

Climate change and the built environment: what can EH professionals do?

Alex Macmillan

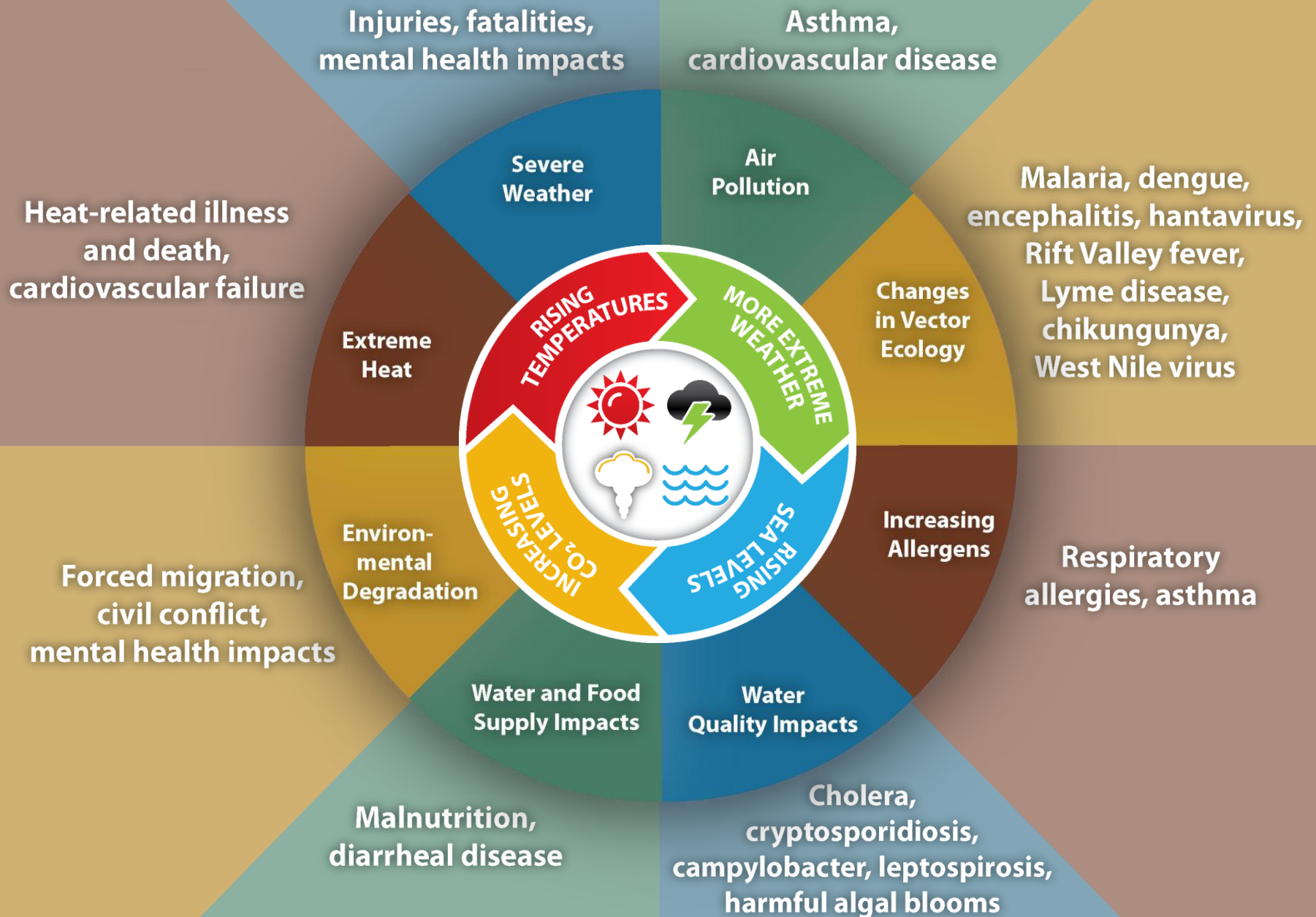
Senior Lecturer Environmental Health

