated with caution and resistance to invest in mitigation efforts. Any focus on Real Pollution Reduction (non CO<sub>2</sub>) should be fully supported;</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net</p>



proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050, for the reasons set out above;</li> <li>- has no concerns regarding local climate change impact. All resources should be focused on Real Infrastructure Investment and Sensible Compliance Legislation.</li> </ul> <p>Comments that the strategy, if implemented, must be extremely wary of expensive "World Changing" contribution and initiatives that will have negligible world impact but severe local costs and restrictions.</p>	<p>zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
25	<p>Jane and Bradley Sycamore (Mr Ian McIntosh speaking on behalf)</p> <p><i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Has concerns with the subjectiveness of the pending programme, as opposed to having rigorously objective aims based on sound science;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 as the concept has poor foundations and can only affect the local productive economy and the region's citizens wealth;</li> <li>- is not concerned about local climate change impact;</li> </ul> <p>Comments that it is important that Councils in the region make decisions that can be, under full interrogation, defended.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
24	<p>Peter Foster</p> <p><i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action.</li> </ul> <p>Comments that nothing done in Southland will have any effect whatsoever on climate. It will, however, cost ratepayers a huge sum - have you costed out your policies?;</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of</p>

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier as net zero will simply destroy the economy for no gain whatsoever;</li> <li>- is not concerned about local climate change impact because the concern arises because most people do not understand the difference between the output of speculative climate models and rock solid tide gauge data.</li> </ul> <p>Comments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No reduction in CO2 in Southland will have any effect on Southland weather. The effect of CO2 is global. Comments that from hundreds of peer reviewed publications, increased CO2 adds a little to warming but is clearly not the driving factor.</li> </ul>	<p>decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged concerns that climate change action in Southland may not make a significant difference globally, however also that New Zealand is often a small player on a global scale and that we still need to 'do our bit' as even the smallest bit of action can make a difference.</p>
03	<p>Forest &amp; Bird (Jen Miller)</p> <p><i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>Submitter supports a pan-council collaborative approach towards climate change and responds as follows:</p> <p>Aspirations – supported, in particular acknowledging the mana of the natural world. Considers that when addressing climate change impacts, nature should be at its centre.</p> <p>Nature-based solutions – comments that nature-based solutions are approaches that utilise the inherent power of nature to address various environmental challenges while providing co-benefits to human societies. They play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide and help safeguard numerous plant and animal species. They also contribute to mental and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Land use change – considers the need for land use change must be given priority. It is not sustainable to continue to have the region relying so heavily on the dairy industry and intense agriculture generally. The strategy needs to refer to the importance of engaging with communities, business and industries concerning the inevitability of land use change, for example, looking at opportunities for lower impact food growing. Suggests including a specific aspiration to develop policies to deal with the potential for an ever-increasing risk of flooding, and the impact on the Southland economy and the communities and individuals that are affected by heavy rainfall events.</p> <p>Room for rivers – considers Council must invest in prioritising “making room for rivers” as the preferred approach for river management and flood protection.</p> <p>Carbon reduction – comments the stated goal to achieve zero carbon by 2050 does not reflect the impacts climate change is having now and considers Council</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges this submitter’s support of the collaborative approach to date and the aspirations in the proposed strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel has referred to nature-based-solutions as another example in the footnote to aspiration 10, but that generally the consideration and evaluation of nature-based-solutions will be part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>should aspire to achieving the goal at the very least by 2040. Comments that Dunedin City Council has set a goal to become a zero carbon city by 2030, and strongly encourages Council to adopt a similar process.</p> <p>Wetlands – comments that wetlands are an important tool in achieving the Council’s zero goal, therefore the strategy should reflect the environmental, cultural and economic value of maintaining and restoring wetlands. Any outcome of the future action plan should include investment in wetland restoration projects, particularly on council-owned land.</p> <p>Mining – comments that coal mining can no longer be sanctioned if climate change is to be seriously addressed. Would like to see a more specific goal to no longer allow for new or expanded coal mining in the region.</p> <p>Pest control – Comments that browsing of ungulates, especially deer, undermines native forest integrity that act as carbon storage and considers the strategy needs to refer to the need to ensure forests are able to flourish by working with communities to reduce browsing mammals.</p> <p>Te Mana o Te Taiao – considers that councils should explicitly state that the strategy recognises that nature is at the heart of the Aotearoa New Zealand economy.</p>	
22	Geoff Scott <i>In person</i>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier;</li> </ul> <p>has concerns about all of the unscientific data.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
			<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
16	<p>Katie Allan  <i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier;</li> <li>- has no concerns about local climate change impact.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there was a level of support for the identification of climate change as an issue that needs to be addressed and agreed that there is enough mandate to continue to pursue this work as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
18	<p>Jaspreet Bopari  <i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as net zero is not an economically or environmentally viable strategy. The models used for climate change leave a lot to be desired;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. We need to focus on the practical steps to manage and maintain our infrastructure;</li> <li>- concerned about the overzealous misguided and futile attempts to stop climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
			<p>national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
60 – split with LTP submission	<p>The future is Rail (Dave MacPherson)</p> <p><i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>Net Zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 - submitter comments that it is not enough to have a policy. Asks what actions will ensure this?</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
24B	<p>Don Nicholson</p> <p><i>In person</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Comments that is far from clear that any special regional climate action is useful. i.e. could make a difference even at great cost. Notes the foreword is vague (let alone the whole document) and asks on what basis was this concept developed and by whom. A serious omission is that the document no appendix/links to documents;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier economically, socially and morally it will fail citizens;</li> <li>- is not concerned about local climate change impact and notes that it is not hard to find data that exposes a much more moderate climate reality compared to the extreme climate modelling used within New Zealand councils.</li> </ul> <p>Comments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- legislated climate policy has given significant privilege and revenue gain, all at great cost to ratepayers, taxpayers and general consumers.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
			<p>and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
<b>Submitters Not Being Heard</b>			
01 Via ICC submission	Sandra Cooper	<p>Comments that Climate Change Strategy is a joke, commenting that what New Zealand is trying to do is completely irrelevant in the big scheme of things, when you look at 1,100 coal mines China is putting in this year. Selling land for foreign investors i.e. Ikea to plant pine trees is a joke. Should look at planting native trees instead and stop carbon credit buying with pine trees.</p> <p>Further comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- excessive land use to dairy farming as poor use of land and high emissions;</li> <li>- going electric is huge cost to environment – wait until better system/cars are invented;</li> <li>- subsidise solar panels for housing;</li> <li>- wind turbines are non-recyclable and blades have to be buried – look at alternative cylindrical ones;</li> <li>- coal and gas from New Zealand brought back so importing less reduces costs and reduces emissions, as cost to environment to import is huge;</li> <li>- look at projects that are beneficial in sense they will save money, reduce costs, reduce maintenance – environmental impact little relevance.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
53 – split with LTP submission	Laura Pope on behalf of Vince Barry, NPHS Te Waipounamu Health New Zealand Whatu Ora	<p>Submitter commends Council for identifying climate change as a key priority and acknowledging that the region is experiencing an increase in climate related events.</p> <p>The submitter agrees with using modelling to assist with regional planning and to help ensure that the current flood protection assets can withstand scenarios to an agree level of protection.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support, in particular for the use of modelling to assist with regional planning.</p>
06	Community Trust South (Jess Domigan)	<p>Do you support Southland becoming net zero? – yes, the submitter’s strategic aspiration articulates its commitment to sustainability and climate and under this priority will prioritise supporting communities to connect to their environment so that it can thrive for future generations.</p> <p>Do you agree with regional action? – yes, the submitter commends the</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>strategy's purpose to unite the efforts of the four local government councils, Te Ao Mārama Inc and Great South to support a cohesive and efficient, of working giving a collaborative approach to solutions whereby community organisations are partners in the process of developing a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>What local climate change impact are you most concerned about? - notes the potential for existing inequities to be reinforced through the impacts of climate change and is concerned about this potential specifically looking at housing, food security and the impact of flood and droughts on not only livelihoods but on individual and community wellbeing.</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledges this submitter's support of the collaborative approach to date. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies and be more inclusive of community partners.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged the importance of equity. The hearing panel agreed that the strategy could be strengthened in relation to equity, with additional wording to the principle of Kotahitanga Inclusivity, 3rd bullet point on page 14 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 'Create a fair <b>and equitable</b> transition to our future'.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the hearing panel agreed that equity, housing, food security etc. would also be important considerations as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
07	Southland District Council (Deborah-Ann Smith-Harding)	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agrees with the aspirations for Southland councils to generate regional climate change action;</li> <li>- supports Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050;</li> <li>- is concerned about damage to businesses and residential buildings due to flooding.</li> </ul> <p>Notes that Council needs to protect its assets at all costs, the cost of prevention is less than cost re-build.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support, in particular for investment into minimising the risks of a changing climate.</p>
08	Karen Maw	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action as the strategy is based on outdated data sets from the IPCC are the sole source of data provided by government to regional councils;</li> <li>- does not support becoming a net zero region by 2050 as it is based on the assumption that carbon dioxide is a "greenhouse" gas and that global temperatures are increasing, but does not take into account historical temperatures which indicate temperatures have declined since the 1930s;</li> <li>- has no concerns about climate change, but is concerned that a natural gas that is essential for life has been vilified and is being used to restrict activities;</li> <li>- comments ES would do better to focus on activities that disrupt river catchment flows.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
			and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.
09	Mike Douglass	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agrees with the aspirations to generate climate change action;</li> <li>- supports becoming a net zero region by 2050;</li> <li>- is most concerned about sea level and temperature rise.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p><b>The limited reference to sea level rise requires additional deliberation 20 June 2024, as it is not addressed by the deliberation of themes held 20 May 2024.</b></p>
10 Split with LTP submission	John Turner	<p>Comments that climate has been changing for millions of years and will continue to do so. You cannot fight nature, so stop spending monies on hypothetical events.</p> <p>Comments that biggest problem “we have” has been created by those that want to protect our waterways and do not allow the extraction of gravel. He feels those responsible for these actions need to be held personally accountable.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that the causes of climate change continue to be contested. The hearing panel noted that anthropogenic causes of climate change is accepted nationally and internationally and the Regional Climate Change Working Group is required to proceed on this basis. The hearing panel also noted that regardless of the causes of a changing climate, local government has a role to ensure community resilience.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that gravel related issues could be addressed as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p>
11	Leah Hourston	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Notes that climate has changed in the past and will continue to change as that is what it does, and historical climate graphs show that we are currently between ice ages and CO<sub>2</sub> levels are relatively low. Submitter comments that there is a need to plan for flood protection, but concentrating on reducing emissions is going to cost a lot of money and will not “fix” climate change;</li> <li>- has no concerns about local climate change impact;</li> <li>- comments that decisions be made on up-to-date “science” and not just modelling;</li> <li>- comments that net zero is a joke and should not be a goal.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in</p>



proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
			<p>the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
12	Wendy Anderson	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Considers solutions are much easier if councils cut red tape and over regulation to reduce problem areas. Needs more peer reviewed research from models overseas;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as it's never going to be achieved and doesn't need to be;</li> <li>- considers research is not robust and models being used are being discredited overseas where there are larger populations and a stronger base of scientists.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
13	Paul Wright	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as NZ contributes to less than 1% of the world's carbon emissions;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier;</li> <li>- considers the only concern about local climate change impact is the waste of ratepayers money that councils spend on it.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
14	Colin Lawry	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as he believes the science being used is not correct and the impact of climate change is grossly overstated;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as the current race to net zero is causing issues in other areas of the environment and life in general;</li> <li>- comments that Southland's flood plain topography has been formed by</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>water and will always be at risk of flooding events through heavy rainfall events;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agrees that climate is changing but that trying to slow it down is pointless and notes adaption is the only long-term solution.</li> </ul>	<p>national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
15	John McIntyre	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Councils should not be working on a strategy as it is highly controversial and likely to be very costly to ratepayers with little gain;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier. There are climate scientists that disagree with going net zero and councils need to hear their reasons for this before proceeding with this proposal;</li> <li>- has no concerns about local climate change impact.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
19	Maddie van de Wetering	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agrees with the aspirations to generate climate change action;</li> <li>- supports Southland becoming a net zero region earlier than 2050;</li> <li>- is concerned about warming sea water affecting marine life and making it easier for pests to make it currently pest free islands;</li> <li>- comments it would be good to see something more than aspirations to make a plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to marine life from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
20	Gretchen Wilson	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as she believes the science being used is not correct and the impact of climate change is grossly overstated;</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as no life on earth would be sustainable, we require carbon to live;</li> <li>- comments that Southland is a flood plain and floods have always occurred on the flood plains;</li> <li>- agrees that climate is changing and always will. Trying is pointless and a waste of money and notes adaption is the only long-term solution.</li> </ul>	<p>natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
21	Lester Wilson	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action and believes the most extreme system has been chosen to base the figures on;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as there would be no life on earth if there is no carbon;</li> <li>- comments that Southland is a flood plain and floods have always occurred on the flood plains;</li> <li>- comments that climate is constantly changing and we cannot stop it.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that there are some diverging views on climate science, however local government is required to adopt best practice approaches, including using international science and guidance to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
26	Janet McDonald	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 as the science is not settled re manmade climate change. It relies on models endorsed by the UN. Objects to spending money on climate change industry that will not result in change to world temperatures. Asks is there any costings of the price to pay to move the temperature even minutely.</li> </ul> <p>Comments that mitigation of adverse weather events (e.g. flooding) at the lowest degree necessary would be acceptable.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
27	Murray McDonald	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as the weather has not noticeably changed in 66 years. We don't need to bankrupt the country for no obvious gain;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050.</li> </ul> <p>Comments that gravel from rivers should be cleaned out to mitigate possible flooding. Do not need to spend money on the climate industry and extra staff associated with this.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that gravel related issues could be addressed as part of the</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
			development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.
28	Wallace Takitimu Community Board (Tony Philpott)	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as the board believes the science being used isn't correct and the impact of human induced climate change is grossly overstated;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050, as the current race to net zero is causing foreseen and unforeseen issues in other areas of the environment and life in general;</li> <li>- notes that Southland's flood plain has been formed by and will always be at risk of flooding;</li> <li>- agrees that the climate is changing, it always has and always will. Trying to slow it down is pointless and notes adaptation is the only long-term solution.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is quite a bit of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
29	Fiona McCabe	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. This is a political hoax. NZ contributes to less than 1% of carbon emission. We also have enough trees. Just an excuse for unnecessary red tape;</li> <li>- has no concerns regarding local climate change impact.</li> </ul> <p>Comments that Councils are using out-of-date data and extreme RCP to fudge the result they want.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
40 – split with LTP submission	Lindsay Strudwicke	<p>Submitter considers Environment Southland simply goes along with the agenda supplied by government non-scientists and asks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prove/access climate change in Southland;</li> <li>- How can we address real findings;</li> <li>- Why are we having unnecessary regulations and taxes put on us when New Zealand contributes to less than 1% of the world's carbon emission. In New Zealand we have more than enough trees to offset any carbon emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
41 – split with LTP submission	Shona Strudwicke	Submission is identical to submission 40 – see above.	Response as above.
42	Matt Mason	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050;</li> <li>- has concerns about local flooding events.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p>
43	Bridget Mason	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action as the aspirations are based on flawed scientific data;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. People are struggling and pushing this agenda will only achieve political gain. Focus on building up and supporting communities;</li> <li>- has concerns about flooding related to regular rainfall events, which impacts</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>on all of Southland through cost to business, people not getting to school or work and the repairs that are required. An expense to all ratepayers.</p> <p>Comments that change is happening to climate. Pushing an expensive agenda will not solve it.</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
44	Raymond Broome	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Global warming is a crock and is being used to control the population;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. Mother nature will control, not the globalists;</li> <li>- has no concerns about local climate change impact, where is the proof of honest reporting of climate change. Comments “wake up to this fraud”.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
45	Fiona Bruce	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as she believes climate change is not the main issue. Would like to see a strategy that embraces practical steps like building and maintaining stopbanks and having a good civil defence plan;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050, as the science for greenhouse gas emissions is still in debate. Would rather promote care for the environment in general, with reduction of chemicals, pollutants and threats to biodiversity and a trend toward more natural solutions;</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- has concerns that lots of ratepayer funds will go trying to solve unsubstantiated outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>Suggests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take a broader look at the differing scientific viewpoints;</li> <li>- understand what the modelled data is being used;</li> <li>- research the historical trend in sea level changes.</li> </ul>	<p>information currently available.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
59 – split with LTP submission	Christine Whybrew for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	<p>Submitter recognises the adverse effect of climate change on historic heritage and supports the development and implementation of the Regional Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Resilience Projects.</p> <p>Supports Council’s long-term planning and factoring the effects into infrastructure decision making.</p> <p>Comments that the Regional Climate Change Strategy and subsequent individual council plan should include measures to avoid or reduce climate change impacts on historic heritage wherever possible and encourage the maintenance and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to historic heritage from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
73 – split with LTP submission	Matt Couldrey	<p>Submitter would like to see further investment in lowering emissions, as well as the proposed increase in operating expenditure for when large floods occur due to climate change.</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support for investment in lowering emissions and regional adaptation measures.</p>
78 – split with LTP Submission	Karen Broome	<p>Submitter comments that continual climate change scaremongering is akin to gaslighting people. Climate change has been happening since the beginning of time. It is flaunted as a reason to control and implement all sorts of financial burdens onto people and affects their wellbeing. It is a tool used by those in power to further manipulate society.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p>
108 – split with LTP	Graeme Humphries	<p>Submitter objects to the decision of banning of coal for home heating. Comments that this “a joke”. There are other fuels that are currently being used to keep</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p>



proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
submission		things moving worldwide. Reminds that the planet has had much greater levels of CO <sub>2</sub> millions of years ago and this when most of the oil, gas and coal reserves were made.	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged that the causes of climate change continue to be contested. The hearing panel noted that anthropogenic causes of climate change is accepted nationally and internationally and the Regional Climate Change Working Group is required to proceed on this basis. The hearing panel also noted that regardless of the causes of a changing climate, local government has a role to ensure community resilience.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
110 - split with LTP submission	H Kowalewski	Submitter comments that the regional climate strategy is based on faulty science, as there is no evidence that the NIWA predictions are based on fact, or are even science.	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
111 - split with LTP submission	M Kowalewski	Submitter refers statement that you “must” follow NIWA’s predictions and suggests that “you must follow ratepayer’s preferences”.	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
123 - split with LTP	Troy Fowler	Submitter comments that the climate change information is wrong.	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
submission			<p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
125 - split with LTP submission	Lyndon Murphy	<p>Submitter comments that the information ES is using is not the correct information.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
128 – split with LTP submission	Judy-Diane Leith	<p>Submitter asks “Where is ES getting their data for the so-called effects of a changing climate?” Comments that the climate has always had fluctuating weather patterns and flooding and asks where is the evidence ES is basing their big push on to renew/create the flood protection infrastructure, and why is ES wanting to do this work with borrowed money? The work should not be done without secured funds.</p> <p>Submitter also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- disagrees with Council’s aspirations to generate climate change action;</li> <li>- does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier;</li> <li>- considers climate is a scam to generate money and needs to be completely abolished. New Zealand has enough trees, bush and scrub to offset any carbon emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>

**SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY 5pm 13 MAY 2024 AND ACCEPTED AS LATE SUBMISSIONS:**

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
<b>Submitters Being Heard</b>			
157 – split with LTP submission	Jacob Smyth (on behalf of Fish and Game)  <i>In person</i>	<p>The submitter strongly supports the intent of Climate Change Strategy to unite the efforts of the four local government councils in Southland, Te Ao Mārama Inc., and Great South to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation. This includes the four key aspirations of the Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>Combating climate change and mitigating its impacts are one of the most significant challenges facing Southland and the proposed strategy is a good start. In addition, local government agencies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contribute to achieving New Zealand’s emission reduction targets. This includes considering the emissions from activities that can occur under their respective plans by way of both permitted activities and consents granted; and</li> <li>- mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities, including making room for rivers, wetland restoration and floodplain management through the managed / strategic retreat of vulnerable infrastructure and upgrading over time of infrastructure that is no longer fit for purpose.</li> </ul> <p>Managed retreat where property and / or infrastructure are at risk due to water body proximity needs to be actively addressed by SRC, especially in the context of increased climate extreme events. SRC needs to engage with the community to understand the need for managed retreat.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that this submitter’s support for the collaborative approach to date; as well their endorsement of the four key aspirations.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges that phase 1 of this work has been largely local government focused ensuring the key local government partner agencies were able reach agreement on a way forward. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies.</p>
196	Dave Diack <i>In person</i>	<p>The submitter states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fewer people are dying of climate-related disasters than ever, with there being a 98% drop in climate related deaths in the last decade compared to a century ago</li> <li>- The impressions from watching the news is misleading and makes it challenging to get climate change policy right</li> <li>- The falling number of climate-related deaths are due to innovation allowing humanity to better adapt to disasters</li> <li>- Sensible adaptation means that despite higher sea levels, fewer people than ever will be flooded</li> <li>- Understanding the bigger picture more accurately will improve chances of more effective policies</li> <li>- To help countries achieve fewer disaster deaths, we should promote prosperity, adaptation and resilience</li> </ul>	<p><b>The content of this submission requires additional deliberation 20 June 2024, as it is not fully addressed by the deliberation of themes held 20 May 2024.</b></p> <p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weather disasters are just one aspect of climate change</li> </ul>	science and information currently available.
<b>Submitters Not Being Heard</b>			
46	Robb Stevens (on behalf of Fonterra)	<p>The submitter welcomes the opportunity to comment on the ‘Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland Phase One’.</p> <p>The submitter recognises the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to a low-emissions economy and are committed to reducing their reliance on fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy alternatives.</p> <p>The submitter has a 2050 target of net zero emissions and plans to end their use of coal by 2037 and reduce their scope one and two emissions in absolute terms by 50% in 2030 from a 2018 baseline. Overall, 55% of their manufacturing emissions are from coal and 18% from fossil gas, with the rest coming from co-gen and electricity. This is a major reason for prioritising the decarbonisation of their coal reliant South Island sites first.</p> <p>The submitter considers the following principles should inform the design and delivery of the climate change strategy for Southland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affordable, secure and sustainable energy is critical – this involves reducing costs associated with energy use; ensuring our sites have a secure and reliable energy supply; and reducing emissions as quickly as possible;</li> <li>- Accelerating our decarbonisation – this involves using less and emitting less;</li> <li>- Leveraging national targets for local action – this includes supporting national targets to achieve NZ’s international climate change obligation;</li> </ul> <p>The submitter considers that the application of these key overall principles can ensure that Southland plays its part in tackling climate change, while enhancing its social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being and resilience.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submitter sharing their own pathway and reasoning for working towards this same objective.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
164 – split with LTP submission	Allan Baird	<p>The submitter notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the amount of capital grants local government agencies have received during the past 3 years on shovel ready projects, some of which had climate change justifications</li> <li>- that spending rate payers money will add more pain to the region in the form of debt to be repaid, ‘on a notion that we may still be at risk from flooding assess from climate change modelling’</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that there has been local and central government investment in LiDAR, but it needs to look at the data on gravel build-up around critical infrastructure and facilitate its removal</li> <li>- that the existing bank infrastructure needs to be properly maintained before diverting new funds into topping up banks</li> <li>- that any new bank infrastructure should be supported by the Catchment Liaison Committees.</li> </ul>	<p>The hearing panel notes this submission and envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that gravel related issues could be addressed as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p>
171 – split with LTP submission	Glenda Bell	<p>The submitter queries what evidence there is for increasingly intense flood events as a result of frequent, severe and enduring weather events. The submitter suggests that Environment Southland exercises due diligence and look up all past records to build up an accurate picture of climatic events over the past 200 or more years; and that if this analysis was completed it would indicate that storms and intense events are less frequent nowadays than in the past.</p> <p>The submitter also comments that ‘science is never absolute! It is always fluid, and forever changing, and it must always be open and transparent – to allow for it to be constantly assessed, tested, evaluated, accepted, rejected, modified...’</p> <p>The submitter states that what is proposed in the ES LTP is unaffordable and unreasonable, unnecessary and not justifiable as there is ‘No climate crisis’.</p>	<p>Overall the hearing panel considered that there was a level of support for the Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that there are some diverging views on climate science, however local government is required to adopt best practice approaches, including using international science and guidance to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
181 – split with LTP submission	Rachael Moore (on behalf of Department of Conservation)	<p>The submitter states that Department of Conservation supports Environment Southland taking a Southland-wide approach to climate change and implementing and reviewing the Murihiku Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy (the Strategy).</p> <p>The Department of Conservation endorses the Strategy's four key aspirations.</p> <p>The Department of Conservation endorses Environment Southland's continued investment in its climate adaptation science and modelling programme.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that this submitter’s support for the collaborative approach to date; as well their endorsement of the four key aspirations and ES’s continued investment in the climate adaptation science and modelling programme.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
184 – split with LTP submission	Kate Lindsay (on behalf of QEII Trust)	<p>The submitter supports the development of a Regional Climate Change Strategy that seeks to reduce climate impacts on our indigenous biodiversity.</p> <p>The submitter states that ‘the effects of climate change are already being documented within our native ecosystems and that these predicted impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in the distributional range and diversity of invasive plants and animals.</li> <li>- Changes in ecosystem function due to pressures such as increased seed predation and changing temperatures.</li> <li>- Increasing flood events and sea level rise causing ecosystem ‘squeeze’ when ecosystems cannot retreat inland or spread because they are hemmed in by intensive land use activities.</li> <li>- Increased fire risk which is of particular concern where wide-scale land-use change to exotic forestry is still occurring.</li> </ul> <p>The submitter also states that many ecosystems can withstand some climate change related pressures if they are in a healthy state or large enough to have resilience. Ensuring environmental resilience in the face of climate change needs to be part of the regional strategy.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to natural heritage from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
189 – split with LTP submission	Alison & Roger Copland	<p>The submitter states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘Climate change’ is also known as ‘the weather’.</li> <li>- ‘CO2 is what sustains all life on this planet, without it all plants, trees and people die!!!’</li> <li>- Environment Southland need to do their due diligence and research the subject extensively.</li> </ul> <p>The submitter is concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- there is a risk that after spending millions of ratepayer funds that the science that is being adhered to is incorrect.</li> <li>- ‘engagement’ with children and youth on ‘climate change’ is having a negative impact on their wellbeing, they are fearful of their future and this ‘conversation’ with them needs to stop.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p><b>The submitter’s concern regarding engaging children and youth on ‘climate change’ requires additional deliberation 20 June 2024, as it is not addressed by the deliberation of themes held 20 May 2024.</b></p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
197 – split with LTP submission	Jenny Campbell (Forest and Bird)	<p>The submitter comments that their strategic objectives include being ‘Climate Centred: Ensuring our country does everything we can to keep the climate safe for all life on Earth. The impact of climate change will be at the centre of everything we do.’</p> <p>The submitter supports climate resilience projects and considers Murihiku to be vulnerable.</p> <p>The submitter states that nature based solutions ‘play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. Forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems act as carbon sinks, sequestering large amounts of carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Restoring and conserving indigenous forests, implementing indigenous afforestation and reforestation projects, and protecting coastal ecosystems like estuaries all contribute to carbon sequestration, helping to stabilise the climate’.</p> <p>In addition, that Environment Southland needs to be mindful of coastal erosion and coastal processes as some communities are already very vulnerable.</p> <p>The submitter suggests that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a ‘zero carbon’ strategy is developed as it would be much more ambitious and advantageous to the Murihiku region.</li> <li>- adapting to climate change is much more than emissions reduction. Nature based solutions / room for the rivers are both methods of achieving climate resilience as well as increasing biodiversity and community wellbeing.</li> <li>- active transport options need to be considered. For example ‘cycle lanes &amp; trails need to be further developed in conjunction with other Councils in Murihiku with safety paramount. Encouraging more people to use cycling as a means of fitness and improved health; while reducing carbon emissions and getting cars off the roads, reducing congestion and accidents. Walking paths need to be fully maintained for use as well for the same reasons.’.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to natural heritage and coastal processes from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support. The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
201 – split with LTP submission	Jesse Bythell	<p>The submitter expresses appreciation for the opportunity to submit and agrees that Southland needs a regional strategy to coordinate a climate change response.</p> <p>The submitter notes that our natural heritage is one of the many things under threat from climate change and that ‘without reducing the impacts of climate change we will find our ability protect and enhance biodiversity becomes much harder, for example with an increasing range of pest animals and plants able to live in Southland or increasing floods/slips etc. damaging fences or negatively</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to natural heritage from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – draft decisions 20 June 2024

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>affecting ecosystems’.</p> <p>The submitter also notes that they were not aware that this had been open for public consultation and have not had a chance to read the document or comment on it in any detail and suggests that some more current information needs to be added to the ES website under sections like ‘Plans and Strategies’ or ‘Climate Resilience’ or ‘Environment&gt;Climate’.</p>	<p>While noting the website does carry relevant information at <a href="https://www.es.govt.nz/environment/climate-change">https://www.es.govt.nz/environment/climate-change</a>, the hearing panel thanks the submitter for the feedback associated with improving the ES website.</p>
215B – split with LTP submission	Murray McDonald	<p>The submitter states that ‘The Climate Change industry needs to be unfunded and money used to provide necessary infrastructure’.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
316 – split with LTP submission	Russell Cook	<p>The submitter disagrees that any needs to be done re: increased rainfall events. The submitter comments that climate change is not happening and that predictions are conjecture.</p> <p>The submitter suggests ‘to wait until it happens before spending millions on floodbanks that will never be needed’.</p> <p>The submitter queries what Environment Southland’s GHG emissions are and how much can be attributed to ‘staff driving expensive 4WDs all around’.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>It is noted that Environment Southland, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council have all taken steps to undertake an organisational GHG inventory to understand their own footprint. In addition, these agencies are currently undertaking work to determine how these footprints could be reduced. Gore District Council is planning to complete their first organisational GHG inventory before 2026.</p>



**Potential gaps that still need to be considered and deliberated on 20 June 2024:**

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	DRAFT DECISIONS
02	Laura Pope on behalf of Vince Barry, NPHS Te Waipounamu Health New Zealand Whatu Ora	Aspiration 4 – suggests that it is not clear what “meaningful change” looks like, or what will be meaningfully changed. Also suggests that the timeline be shortened to 10 years;	
04	Federated Farmers of NZ (Jason Herrick)	Submitter agrees with the importance of including science in the collective values. Considers there is potential risk with aspiration 4 “we will create meaningful change within one generation” or 25 years as that timeframe may not be enough to be able to record or measure change.	
05	University of Otago (Department of Geology) (Dr Rebecca McLeod)	Submitter notes that the focus of the strategy is very much on changing climate (extreme weather events, flooding, drought), and there is scant reference to sea level rise. Suggests that projected sea level rise and the potential implications of that on Murihiku Southland is expanded upon.	
189	Alison & Roger Copland	The submitter is concerned that ‘engagement’ with children and youth on ‘climate change’ is having a negative impact on their wellbeing, they are fearful of their future and this ‘conversation’ with them needs to stop.	
196	Dave Diack	<p>The submitter states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fewer people are dying of climate-related disasters than ever, with there being a 98% drop in climate related deaths in the last decade compared to a century ago</li> <li>- The impressions from watching the news is misleading and makes it challenging to get climate change policy right</li> </ul>	

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	DRAFT DECISIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The falling number of climate-related deaths are due to innovation allowing humanity to better adapt to disasters</li> <li>- Sensible adaptation means that despite higher sea levels, fewer people than ever will be flooded</li> <li>- Understanding the bigger picture more accurately will improve chances of more effective policies</li> <li>- To help countries achieve fewer disaster deaths, we should promote prosperity, adaptation and resilience</li> <li>- Weather disasters are just one aspect of climate change</li> </ul>	

**Additional options to consider:**

Recommended changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy:

- A table of information sources / references could be included in the Regional Climate Change Strategy to improve transparency of ES data sources informing this strategy;
- Referencing the value of Fiordland as a natural carbon sink;

Changes beyond the scope of the Regional Climate Change Strategy i.e. which could be addressed by the development of a Framework for Action are:

- The accessibility of data could also be improved, possibly via the progress of the regional data repository which is currently in development;
- The narrative could be clarified with regard to what can be considered flood risk associated with general fluctuating weather patterns and to what extent this is exacerbated by a changing climate;
- To aid tracking, develop a list of the considerations arising from the submissions and hearing to be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action;

Proposed **Regional**  
**Climate Change Strategy**  
**for Murihiku Southland** Phase One



## CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Background	4
Purpose	4
Regional Climate Change Working Group structure	5
Our changing climate	6
Timeline	7
Responding to a changing climate	8
Our region's emissions	10
Southland regional greenhouse gas emissions	12
Principles	13
Overarching aspirations	15
Specific aspirations	16
Creating a Framework for Action	18
What's next?	19
Glossary	20

# Foreword

Murihiku Southland Councils, alongside Te Ao Mārama Inc, have **are** committed to a collaborative and inclusive partnership **approach** in defining our regional strategic response to a changing climate.

