

How is Wellington preparing for sea level rise?

And what does it mean for business?


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Wellington City Council
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Outline

- What's the issue?
- What are we doing?
- What about business?
- What next?

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What's the issue?

...a changing climate

- Hotter seasons and more demand for water in summer and autumn
- Greater extremes – hot/cold, wet/dry
- Wetter winters and drier summers
- Increase in major storm events
- Sea level rise up to 1m by 2100*



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What's the issue?

...uncertainty and instability

- Risk management issue
- High uncertainty as a reality
- Precautionary principle
- Lag time in physical systems
- NZ lacking a national adaptation framework, Australia much better
- Local responses are crucial – all impacts are local

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What's the issue?

...sea level rise

- More GHG emissions = more sea level rise
- Possible “tipping points”
- Major infrastructure, property, social and cultural values in coastal regions
- Require community awareness raising and stakeholder participation

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What about business?

- How will sea level rise effect you?
- Ongoing insurance cover?
- Business continuity?
- Ease of relocation?

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What next?

- Not an urgent response, **BUT** starting early allows for best outcome
- Central government, regional and local government all play a part
- Crucial to inform and involve communities
- Guidance needed on how to assess and respond to climate change impacts

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