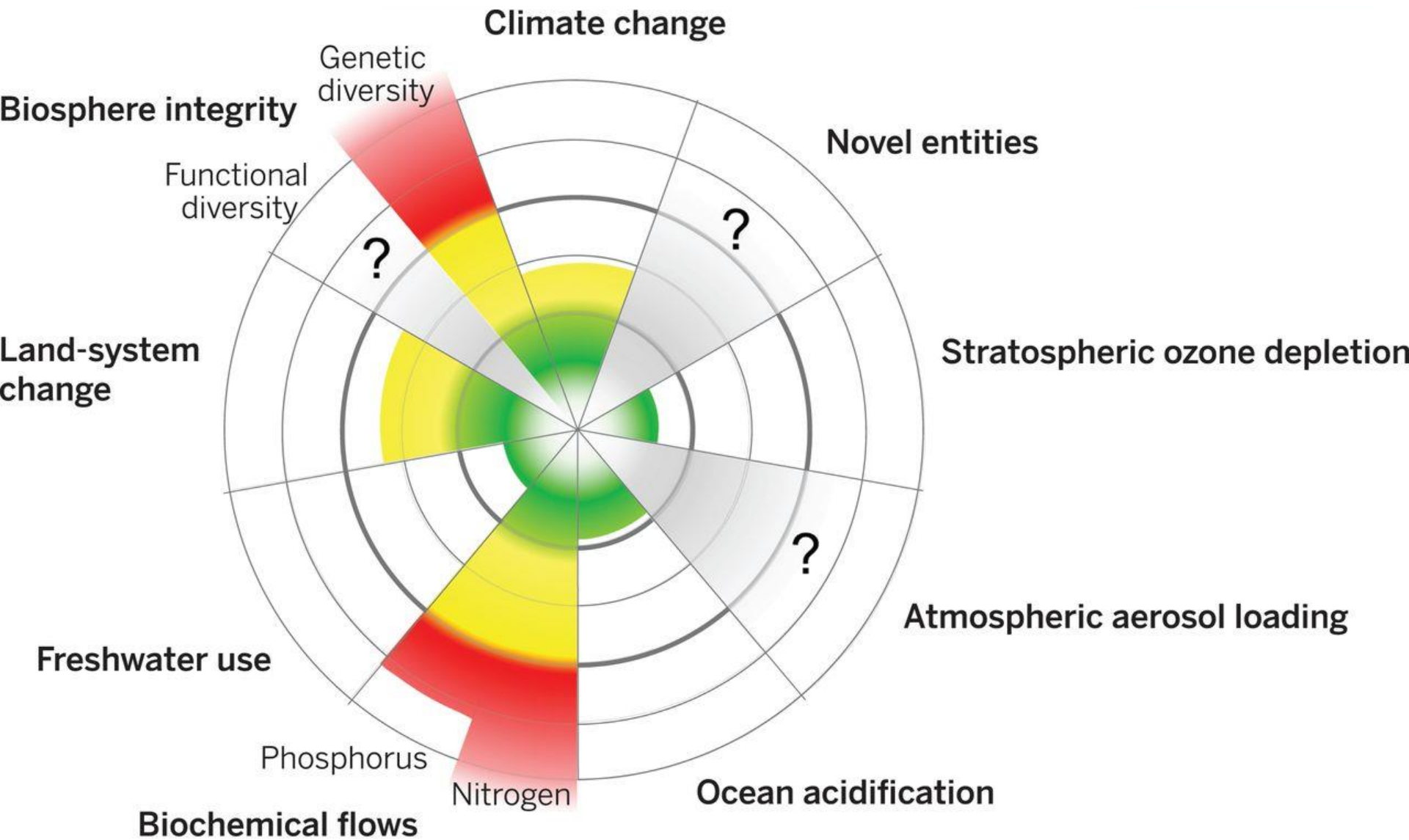
University of Otago

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Impact of Climate Change on Human Health