**In doing so, it is important to build trust, confidence and capacity for continuing cooperation with our communities.**

**Acknowledging the clear mandate from our communities to do so and recognising the role of local government in supporting community resilience, it is essential our regional approach builds trust, confidence, and capacity for ongoing community cooperation.**

**While the broad scientific consensus supports the reality of global climate change and its impacts, we recognize that some individuals and groups within our community continue to question these findings. It is important to address these**

**differing perspectives while firmly grounding our response in the best available science to ensure the resilience and well-being of our region.**

Murihiku Southland is not alone in addressing the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate. We are part of a global community responding to a shared crisis. We are able to learn from the experiences and efforts of others, both within Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad. However, we also recognise the distinctive character of our regional needs. Our actions will be guided by an appropriate mix of global and local knowledge including mātauranga Māori, ensuring the choices we make remain tailored to our unique environment, economy, and communities.

In aligning with national policy, this strategy distinguishes between the two pillars of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. Mitigation involves the decarbonisation of our economy, as well as widespread behavioural change. This will be a challenging journey but it's an important pathway for our community to minimise the escalating impacts of a changing climate. There is significant scope to learn from others, benchmark,

and leverage technology as we pursue our net-zero greenhouse gas goals. Our region is on a pleasing pathway, with the 2022 measurements indicating that regional emissions have been reduced by 14.8% since 2018.

Alongside mitigation, adaptation pathways may be the more demanding of the two. As New Zealand's Climate Change Commissioner, Rodd Carr, stated in a presentation at Environment Southland in September 2022:

*“Adaptation is going to be one of the most challenging conversations local and regional governments have to have, because adaptation is inherently local – it is inherently about communities directly affected by the changed climate.”*

Accepting this challenge, it is important to recognise that the pursuit of climate change mitigation and adaptation are two pillars which often intersect, offering a path toward resilience and sustainability. While opportunities may not always be immediately evident, we embrace the notion that actions to reduce emissions might enhance our adaptive capacity, and adaptation measures may contribute to mitigation efforts. This synergy highlights the importance of a holistic and flexible approach in response to the complex challenges and opportunities posed by

a changing climate.

Finally, it is recognised that this strategy is framed against a backdrop of uncertainty in an increasingly changing world. Yet, given the potential consequences and costs of indecision, delay, and inaction, we need to do what we can with what we have now. Thus, we subscribe to the notion that local government agencies have a dual role – to lead as well as empower others to act. We understand that in navigating the complexities of a changing climate, we may not always ‘get it right’. But we believe that purposeful action accompanied by reflexive learning are essential elements of our response.

This challenge is ours to meet – and with humility *mahaki*, resolve *maia*, and commitment *manawanui*, together *kotahitanga*, we can secure Murihiku Southland for future generations. Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei.

**Environment Southland Councillor, Phil Morrison and Te Ao Mārama (TAMI) Kaupapa Taiao Manager, Dean Whaanga**  
*Co-chairs, Murihiku Southland Regional Climate Change Working Group*



# Background

At a regional hui held in July 2022, recognising our strong mutual interdependence, it was agreed that local government agencies need to work together to establish a regional approach to respond to Murihiku Southland's changing climate.

Environment Southland and Te Ao Mārama initiated discussions to create an inter-agency working group as a starting point for bringing Councils together – with Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council being key partners in developing a regional approach. Great South, as Southland's regional economic development agency have also been involved.

This strategic collaboration will initially be defined and guided by two key documents as follows.

## Phase One

**Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland** (this strategy) defining how local government agencies will work together (principles) and toward what outcomes that work will focus (aspirations).

## Phase Two

**Regional Framework for Action** (being developed) which will define and prioritise the specific actions and initiatives needed to realise the outcomes being aspired to. It is expected the Regional Framework for Action will:

- Enable each individual local government agency to create Action Plans that align with the aspirations set out in this strategy.
- **Evaluate the merits of and define** the continuing or new collaborative actions to which local government agencies will commit.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration beyond local government – empowering the aspirations, energies, and creativity of communities and industry.

# Purpose

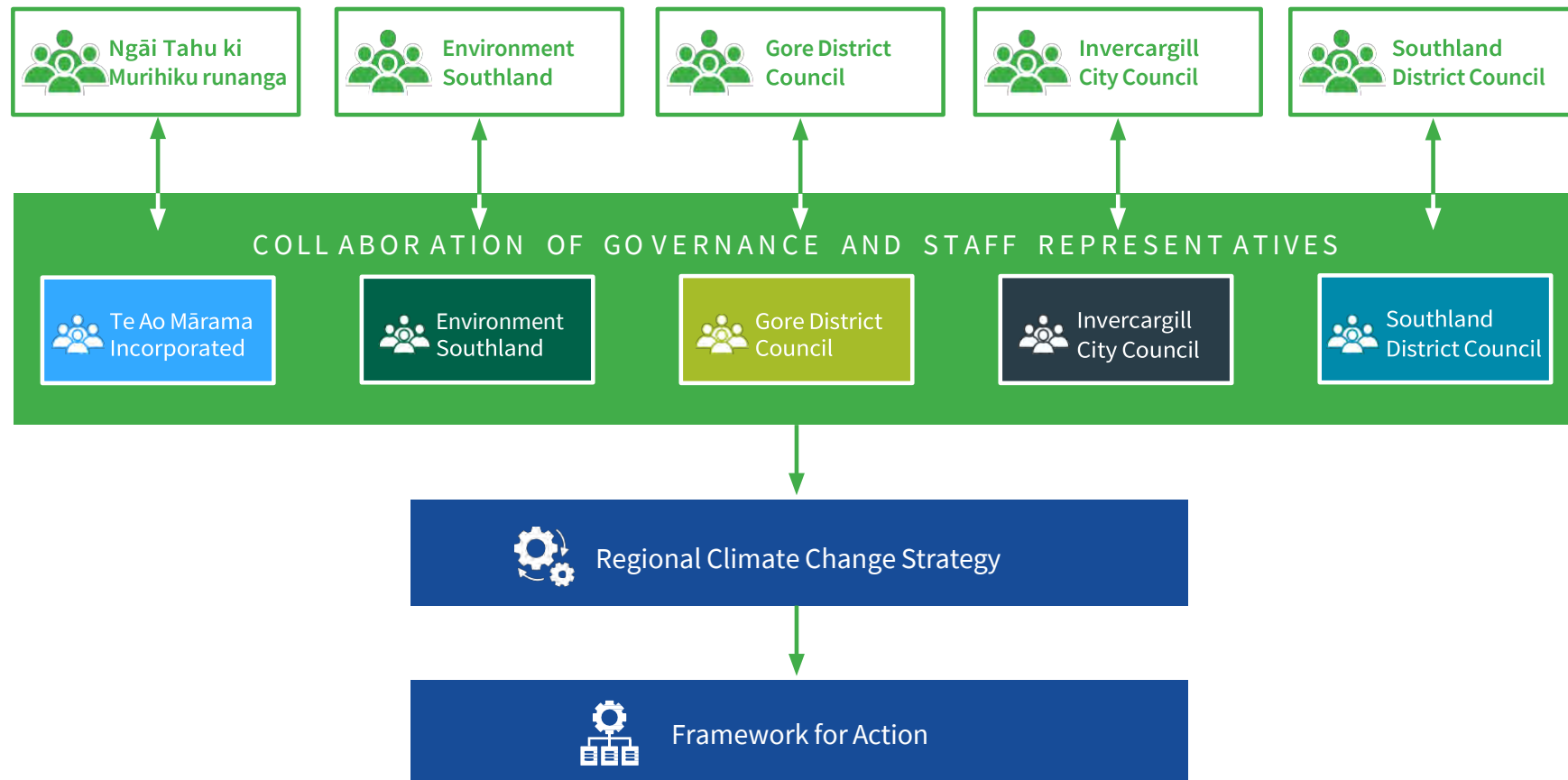
The purpose of this strategy is to unite the efforts of our four local government councils, Te Ao Mārama Inc and Great South to support a cohesive response to help protect our environmental, economic, cultural and social wellbeing against the effects of a changing climate by agreeing on broad principles and aspirations.

This strategy will enable local government agencies and our communities to work together efficiently and effectively, optimising the use of resources and expertise for the benefit of all ratepayers towards a resilient future for our region.



# Regional Climate Change Working Group structure

The Regional Climate Change Working Group (RCCWG) was established in early 2023 with governance representatives from each council and Te Ao Mārama Inc, supported by a staff level inter-agency group. This informal working group has been instrumental in enabling cross-agency discussions and collaboration to progress strategy development (phase 1). It is envisaged that phase 2 will involve extending collaboration beyond the existing structure of this working group.



# Our changing climate

Our global, national and regional understanding of the changing climate has developed over time; though this has significantly accelerated during the past decade.

While the concept of a changing climate has been something that 'will happen sometime in the future', it is now accepted

Within Murihiku Southland there are still some that dispute that human activities are contributing to a changing climate. However, it is generally acknowledged that our region is already experiencing the effects of increasing severe weather events.

Some parts of Murihiku Southland are already prone to flooding. Recent events include the Mataura catchment flooding in February 2020 (which also affected Fiordland), as well as all catchments experiencing significant flooding in September 2023.

