



## **New Zealand Construction Industry Council Submission**

### **Draft National Adaptation Plan**

#### **Introduction**

The New Zealand Construction Industry Council (NZCIC) is the peak construction industry association representing 35 member organisations, who are all not for profit associations involved in the delivery of our built environment. Members include designers and specifiers (architects, engineers etc.), contractors and suppliers (manufacturers, distributors, builders etc.) and a range of other building professionals (compliance, research, surveyors, developers etc.). [Click here to view all NZCIC members.](#)

NZCIC is the cohesive voice driving construction industry well-being and performance for a better built environment for New Zealand.

This submission addresses issues in the “Homes, buildings and places” and “Infrastructure” sections of the Draft National Adaptation Strategy (DNAP).

#### **General**

NZCIC supports the intent and purpose of the DNAP and recognises action is needed to adapt to the current and future effects of climate change. The NDPA overlaps several other government plans and work programmes that we are aware of, including:

- Natural and Built Environments Bill
- Local Body Reform
- MfE Emissions reduction plan
- MHUD Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development
- MBIE Building for Climate Change
- MBIE Building Code updates to H1 insulation requirements
- Construction Sector Accord Environment Roadmap
- Infracom New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy

It is becoming increasingly difficult to understand how these separate pieces of work will interact and we are concerned that some pieces of work may not be complementary to others.

A strong and well-resourced construction industry is essential to deliver a resilient built environment and to respond to the growing number of extreme environmental events. A clear pipeline of forward work and robust procurement practice are key drivers of investment in capital and people in the construction industry. A co-ordinated programme of physical works based on clear risk assessment processes and standards will facilitate efficient delivery of the infrastructure and built environs essential for Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Homes, buildings and places questions

**Question 19** Do you agree with the outcome and objectives in this chapter?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

The outcomes and objectives recognise the critical elements such as flooding and fire weather in relation to the built environment, while also recognising the need to address social issues such as the deficits in housing and infrastructure.

**Question 21** Do you agree with the actions set out in this chapter?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

NZCIC agrees with the actions set out in this chapter and is pleased the DNAP recognises the other government work previously mentioned in this submission.

It is critical that actions from various government programmes are aligned and that implementation plans include a focus on education and advice well in advance of changes to assist industry and consumers to prepare and plan for change.

**Question 22b.** Are there other actions central government should consider to ensure these actions support adaptation measures targeted to different places and respond to local social, cultural, economic and environmental characteristics?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

A national adaption plan is vital to provide a consistent approach across Aotearoa New Zealand, however regional and local conditions must be recognised and managed. For example, there is a contrast in the case studies provided in the draft plan where a community in Mangere will benefit from increased canopy cover to address urban heating, while a community in Central Otago may see canopy cover as a critical risk with increasing intensity of fire weather.

It is also important to ensure that actions from other government plans do not reduce the wellbeing and resilience of some communities. For example, the Emissions Reduction Plan intends to end use of gas as a household energy source, this will reduce the resilience of communities where winters are very cold and isolated communities where electricity networks are not available or vulnerable to outages due to weather events.

## Infrastructure questions

**Question 26** Do you agree with the outcome and objectives in this chapter?

- Yes  
 No  
 Partially

NZCIC believes infrastructure such as sea walls and irrigation schemes, could play a larger role in protecting against or mitigating the effects of climate change and should be included in the objectives of this chapter.

**Question 27** What else should guide central government's actions to prepare infrastructure for a changing climate?

Central government must work closely with local government and communities to develop a clear risk profile and support development of appropriate and resilient infrastructure.

**Question 28** Do you agree with the actions set out in this chapter?

- Yes  
 No  
 Partially

NZCIC would like to see a co-ordinated programme of physical works developed in conjunction with managed retreat. In particular, infrastructure for the management of stormwater and coastal erosion is critical and should have a clear action associated with it in this chapter.

NZCIC believes there is a clear role for Te Waihanga (NZ Infrastructure Commission) to advise Treasury on integrating adaptation into investment decisions.

**Question 29** The national adaptation plan has identified several actions to support adaptation in all infrastructure types and all regions of Aotearoa.

- a. Do you see potential for further aligning actions across local government, central government and private sector asset owners?

- Yes  
 No  
 Unsure

NZCIC believes there should be strong alignment of public and private asset owners for successful implementation of a NAP. A co-ordinated approach will improve efficiency in delivery with a clear pipeline of projects for industry and improved value for government and private clients.

## Contact

For any inquires about this submission or for further NZCIC input please contact:

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