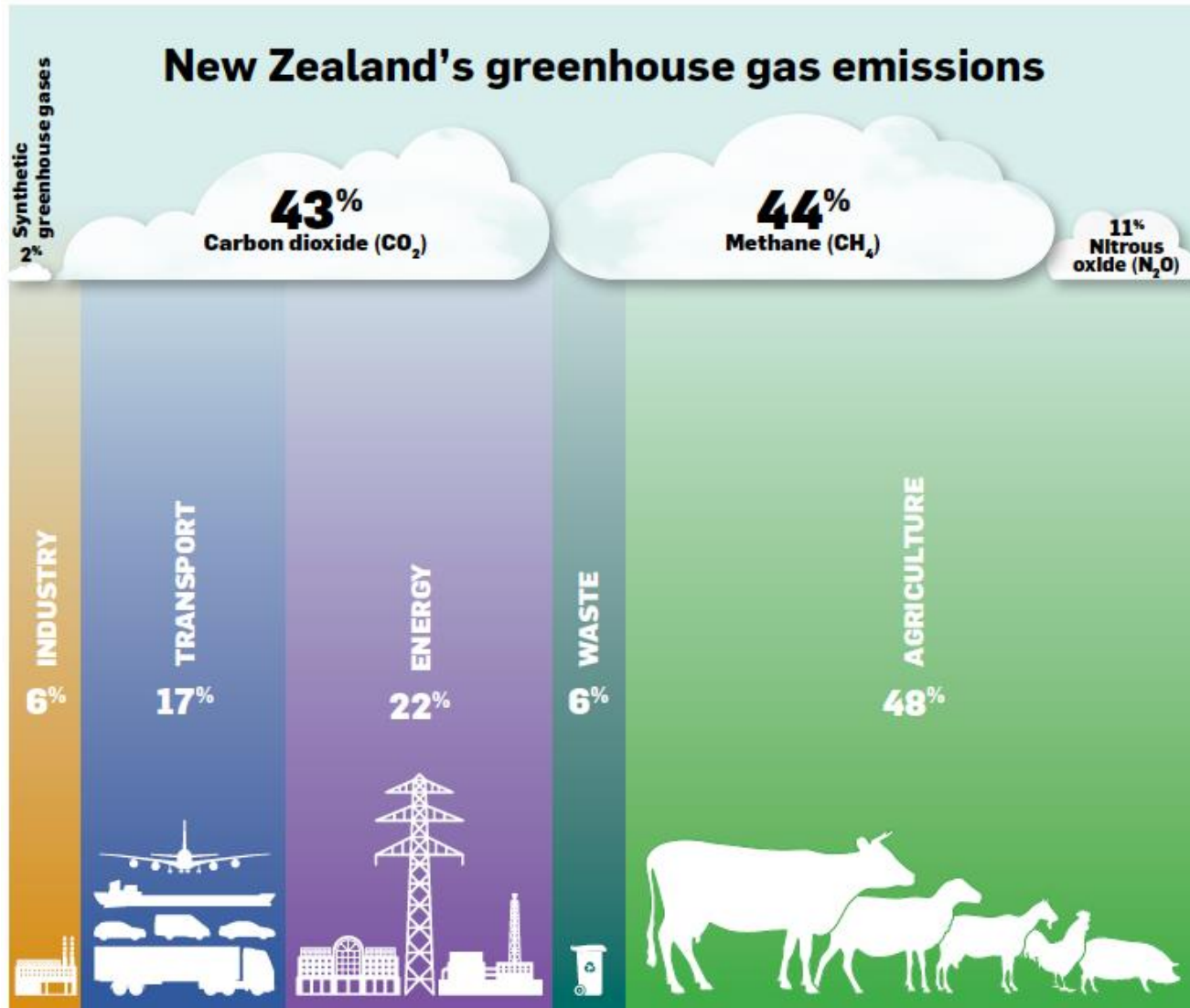
■ Beyond zone of uncertainty (high risk)	■ Below boundary (safe)
■ In zone of uncertainty (increasing risk)	■ Boundary not yet quantified



Links with EH regulatory roles

- Air pollution
- Water quality
- Noise
- Food safety
- Infectious disease

NZ emissions



Source: New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the year 2013. Emissions from forestry are not included in the estimate of total emissions. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Actions for EH professionals

1. Individual change - communication
2. Organisational/health sector change
3. Active democracy
4. Coming up against system limits
5. Community actions
6. Joining organisations taking action



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#climatehealth

OraTaiao: Vision and goals

- Vision:
 - Healthy Climate, Healthy People
- Goals:
 - NZ an active participant in global emissions reduction
 - Societal responses to climate change that protect and promote population health and equity, and are consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi



Building a national coalition

Health Professionals Call for Action on Climate Change and Health

New Zealanders' health could be improved, and inequalities reduced, through action to address climate change.