In contrast, during the summers of 2021-22 and 2022-23 dry spells and drought conditions were experienced in many parts of our region.

These severe weather events often have serious economic, social and environmental impacts on the region. When these kinds of significant weather events are projected into the future, it can be daunting and overwhelming to consider.

Determining what on-the-ground action can be pursued as individuals and as communities right now, could change the course of this future. Understanding the opportunities (and opportunity costs) of investing in resilience versus the costs of post-event recovery will be an important consideration.

Regardless of the causes of changes to our climate, local government have a range of obligations to respond proactively and ensure long-term community resilience.

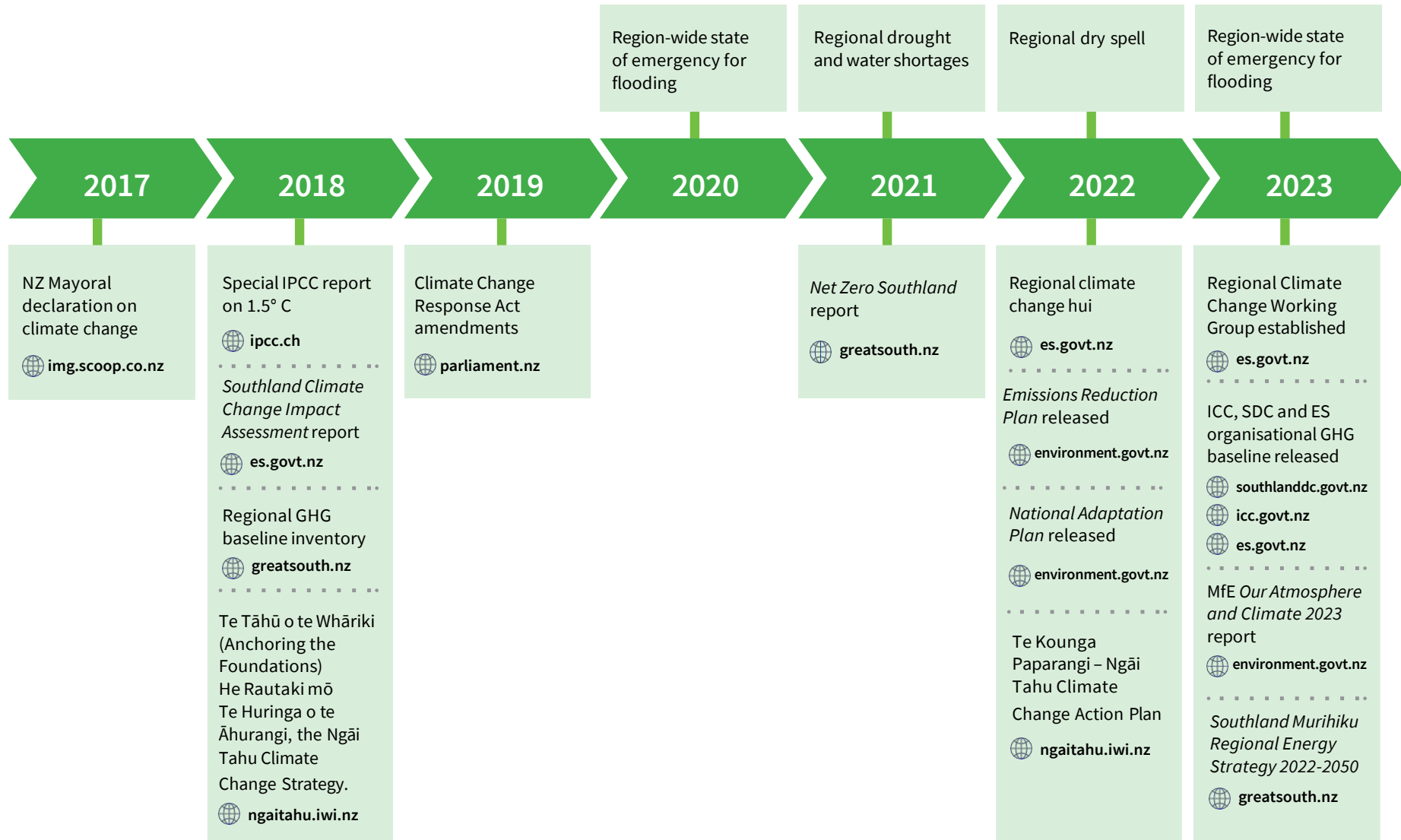
This climate change strategy seeks to guide this journey for the Murihiku Southland region.



The Mataura River in flood at Gore, February 2020.



# Timeline (may need to add a 2024 box?)



# Responding to a changing climate

## Local government's role

Collective and collaborative regional leadership is important to enable the implications of a changing climate to be considered for the Murihiku Southland region. A core purpose of local government is to promote community wellbeing in the present and in the future. This is at the heart of how our local government agencies need to work together towards a more resilient future.

The Climate Change Response Act 2002 directs the development of clear and stable climate change policies, in order for New Zealand to meet its international obligations and administer a greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme. While New Zealand's resource management legislation is in the midst of significant and ongoing reforms, national policy directions currently issued under the RMA relating to freshwater, biodiversity, and coastal management require decision-makers to consider the need for enhancing climate resilience. The resource management reforms aim to ensure that appropriate regard is given to the implications of a changing climate among other national priorities, including community wellbeing.

Environment Southland as the regional council, has specific responsibilities for example, managing flood risk under various pieces of legislation including the Local Government Act 2002 and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council also have a range of obligations to consider natural hazard risks in planning and infrastructure decisions.

Emergency Management Southland has the responsibility for the delivery of emergency management responses if a significant climate related event was to occur.

While historically flood banks have been the main solution for protecting communities at risk, over the longer term there is a need to redesign the way we manage our catchments **ensuring consideration of a wider range of solutions** to help manage this risk.

**Science and mātauranga are fundamental to guiding a regional**

**response to a changing climate. It is acknowledged that there are some diverging views on climate change science, however local government is required to adopt best practice approaches, including using international science and guidance to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation.**

**While there is an abundance of international and national climate related science, there is currently still work to be done to ensure we more accurately understand the implications of this science for our region.**

A crucial step towards regional leadership is an opportunity for each agency to carry out individual organisational efforts to support this work. This is important, not only for role modelling, but also ensuring each agency understands what is required to enable the support of others; as well as contributing towards a collective community effort.

For the Murihiku Southland region, this climate change strategy is a key step for local government agencies in undertaking this journey.

Environment Southland as the regional council, has specific responsibilities for example, managing flood risk under various pieces of legislation including the Local Government Act 2002 and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council also have a range of obligations to consider natural hazard risks in planning and infrastructure decisions.



## Key components of this strategy

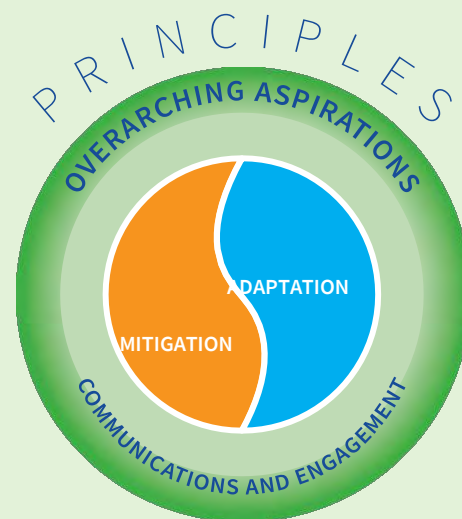
Following the international and national lead, this strategy focuses on two key strands – mitigation and adaptation. Communication and engagement are needed to support these two inter-connected strands of the climate change conversation.

### Mitigation

Mitigation is the human actions to reduce emissions by sources; or enhance removals of greenhouse gases. At a national level this is guided by the Emissions Reduction Plan. Examples include increasing the energy efficiency of homes and

offices; or replacing a coal boiler with a renewable electric-powered one. An example of increasing the removal of greenhouse gases is growing new trees to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

This strategy guides the development of future action in relation to each of these key components.



### Adaptation

Adaptation is the process of adjusting to actual or expected climate **variability** and its effects. At a national level this is guided by the National Adaptation Plan. Examples of adaptation include managed retreat, land-use changes, and investment in climate resilient infrastructure.

This process is inherently local and about communities directly affected by the changing climate. In addition, the inter-generational ramifications are an important consideration as our collective grandchildren and future generations will face increasing consequences of a changing climate.

## Strategy review

This strategy has been written within a national context of ongoing revisions to the legislative framework, not only for climate change policy, resource management but also local government reform. It will be reviewed by June 2025 to ensure it remains current and aligned with anticipated national legislative and policy changes.

The principles, aspirations and strategy as a whole are a starting point of a long-term partnership and journey. It is anticipated that the next iteration of this strategy will extend beyond the **needs of local government with greater**

**consideration of the needs of key** stakeholders and our communities.

# Our region's emissions

## 1 Regional emissions inventory

## 2 Regional emissions modelling

## 3 Regional emissions reduction pathway

### Regional emissions inventory

In 2018, a baseline emission inventory for the region was established\*. This was undertaken by following the methodology outlined in the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (WRI, 2021) and Measuring emissions: A guide for organisations (MfE 2023).

This baseline inventory highlighted that we all contribute to our regional emissions profile, as individuals, communities, businesses and industry. This profile indicated that with 12% of New Zealand's total land area and producing 15% of New Zealand's tradeable exports, Southland (with only 2% of New Zealand's population in 2018) contributed 9.7% of New Zealand's gross emissions\*.

It is best practice for this kind of regional inventory to be updated on a regular 3 or 5-yearly cycle in order to monitor changes over time. This inventory has been repeated regularly by Great South\*\* since 2020, which has indicated a progressive downward trend in regional net emissions compared to the 2018 baseline. Great South will continue to report against the 2018 baseline annually and plays an important role in supporting local businesses to measure and reduce emissions, assisting the region's net zero greenhouse gas journey.

### Regional emissions modelling

Further to the emissions inventory work, Great South (working alongside MfE and the Tindall Foundation) has undertaken regional emissions modelling as part of developing a carbon neutral advantage programme. The Net Zero Southland 2050 report (March 2021) provides direction on potential economic mitigation pathways for Southland.

Part of this modelling seeks to understand the economic value of emissions reduction, which could enable our region to contribute towards achieving national net zero emissions by 2050. It also notes that a low emission economy would provide Southland with major opportunities to support economic and social prosperity while mitigating the risks posed by a changing climate.

\* *Southland Regional Carbon Footprint 2018* – [www.greatsouth.nz/resources/southlands-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2018](http://www.greatsouth.nz/resources/southlands-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2018) [please refer to this report for an understanding of the methodology used and the data sources].

