



Wāhi/Place: Bulletin 2

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Equipping the Community Sector for Climate Action

Climate Risk Assessment

In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, community and business leaders around the country are asking: “How might climate change affect us here?”

Last month a international team of researchers looked at Cyclone Gabrielle to assess climate change effects. They concluded that “the rainfall due to Cyclone Gabrielle was increased by 20% to 30% and was made three to four times more likely as a result of the human emissions of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere which has caused the planet to warm” (Sam Dean, principal climate scientist at NIWA). So start from the worst weather experienced where you live, and add 30% more water to that, and multiply the chance of it happening by 4.

But remember that the planet has only just started to warm up. Current the global average increase has reached 1.2 degrees C increase since 1900. We keep emitting carbon and more heating is locked in for the century ahead.

Also remember that our country’s infrastructure is designed to cope with floods but it’s that little bit extra that stuffs the whole system. 10% flow beyond capacity busts the stop bank and traps flood water on the wrong side.

But you know all this. What are you doing about it?

1: Factor in climate change to your **risk assessment**. How might your organisation and your clients be affected by flood or fire?

2: **Worst case planning**. How will you function in a community with no electricity, little transport or communication, no fresh water and no shops? What will your whānau need and where will they go?

3: **Partnership, partnership**. Nothing like a disaster to remind us how much we need each other. Strengthen your relationship with civil defence, your local fireies, marae, churches and schools.

4: **Practice, practice**. The people who function well in a crisis are those who have rehearsed the crisis beforehand. That’s why the military is constantly training. Your disaster plans are no use in a file. They need to be alive in body memory.

~ Silvia Purdie

“Rapid reaction force’ of global scientists reveal findings on climate change role in Cyclone Gabrielle”, *The Spinoff*, March 15, 2023.

Climate Action Tracker (2022). 2100 Warming Projections: Emissions and expected warming based on pledges and current policies. November 2022.

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Video (2 mins):
www.place.net.nz

How to speak climate
6 bits of climate jargon
explained in 2 minutes!



Coping with the Climate Crisis

"Eco-anxiety" is a (mostly) healthy response to climate change. How can we look after our mental & emotional health along the way?

Guest post for *The Climate Club*, 3 April 2023

<https://climateclubnz.substack.com/p/guest-post-coping-with-the-climate>

Place Consultancy offers a fixed-price facilitation to get your organisation well on the way towards your own sustainability strategy and climate action plan.

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