As New Zealand health professional organisations we call for a rapid, whole-of-society transition to a low greenhouse gas-emitting nation, designed to make the most of opportunities for improving health and creating a fairer society.

Health professional groups agree that human-caused climate change is an increasingly serious and urgent threat to health and health equity in New Zealand and worldwide. In contrast, rapid and effective action on climate change in New Zealand represents an important opportunity to improve health, by avoiding negative health impacts and by realising significant health and equity gains from well-designed climate policies.

Globally: Climate change is already contributing to global disease, disability and premature death – most seriously affecting people in poor countries, and the poorest within all countries.

Health threats for New Zealand include: illness and injury caused by high temperatures and other extreme weather events; biologically-mediated impacts such as changing patterns of infectious disease and rises in food prices impacting nutrition; and socially-mediated impacts such as loss of livelihoods, forced migration, economic vulnerability and risks of conflict.

This call for action is supported by:



Rūnanga Whakapiki Ake i te Hauora o Aotearoa
Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians



MEDICAL AND
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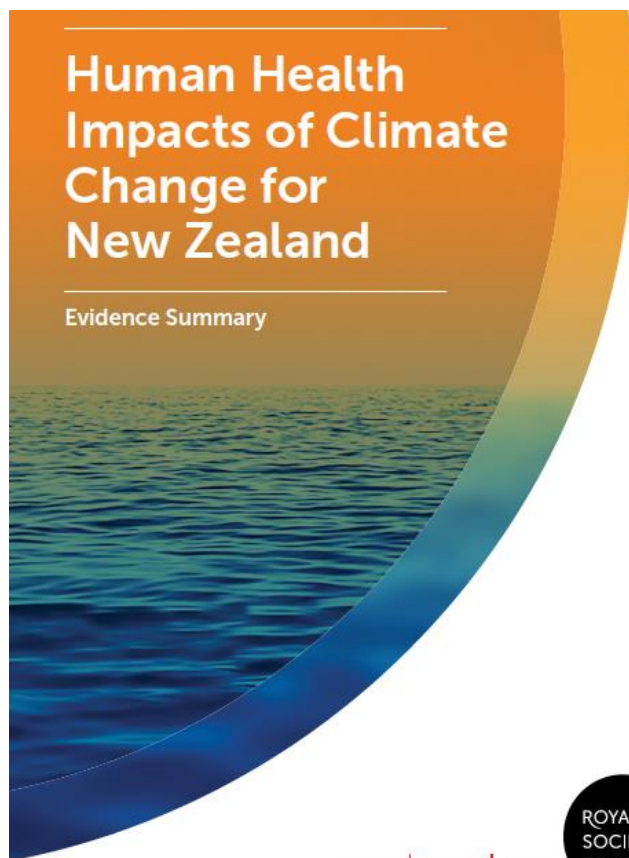


Division of Health Sciences
Te Wāhanga Mātau Hauora



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Building NZ evidence base



Human Health Impacts of Climate Change for New Zealand

Evidence Summary



Climate Change and the Right to Health for Māori
in Aotearoa/New Zealand

RHYS JONES, HAYLEY BENNETT, GAY KEATING, ALISON BLAIKLOCK

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Climate Change Policy Statement

New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine



Human-caused climate change is a serious and urgent threat to health and health equity globally and in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Globally, leading health threats include water and food insecurity with malnutrition, extreme weather events, and changing patterns of infectious disease.



As a result of climate change, New Zealand will face many adverse impacts on health, with disproportionate health impacts for Māori. There will be new health and social pressures relating to climate migrant and refugee populations arriving in New Zealand and flow-on effects from changes in the global economy.



Without rapid and sustained global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (particularly from fossil fuels), the world will breach its carbon budget and may experience high levels of warming (4-6°C by 2100) that render many populated areas of the world unable to support human health and wellbeing.