\*\* Great South is a council-controlled organisation, jointly owned by Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, Gore District Council, Environment Southland, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Mātaura Licensing Trust, Southland Chamber of Commerce, Southern Institute of Technology and Community Trust South. It is Southland's regional development agency which facilitates the implementation of the B2025 Southland Long Term Plan, as well as supporting the regional emissions reduction journey by working with businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions across the region.

## Regional emissions reductions pathways

Our region is already on a net zero greenhouse gas journey and while some progress has been made since the 2018 baseline inventory, achieving this goal will involve individuals, communities, businesses and industries all evaluating their contribution/s.

In 2018 our region contributed 9.7% of the country's emissions. This has reduced by 14.8%, to contribute 8.2% of the country's emissions in 2022. This is due to the decarbonisation of fossil-fuelled boilers and a systematic reduction in emissions for agriculture, energy, transport, manufacturing

and waste. Partnerships with EECA, Government, the private and public sector as well as educational outreach has created the impetus for the success of this programme.

Achieving net zero greenhouse gases by 2050, will require everyone to play their part. In the short-term, local government agencies in Murihiku Southland are focusing on ensuring each organisation is on track to achieving net zero goals; while the longer-term focus is determining how local government should best play its part regionally.



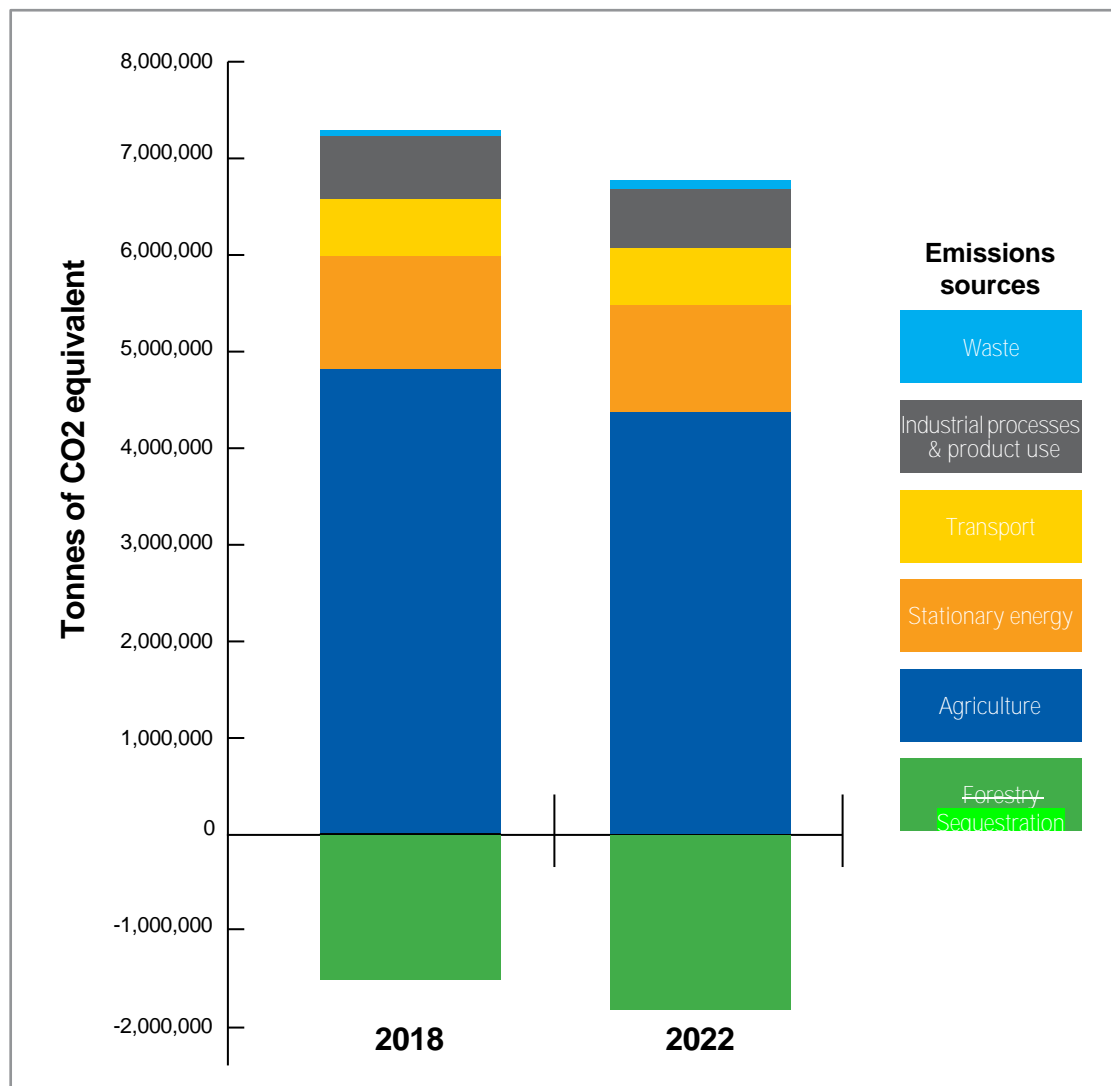
# Southland regional greenhouse gas emissions

Southland regional net greenhouse gas emissions 2018 and 2022 as measured by Great South. This graph illustrates that overall net regional greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 14.8% from 2018 to 2022.

	2018	2022
Total GROSS emissions CO <sub>2</sub> e*	7,308,128	6,753,059
Total CO <sub>2</sub> e sequestered**	-1,498,508	-1,805,554
Total NET emissions CO <sub>2</sub> e	5,809,620	4,947,505

\* CO<sub>2</sub>e stands for 'carbon dioxide equivalent' to enable the comparison to six key GHG gases: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

\*\* Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. The regional emissions inventory currently only includes forestry related sequestration (due to current regional data limitations for other sources of sequestration).




Southland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for 2022 – [www.greatsouth.nz/resources](http://www.greatsouth.nz/resources)



# Principles

Principles provide direction on ways of working together to create a regional response to the impact of a changing climate on Murihiku Southland. The seven principles provide the foundation for regional efforts to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by our changing climate and associated environmental effects such as sea-level rise, indigenous biodiversity loss and biosecurity incursions.



**Kaitiakitanga Guardianship** – our responsibility to protect the essential life-supporting capacity of our environment, balancing the wellbeing of our present and future generations.

**Mōhiotanga Understanding** – effective risk evaluation and an evolving, iterative management approach, which fosters a future-focused community of learning.

**Whakamana Empowerment** – facilitate innovative and bold pathways for action while nurturing the resilience of our youth, in preparation for their future.

**Whakarāneinei Anticipation** – adopting a data-driven approach in developing proactive action plans, prioritising long-term thinking and reinvestment in our environmental capital.

**Hauora Wellbeing** – the interconnectedness of a healthy environment for community wellbeing and resilience.

**Kotahitanga Inclusivity** – transparent sharing of knowledge for a fair and equitable transition towards our future.

**Mahitahi Alignment** – a comprehensive, inclusive, collaborative approach that facilitates consistency and synergy and enables informed and balanced decision-making.

## Detailed principles

These principles will guide how Murihiku Southland local government agencies will work together, including prioritising to determine regional action.

They highlight the importance of recognising mutual dependencies and for example, taking a catchment focused and/or community focused approach to working across boundaries and prioritising the key issues.

These Murihiku Southland principles can be understood in more detail as follows.

### Kaitiakitanga *Guardianship*

- Recognise our duty of care to safeguard our environment's fundamental life supporting capacity.
- Adopt a precautionary approach towards mitigating and adapting to the effects of a changing climate.
- Create a balanced framework, which supports many inter-connected strands.
- Value the wellbeing and livelihoods of our present and future generations.

### Hauora *Wellbeing*

- Live with and understand how everything is connected.
- Recognise a healthy, functioning environment is inherent to our individual and collective wellbeing(s).
- Enhance community and environmental resilience in the face of change.

### Whakarāneinei *Anticipation*

- Think and act with a long-term perspective, valuing and reinvesting in our environmental capital.
- Create proactive and precautionary pathways for action, doing what we can now with what we know now.
- Ensure relevant regional science and information underpins a data-led approach.

### Mōhiotanga *Understanding*

- Understand risks and look for potential ways to avoid, mitigate and manage risk.
- Pursue iterative management, adapting our approach as we learn and know better.
- Sow the seeds of how our future may be different, creating a broad community of learning.

### Kotahitanga *Inclusivity*

- Share knowledge widely and transparently.
- Proactively consider those most vulnerable and voices least heard.
- Create a fair and equitable transition to our future.

### Whakamana *Empowerment*

- Enable courageous pathways for action, inspiring individual and collective action.
- Look for opportunities and respond with innovation and creativity.
- Support our young people to understand, participate and be resilient in the face of their future – offering them hope.

### Mahitahi *Alignment*

- Think ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea, considering the effects in every direction and across boundaries.
- Adopt a united, integrated, consistent, and holistic approach enabling informed and balanced decision-making.
- Foster collaboration among various stakeholders, businesses, community groups and individuals.



# Overarching aspirations

Our collective values spanning science, beliefs and hopes for the future, come together to form our aspirations for our regional response to a changing climate.

They provide an agreed ‘direction of travel’ for local government agencies, which can be improved and modified as the journey progresses.

Ongoing cross-agency discussions will help develop and implement aligned pathways towards these aspirations. These pathways will include managing the effects of a changing climate as well as capitalising

on potential opportunities that may benefit the region, keeping in mind the importance of ensuring that our future generations will also have the best possible opportunities. Additional specific aspirations may be developed, as part of the journey towards creating a Framework for Action.

The following aspirations reflect the collective intent of local government agencies to support **and advocate for** effective responses to our changing climate across Murihiku Southland.

In addition to these overarching aspirations, further aspirations provide a direction regarding mitigation, adaptation as well as communications and engagement as per the key focus areas of this strategy.

## Our aspirations

- 1 Te Mana o Te Ao Turoa – the mana of the environment is valued and respected enabling our people to be responsive as our climate changes.
- 2 Science and Mātauranga underpins our response to our changing climate in Murihiku Southland.
- 3 We understand the changes, challenges and opportunities associated with our changing climate and will act courageously, building resilience to respond and thrive.
- 4 We will create meaningful change within one generation\* and inspire future generations to continue this work.

\* One generation equates to 25 years



# Specific aspirations

## Mitigation

Local government agencies need to collectively contribute towards mitigating the changing climate by reducing organisational emissions, offsetting if necessary and becoming more sustainable organisations. This will also enable Councils to understand the challenges businesses and other organisations face in reducing emissions and aid the efforts towards developing a best practice consistent approach.

Each agency is on their own organisational learning journey, of which measuring organisational greenhouse gas emissions is a first step towards understanding how these emissions can be reduced.

