

**Statement to Kāpiti Coast District Council
7-12-2017**



Made by Jake Roos, Low Carbon Kāpiti Chairperson, accompanied by Low Carbon Kāpiti members Anna Kenna, David Yockney, Yvonne van Leeuwen, Hilda Dawe, Linda Hill, Liz Mikkelsen, Phil Malpas and Deirdre Kent.

At staff leaving dos a regular joke trotted out by GMs is they did not want to see ex-staff at public speaking. If anyone had said that to me I would have replied: Don't bet on it.

I am here to speak on behalf of Low Carbon Kāpiti, which I founded with like-minded friends earlier this year, some of whom are here with me today.

We are a community advocacy group representing the views of residents who are concerned about the climate crisis and who want to see local climate solutions that cut emissions and bring other benefits if implemented here.

Today we are here to make the point that low carbon actions must be supported in the 2018-21 LTP. The UN and the world's scientists have told us the next 3 yearsⁱ are absolutely crucial for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, intended to give a reasonable chance of avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Rising emissions must be checked and start to decline steeply, tracking towards global zero net emissions by mid-century. Necessarily this means fossil fuels must stay in the ground.

If effective low carbon actions for Council are not in the LTP and have no budget or priority attached to them, they are very unlikely to happen. Also, this upcoming LTP is the last chance to implement actions that will contribute to Council's emissions reduction goal of 80% by 2021-22ⁱⁱ.

The Council should also be setting targets beyond this. Christchurch City Council has said it plans to be carbon neutral by 2030. Given the progress Council has already made, it is feasible for KCDC to do the same or achieve this even sooner.

However, we are concerned that consideration of cutting carbon is slipping through the cracks of this Long Term Plan process. We lobbied hard for climate change to be included when it was missing from your key issues. Now we are concerned that the piecemeal approach of activity-based workshops will mean it is not seriously considered. A couple of slides in the Community Support presentation won't cut it – low carbon is relevant to Water, Wastewater, Access & Transport, Aquatics, Property and Solid Waste and other activities too – the question needs to be asked for each of these "how can this activity contribute to reducing emissions?"

The best time to start cutting emissions is always now – most of the carbon released to the atmosphere stays there more or less permanently. Every day of delay means making even deeper, more rapid cuts later to compensate for the carbon already released.

If it you think the bill for stormwater and coastal protection is big now, it's nothing compared to the losses and costs for the district if the world exceeds 2 degrees of warming. The Mayor's own words about 'eating our future' spring to mind – taking action is can't be avoided, and it cheaper and more effective the sooner it happens. The new government has made it very clear climate action and passing the Zero Carbon Act are a high priority for them. The revised LTP 'key themes' include 'responding to climate change in a way that's aligned with national policy'. What we are asking is totally consistent with that.

Measures we advocate for inclusion in the Long Term Plan include:

- Completing upgrade of the remaining 50% of streetlights to LEDⁱⁱⁱ
- When their gas boilers need renewed at Waikanae and Otaki Pools, replace them with heat pumps.^{iv}
- Adopt an EV first policy for fleet vehicle replacements, like GWRC, who have eight EVs already^v
- Offset emissions by planting forests here on the Kapiti Coast, starting with water supply land^{vi}
- Progress work in partnership with Horizon's region councils on a composting and renewable energy plant to process sewage sludge and other organic waste from the district^{vii}
- Support for walking and cycling facilities, not least in town centres. In particular we want to see option 1 implemented with cycle lanes and parallel parks on the old SH1 in Waikanae.^{viii}

These measures will produce financial savings for ratepayers over their life, bring a wide range of additional benefits or in most cases, both. None require the use of unproven technology or present any significant or unmanageable risks.

We are stepping up to protect the future of the Kāpiti Coast, and we expect you to do the same.

References and further information

ⁱ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/28/world-has-three-years-left-to-stop-dangerous-climate-change-warn-experts>

ⁱⁱ The Council's carbon and energy management plan which includes this target can be found here: <http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/cemars>

ⁱⁱⁱ The business case including capital cost and operational savings for completing the upgrade of the district's streetlights to LED was updated this year and can be requested from the Access and Transport Manager.

^{iv} The business case/options appraisal for going to low carbon heating at Waikanae Pool was completed by consultants Enercon earlier this year and is in the possession of the Aquatic Facilities Manager and Programme Design and Delivery Manager. This report found a heat pump was the best option to cut both emissions and costs.

^v GWRC's EV first policy can be found here: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/electric-vehicles/>. A memo and presentation including this and indicative costings and options for establishing a basic public EV charging network for the district was presented to Council's Senior Leadership Team in December 2016.

^{vi} Council staff developed a discussion paper on council using local forests, including on its own land, to offset its carbon emissions in 2015 (*Council involvement in promoting the Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative on the Kāpiti Coast*), and can be requested from staff (for example, the Biodiversity Advisor) Complementary to this, this report by OpenGeo rates land in the district in relation to the non-carbon benefits of native reforestation such as land stabilisation, ecology and public amenity: <http://www.opengeo.co.nz/Reports/OpenGeoEcologicallyBeneficialNativeAfforestationSitePrioritisation20171114.pdf>

^{vii} For more information on this concept and the work currently being done to develop it, contact the Solid Waste Manager.

^{viii} The benefits to town centres/business from being cycle friendly are explained by Wellington-based not for profit Bikes Welcome here: <http://www.bikeswelcome.org/businesses/everyday-cycling-and-business/>. Regarding the issue of the changes to the old SH1 in Waikanae, Low Carbon Kapiti support option 1 – parallel parks with cycle lanes. Our petition about this has 210 signees and can be viewed here: <https://www.change.org/p/kapiti-coast-district-council-support-cyclists-no-dangerous-angle-parks-on-the-old-sh1-waikanae>