Well-planned action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can bring about substantial health co-benefits and will help New Zealand address its burden of chronic disease.



Public health medicine professionals call for strong and urgent action on climate change that improves population health, accords with Te Tiriti O Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi), and creates more equitable, just and resilient societies in New Zealand and worldwide.

Policy | 2014


Climate Change

HIGHLIGHTS

Labour acknowledges the severe public health impacts that will result from Climate Change. We agree with the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine, which says that climate change is already contributing to the global burden of disease and premature death; and that climate change will almost certainly lead to food and water shortages, increased mental health issues, more injury and illness, and more heat-related deaths and illness from extreme weather. This is a particular issue within the Pacific region and strengthens the need for action on climate change.

Influencing policy/projects

The New Zealand Herald

NationalVideoOpinionElection 14Business

HEAL↓3803823
2.50↓1581591

Check out our new Business pages: more data

Basin Reserve flyover plan axed

6:27 PM Tuesday Jul 22, 2014

Dunedin becomes the first New Zealand city to dump its fossil fuel investments


The council has committed to a policy of fossil fuel divestment to address the community impacts of climate change

Ashlee Gross
Guardian Professional, Thursday 15 May 2014 17.22 BST

Low Carbon Auckland

Auckland's Energy Resilience and Low Carbon Action Plan
Toitū te whenua, toitū te tangata
July 2014



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BUSINESS

Solid Energy drops lignite plan for Southland

Updated at 8:21 pm on 22 February 2013

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CEOBlog

Making Connections

Geraint Martin
Chief Executive Officer

1

Measure your GHG emissions

We provide tools and guidelines to help you calculate your emissions

2

Manage (reduce) your GHG emissions

We provide templates and guidance for you to document your emission reduction opportunities

3

Verify

All clients are required to have an external verification audit prior to certification

4

Market your GHG credentials

We help you communicate your CEMARS status

“Thanks to staff support and CEMARS frameworks, Counties Manukau Health is on track to really make significant and meaningful changes.”



DR DAVID GALLER,
INTENSIVE CARE SPECIALIST,
COUNTIES MANUKAU HEALTH

New Christchurch Hospital building to be heated with coal

CATE BROUGHTON

Last updated 05:00, July 18 2015



John Kirk-Anderson

Christchurch Hospital will continue to use a coal boiler to heat water. Pictured is a back-up diesel boiler, on the left, and a coal generator.

The Big Read: Kiwis weigh in on Paris climate conference

11 Dec, 2015 11:41am

🕒 12 minutes to read

Dr Alex Macmillan, Otago University senior lecturer, public health physician and New Zealand Climate and Health Council convenor

Dr Macmillan was worried that the most meaningful parts of the Paris agreement to health would be sheared out before it was finalised.

Her fears were shared by many in the global health community, who had come to Paris concerned about the risk climate change posed to people in all countries.

Well-designed climate action, she said, would reduce the global burden of disease from a variety of illnesses, including lung disease, obesity, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, mental illness, and road injuries.

The importance of health was recognised early on in the agreement, with language about protecting health, promoting health and health benefits of climate action



OraTaiao: New Zealand Climate and Health Council
@OraTaiao

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OraTaiao: New Zealand Climate and Health Council has no reviews yet.



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Nonprofit Organization

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1,110 people like this

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About

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1,863

Following
421

Followers
758

Likes
667

Following

OraTaiao

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The New Zealand Climate & Health Council. We are health professionals calling for urgent and fair climate action, with real health gains now and for our future.