Councils are also working on understanding their mitigation role within the community. This is an important step towards being able to support the aspiration of becoming a net zero region.

5 Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Great South will be net zero\* organisations by 2050 or earlier.

6 By June 2026\*\*, all four Councils will measure their organisational greenhouse gas baseline and develop emissions reductions targets for progressive reduction of greenhouse gas emissions toward 2050.

7 Councils understand their role in **leading enabling** Murihiku Southland to become a net zero region

\* Net zero refers to the reduction of organisational greenhouse gas emissions to a net zero level.

\*\* This date is being referenced to ensure the direction resulting from organisational baseline measuring of greenhouse gas emissions, can be incorporated into planning as part of the LTP cycle 2027-2037.

## Adaptation

The changing climate will significantly impact our communities, ecosystems and natural resources. It is likely to result in changes to land use, not only in terms of where people live, but also the location of key infrastructure, where and how businesses operate and how natural resources are used. It is therefore important to ensure that local government agencies understand the risks and opportunities this presents, in order to consider the regional spatial planning implications.

Adaptation is about undertaking actions to minimise threats or to maximise opportunities resulting from the impact of a changing climate. A first step to this is that Councils will need to align on climate change scenarios to inform regional planning decisions; as well as collaborate to consider regional issues anew with a climate change lens.

8 We **fully** understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland.

9 Councils align on climate change scenarios to inform key regional decisions.\*

10 We collaborate to create regional pathways for action\*\*, acknowledging the inter-connectedness of specific issues.

\* This is important as local government agencies collectively work towards planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037, however it is also relevant for regional decisions in a broader sense as well.

\*\* Examples are: carbon forestry, sustainable transport, water availability, waste management, biodiversity, **nature-based solutions** etc. The intention is that these RCCWG discussions will be ongoing and aligned pathways for action will be able to be incorporated into the planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037 and beyond.

## Communications and engagement

It is clear that as a community we are all at different stages of learning and understanding about the implications of a changing climate for our region. It is important to bring people on the journey, of which Councils are also a part, so that we can learn from each other and contribute to increasing collective knowledge.

Councils have a role to play to find ways of supporting people’s learning, wherever they might be at on their journey responding to our changing climate. In particular, our young people will face increasing implications as the climate changes and are therefore a key audience to engage and empower.

11 We build a regional community of learning. With transparency, we collectively improve our understanding of the complexity of our changing climate and its implications for Murihiku

12 We support individuals, businesses, community groups, and organisations to start and progress their journey responding to our changing climate.

13 We engage our children and young people to empower active participation in ongoing climate change conversations.



# Creating a Framework for Action

(illustration to be revised to reflect the intention to widen the collaboration beyond the RCCWG as part of phase 2, the development of a Framework for Action)

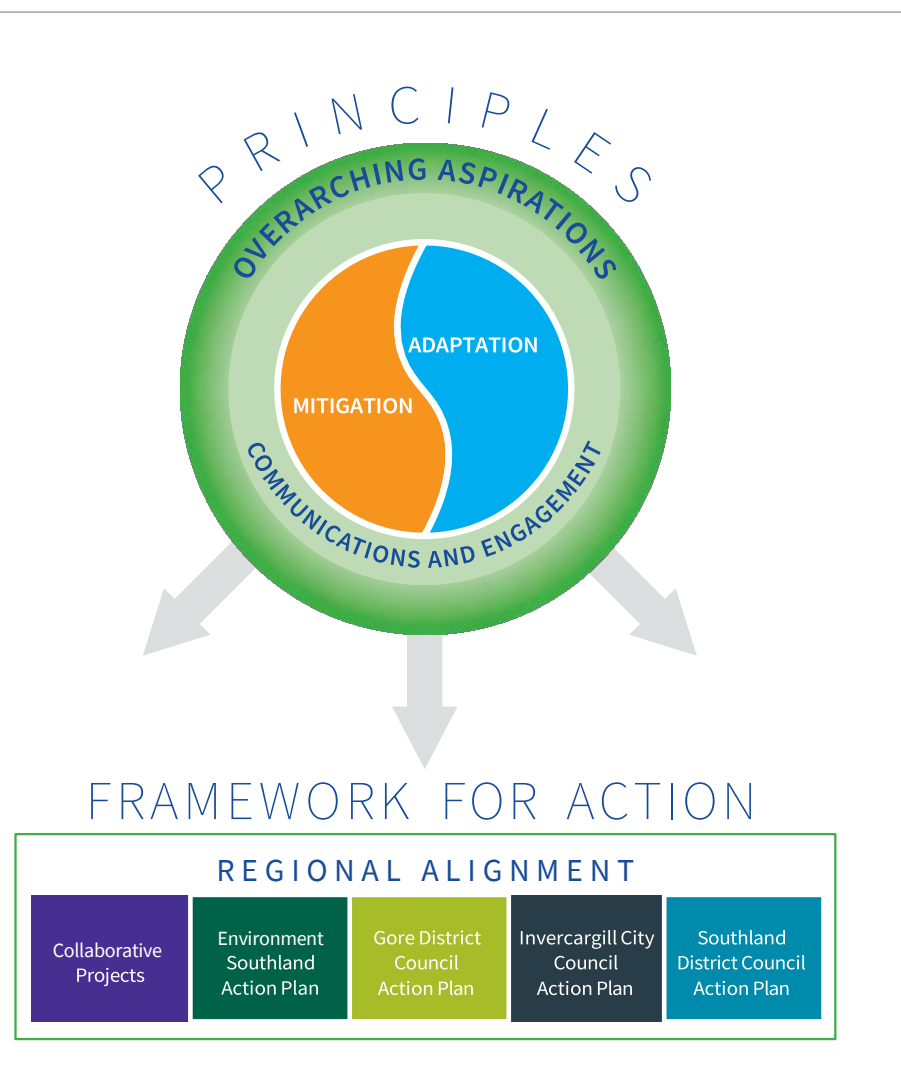
This strategy sets out how local government agencies will work together towards these aspirations. The key next step for the Regional Climate Change Working Group is to develop a Framework for Action (Phase 2).

The purpose is to create 'regional action pathways' focusing on where there will be regional benefit. The pathways will highlight where agencies can collaborate and align, enabling each agency to progress these in their own way. It will be important to determine what the ongoing steps will be, the costs and opportunity costs associated with these steps as well as and the role and responsibilities of each agency to support these pathways.

The resulting pathways will inform the setting of regional priorities. There is a need for a balanced assessment and understanding of costs of action and inaction (economic, social, cultural and environmental costs) to help inform as well as future long-term planning cycles; keeping in mind the agreed principle of doing what we can now, with what we

## Framework for Action

It is envisaged that the Framework for Action will follow the structured approach set out in this strategy. It will enable iterative planning, providing direction for both mitigation as well as adaptation pathways.



have now.

Partnerships with key stakeholders and wider Murihiku Southland communities will be important to input, influence and support the progression of these pathways.



## What's next?

Science and information are very important to understanding the regional implications of a changing climate.

Regional LiDAR data mapping has been commissioned.

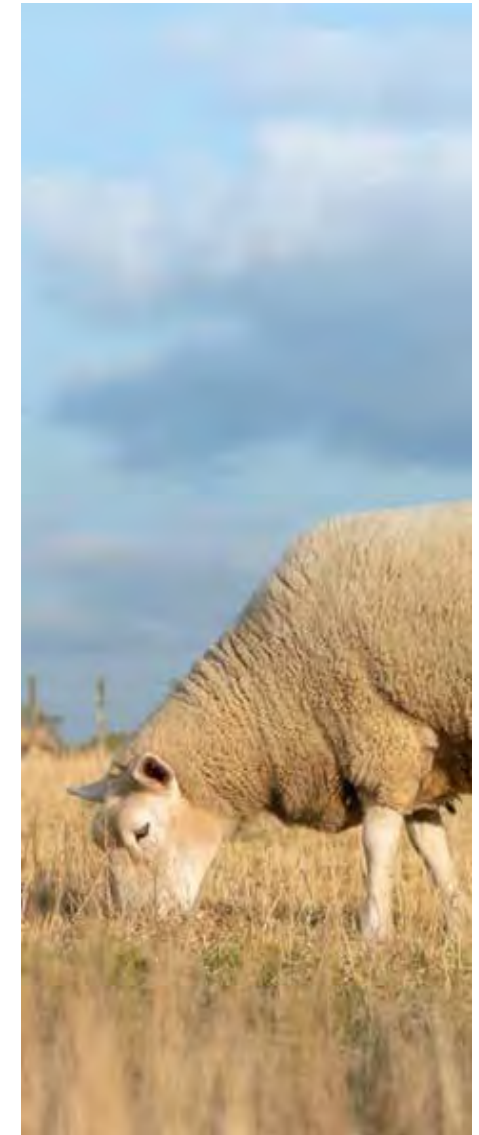
Work is also underway to develop a scope for updating and expanding the 2018 NIWA regional climate change report using updated global and national projections. Following the national work, regional climate, hydrological and sea level rise projections will be developed, which will increase the understanding of which areas of our region are most vulnerable and what this might mean for changes in land-use.

As our collective understanding of human risk, significance and environmental impacts develops, this will enable iterative risk assessment and reflexive learning.

The Regional Climate Change Working Group plans to develop a proposal for setting up a wider Murihiku regional climate change forum to enable this learning to be widely shared\*. The purpose of this forum will be to ensure the climate change conversation becomes more inclusive for individuals, businesses, community groups, and organisations that would like to be involved. This is likely to be a key initial stepping stone towards building a regional community of learning to support information sharing as well as on-the-ground action taking place.

It is also important to acknowledge that at any time our region may be subjected to a significant climate related event and preparation for these will aid our capacity for resilience. Emergency Management Southland provide significant resources enabling individuals, businesses and our communities to 'be ready' if this was to occur.

In the meantime, the Regional Climate Change Working Group will continue to progress a regional Framework for Action with a sense of urgency. Determining what on-the-ground action can be pursued as individuals and as communities is important to achieve a more resilient future.



\* The concept of a wider regional climate change forum was also a recommendation of the *Beyond 2025 Southland Regional Long Term Plan* prepared by Great South, June 2023.