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

OraTaiao Retweeted



James Shaw @jamespeshaw · Mar 18

Our Government today accepted a petition of 45,000 names calling for the end to fossil fuel exploration #climatechange



Coal, oil, gas endgame



ExxonMobil under investigation over claims it lied about climate change risks

New York attorney general subpoenas Exxon and Peabody Energy, two giants of the fossil fuel industry, over claims they misled the public and investors

Ministerial portfolio: climate & health



NEW ZEALAND

Ministry of Health planning for extreme heat effects of global warming

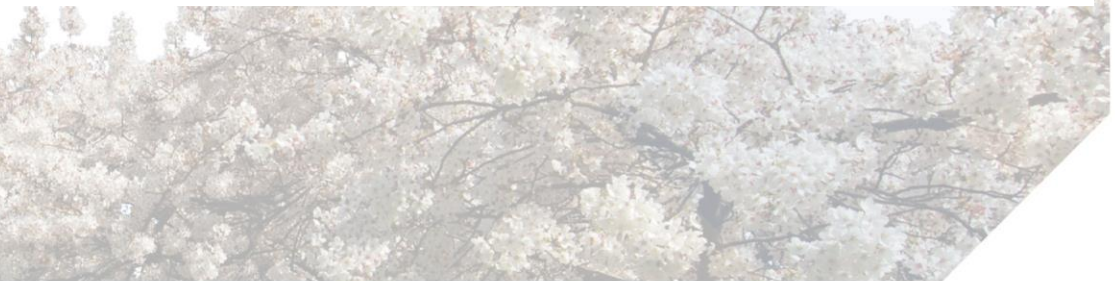
30 Jan, 2018 6:08pm

🕒 3 minutes to read

Subtropical diseases, heatstroke, fires and flooding are all on the cards in future thanks to climate change - and the Ministry of Health wants to make sure New Zealand is ready.

The ministry has announced it is working on a nationwide Heat Health Plan to help district health boards and community service providers prepare for hotter summers and the health problems they could cause.

"Climate change means summer temperatures are expected to rise across both the North and South Island, increasing the risk of heat stress and subtropical diseases," Associate Health Minister Julie Anne Genter said.



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www.climateandhealthalliance.org

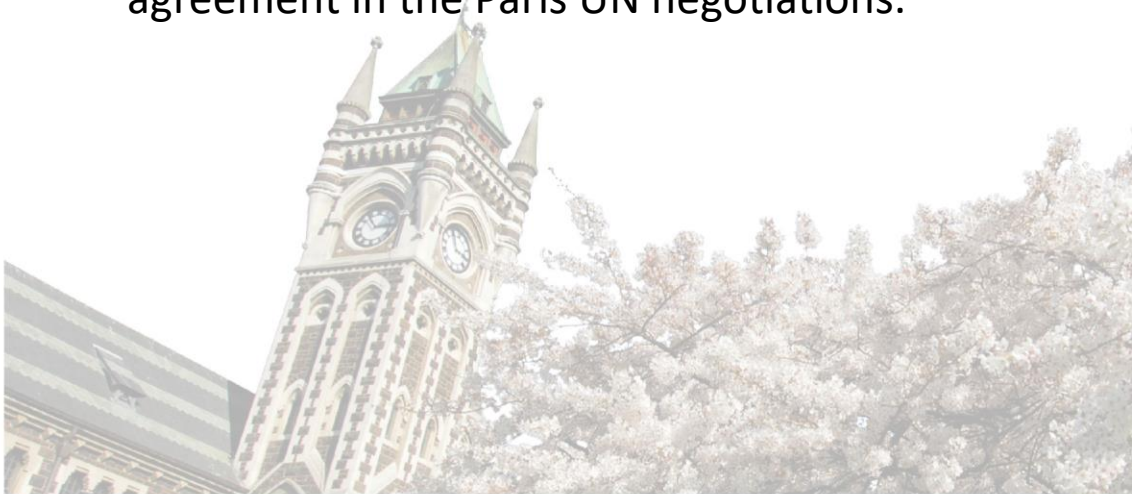
GCHA & Paris Climate Agreement



Gathered coordinated declarations representing
over

**1,700 health organizations,
7,800 hospitals and health facilities
13,000,000 health professionals**

calling on governments to reach a strong
agreement in the Paris UN negotiations.





Initiative led by health professionals to address air pollution & climate pollutants in cities, launched May 2, 2017

- 12 cities around the world
- Local solutions
- City scale easily actionable + high impact
- Win-win – healthy air, healthy climate

Summary



- Individual action an important start
- Collective action ++ powerful
- Spectrum of public health action
- Health framing useful
- Co-benefits framing useful
- Come and visit the OraTaiao stand