# Glossary

<b>Adaptation</b>	In human systems, the process of adjusting to actual or expected climate and its effects, to moderate harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjusting to actual climate and its effects. Human intervention may help these systems to adjust to expected climate and its effects. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Aspirations</b>	Aspirations provide a regionally agreed ‘direction of travel’ and do not specify how something will be achieved. Collective discussions will be ongoing to develop and implement aligned pathways for how these aspirations will be achieved.
<b>Baseline</b>	An initial set of critical observations or data used for comparison or a control. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>B2025</b>	Beyond 2025 – the project lead by Great South to develop a Regional Long Term Plan for Murihiku Southland.
<b>Climate</b>	Informally, the average weather over a period ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. In more formal terms, a statistical description of the mean and variability of quantities, usually of surface variables such as temperature, precipitation and wind, averaged over a period (typically 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization). More broadly, climate is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Climate Change</b>	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (eg, by using statistical tests) by changes or trends in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades to centuries. Includes natural internal climate processes and external climate forcings such as variations in solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) definition of climate change specifically links it to direct or indirect human causes, as: “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods”. The UNFCCC thus makes a distinction between climate change attributable to human activities altering the atmospheric composition and climate variability attributable to natural causes. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Climate Change Commission (CCC)</b>	A Crown entity that gives independent, expert advice to the Government on climate change matters and monitors progress towards the Government’s mitigation and adaptation goals. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
<b>Climate Change Scenario</b>	A plausible description of how the future may develop based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about key driving forces (e.g., rate of technological change, prices) and relationships. Note that scenarios are neither predictions nor forecasts, but are used to provide a view of the implications of developments and actions. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary <a href="https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/">https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/</a>
<b>Climate projection</b>	A potential future evolution of a quantity or set of quantities, often computed with the aid of a model. Unlike predictions, projections are conditional on assumptions concerning, for example, future socio-economic and technological developments that may or may not be realised. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary <a href="https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/">https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/</a>

<b>Climate resilience</b>	The ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate, including the impacts that we can anticipate and the impacts of extreme events. It involves planning now for sea-level rise and more frequent flooding. It is also about being ready to respond to extreme events such as forest fires or extreme floods, and to trends in precipitation and temperature that emerge over time such as droughts. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Climate variability</b>	Deviations of climate variables from a given mean state (including the occurrence of extremes, etc.) at all spatial and temporal scales beyond that of individual weather events. Variability may be intrinsic, due to fluctuations of processes internal to the climate system (internal variability), or extrinsic, due to variations in natural or anthropogenic external forcing (forced variability) IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary <a href="https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/">https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/</a>
<b>CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> e stands for 'carbon dioxide equivalent' to enable the comparison to six key GHG gases: carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> ). REFERENCE
<b>Decarbonise</b>	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions e.g. through the use of low-emissions power sources and electrification. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
<b>Drought</b>	An exceptionally long period of water shortage for existing ecosystems and the human population (due to low rainfall, high temperature and/or wind). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Dynamic adaptive pathways planning (DAPP)</b>	A framework that supports climate adaptation decision-making by developing a series of actions over time (pathways). It is based on the idea of making decisions as conditions change, before severe damage occurs, and as existing policies and decisions prove no longer fit for purpose. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Emergency management</b>	The process of applying knowledge, measures and practices that are necessary or desirable for the safety of the public or property, and are designed to guard against, prevent, reduce, recover from or overcome any hazard, harm or loss associated with any emergency. Activities include planning, organising, coordinating and implementing those measures, knowledge and practices. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Emergency Management Southland (EMS)</b>	Emergency Management Southland (EMS) was established by the four local government agencies in Murihiku Southland and is responsible for the delivery of Civil Defence and Emergency Management responses throughout this region. As part of this, Emergency Management Southland coordinates the 24/7 operation of the Emergency Coordination Centre which facilitates planning and operational activity during an event. Emergency Management Southland (2023) About US
<b>Environment Southland</b>	Environment Southland is a regional council as defined under the Local Government Act 2002. Environment Southland is responsible for the sustainable management of Southland's natural resources - land, water, air and coast - in partnership with the community.
<b>Emissions</b>	In the context of climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases, precursors of greenhouse gases and aerosols caused by human activities. These activities include the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, land use and land-use change, livestock production, fertilisation, waste management and industrial processes. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Emissions reduction plan</b>	A plan that sets out the policies and strategies to meet emissions budgets by reducing emissions and increasing removals. A new emissions reduction plan must be in place before the beginning of each emissions budget period. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.



<b>Extreme weather event</b>	An event that is rare at a particular place and time of year. What is ‘extreme weather’ may vary from place to place in an absolute sense. The measure of what is ‘rare’ may also vary but it involves the occurrence of a value of a weather or climate variable above (or below) a threshold value near the upper (or lower) ends of the range of observed values of the variable. In general, an extreme weather event would be as rare as, or rarer than, the 10th or 90th percentile of a probability density function estimated from observations. When a pattern of extreme weather persists for some time, such as a season, it may be classified as an extreme climate event, especially if it yields an average or total that is itself extreme (eg, high temperature, drought or heavy rainfall over a season). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan. <i>While not explicitly stated, extreme weather events are linked to wider climatic changes as a whole, and as such, intertwined with our changing climate. The actual magnitude and frequency of events may continue to change and need to be assessed against new baselines as climate change takes effect.</i>
<b>Flood</b>	An event where the normal boundaries of a stream or other water body overflow, or water builds up over areas that are not normally underwater. Floods can be caused by unusually heavy rain – for example, during storms and cyclones. Floods include river (fluvial) floods, flash floods, urban floods, rain (pluvial) floods, sewer floods, coastal floods and glacial lake outburst floods. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Framework for Action</b>	Phase 2: The Framework for Action will provide clarity on how local government agencies in Southland will collectively achieve the aspirations outlined in this strategy; as well as focusing where there will be regional benefit for agencies to collaborate and potentially align on.
<b>Gore District Council</b>	Gore District Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
<b>Great South</b>	Great South is a Council-controlled organisation, jointly owned by ICC, SDC, GDC, ES, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Maitua Licensing Trust, Southland Chamber of Commerce, SIT and its member Community Trust South. It is Southland’s regional development agency which facilitates the implementation of the B2025 Southland Long Term Plan; as well as supporting the regional emissions reduction journey by working with businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions across the region.
<b>Greenhouse gases (GHG)</b>	Atmospheric gases that trap or absorb heat and contribute to climate change. The gases covered by the Climate Change Response Act 2002 are carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> ). Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
<b>Gross emissions</b>	Gross emissions include emissions from the following key sectors: Transport; energy and industry; agriculture; waste; fluorinated gases. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
<b>Hazard</b>	The potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Invercargill City Council</b>	Invercargill City Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
<b>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)</b>	The United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC is organised into three working groups and a task force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Group I (WGI) – physical science basis</li> <li>• Working Group II (WGII) – impacts, adaptation and vulnerability</li> <li>• Working Group III (WGIII) – mitigation</li> <li>• Task Force on national greenhouse gas inventories. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.</li> </ul>

<b>LiDAR</b>	Light Detection and Ranging is a remote sensing method. It uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) from the LiDAR instrument to the Earth. These are used to create 3D models and maps of objects and environments.
<b>Long Term Plan (LTP)</b>	Called the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) prior to 2012, the Long term plan is a document required under the Local Government Act 2002 that sets out a local authority’s priorities in the medium to long term.
<b>Mana</b>	Prestige, authority, control, power, influence, status, spiritual power, charisma. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Mātauranga</b>	Māori knowledge systems and worldviews, including traditional concepts. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>MfE</b>	Ministry for the Environment
<b>Mitigation (of a changing climate)</b>	In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Nature Based Solutions</b>	Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature and are cost effective, and at the same time provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features (eg, vegetation and water features) and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. For example, using vegetation (eg, street trees or green roofs) or water elements (eg, rivers or water-treatment facilities) can help reduce heat in urban areas or support stormwater and flood management. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Net emissions</b>	Net emissions refer to the overall balance of emissions and carbon dioxide removals (sequestration). Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
<b>NEMA</b>	National Emergency Management Agency
<b>NIWA</b>	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
<b>Net Zero</b>	A target of completely negating the greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity. This can be done by balancing emissions and removals or by eliminating the production of emissions in the first place. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
<b>Pathway</b>	The evolution of natural and/or human systems over time towards a future state. Pathway concepts range from sets of quantitative and qualitative scenarios or narratives of potential futures to solution-oriented, decision-making processes to achieve desirable social goals. Pathway approaches typically focus on biophysical, techno-economic and/or socio-behavioural changes, and involve various dynamics, goals and participants across different scales. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Principles</b>	Principles provide direction on agencies’ collective agreed way of working together to create a regional response to the impact of a changing climate on Murihiku Southland.

<b>Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)</b>	Scenarios that include time series of emissions and concentrations of the full suite of greenhouse gases and aerosols and chemically active gases, as well as land use/land cover (Moss et al., 2008; van Vuuren et al., 2011). IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary <a href="https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/">https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/</a>
<b>RCCS</b>	Regional Climate Change Strategy (this strategy).
<b>RCCWG</b>	Regional Climate Change Working Group, which consists of governance representatives from Environment Southland, Te Ao Mārama, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council as key partners in developing a regional approach to a changing climate.
<b>Resilience/resilient</b>	The capacity of interconnected social, economic and ecological systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance, by responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure. Resilience is a positive attribute when it allows systems to maintain their capacity to adapt, learn and/or transform. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>RSS</b>	Regional Spatial Strategy for which there is an expectation that this will be legislated for as a requirement to be produced regionally as part of the ongoing RMA reforms.
<b>Sea level rise</b>	Change to the height of sea levels over time, which may occur globally or locally. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Sequestration</b>	The process of storing carbon in a carbon pool. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary <a href="https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/">https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/</a> Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
<b>Southland District Council</b>	Southland District Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
<b>Southland Mayoral Forum</b>	The Southland Mayoral Forum includes the Mayors and Deputy Mayors from all four local government agencies in Southland. There is a standing invitation for all Rūnanga chairs or nominee, to attend meetings of the Southland Mayoral Forum. Te Ao Mārama Inc. also reports directly to their Board representing Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Rūnanga.
<b>Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs)</b>	A scenario that describes a plausible future in terms of population, gross domestic product (GDP), and other socio-economic factors relevant to understanding the implications of climate change. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary <a href="https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/">https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/</a>
<b>Te Ao Mārama Inc.</b>	Te Ao Mārama Inc. looks after mana whenua interests in resource management and other aspects related to local government in Southland. It is authorised to represent Ngāi Tahu papatipu rūnanga in Murihiku/Southland. It is involved in the protection of the spiritual and cultural values of the region, including wahi tapu (sacred places), mahinga kai (gathering of food and resources) and other natural resources. Te Ao Mārama Inc. reports directly to their Board representing Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Rūnanga.
<b>Wellbeing</b>	The health, happiness and prosperity of an individual or group. It can cover material wellbeing (eg, income and wealth, jobs and earnings, and housing), health (eg, health status and work–life balance), security (eg, personal security and environmental quality), social relations (eg, social connection, subjective wellbeing, cultural identity and education) and freedom of choice and action (eg, civic engagement and governance). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.