

Council

Meeting of 20 May 2026

Business Unit: Corporate

Date Created: April 28, 2026

Resilient Tangimoana: Preliminary Adaptation Plan: 2026-35

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present the Resilient Tangimoana: Preliminary Adaptation Plan 2026–2035 to Council, outline its development and key findings and to introduce the stormwater modelling now underway to inform future flood-risk decisions.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That Council:

1. Receives the Resilient Tangimoana: Preliminary Adaptation Plan 2026-35.
2. Notes that MDC and Horizons have commissioned stormwater modelling to support future decision-making on flood-risk reduction in Tangimoana.

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1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Tangimoana was identified in 2022 by the Manawatū–Whanganui Climate Action Joint Committee as one of the most climate-vulnerable communities in the region, facing heightened exposure to natural hazards.
- 1.2 The settlement’s location at the mouth of the Rangitikei River with a high water table makes it especially susceptible to fluvial (river flooding from bank overflow from heavy rainfall) and pluvial (surface flooding from intense and prolonged rainfall) flooding. These risks are projected to intensify with sea-level rise, increasing the threat of coastal inundation and storm surge from mid-century onwards.
- 1.3 In recognition of these risks, Tangimoana was selected as one of two pilot communities in the Deep South National Science Challenge project, Embedding Adaptation, led by Massey University. The research examined how local adaptation practices are shaped by governance, politics, and relationships among communities, tangata whenua, and local authorities. The aim was to better understand the conditions needed to support effective, community-led adaptation.
- 1.4 In early 2025, the Tangimoana Resilience Group was established to fill this gap, comprising representatives from the Tangimoana Community Committee, Horizons Regional Council, and Manawatū District Council. As part of the Embedding Adaptation process, the Tangimoana community entered into collaborative agreements with key stakeholders to co-develop a localised adaptation response.
- 1.5 Building on these collaborative arrangements, the Tangimoana Resilience Group progressed the co-development of a Preliminary Adaptation Plan to provide a structured approach to addressing the community’s climate-related risks.
- 1.6 As a signatory to the Statement of Intent/ Framework Agreement, Manawatū District Council committed to work with Horizons Regional Council and the Tangimoana Community Committee to provide technical input, information, and support where practicable during plan development.
- 1.7 The Preliminary Adaptation Plan identifies a set of priority actions for MDC, HRC and the Tangimoana Community Committee, including strengthening community preparedness and undertaking further technical investigation to improve understanding of flood and drainage risks.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

The report aligns with Council’s priorities outlined below:

A future planned together

- 2.1 This report supports collaborative long-term adaptation planning with the Tangimoana community, Horizons Regional Council, and other stakeholders to increase the resilience of this community to extreme weather events.

An environment to be proud of

- 2.2 By addressing localised flood risks and climate-related hazards, the adaptation planning process contributes to the protection and sustainable management of Tangimoana's natural environment.

Infrastructure fit for future

- 2.3 The report highlights the need for improved stormwater information to support future infrastructure planning.

Value for money and excellence in local government

- 2.4 By investing early in stormwater modelling to inform future hazard and risk assessments, the report supports evidence-based planning that can reduce long-term infrastructure and emergency response costs, delivering more sustainable value to the District.

3 Discussion and Options for Consideration Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 There are two options for consideration:

Option 1 - That Council receives the Preliminary Adaptation Plan for Tangimoana (recommended) or

Option 2 - That Council does not receive the Preliminary Adaptation Plan.

- 3.2 Option 1 is recommended as it recognises Council's role as a signatory to the Statement of Intent and its involvement in the development of the Plan. Accepting the plan does not commit Council to any future actions or expenditure. Stormwater modelling has already been commissioned in partnership with Horizons Regional Council, with costs met from existing budgets. The findings of this modelling will inform any future consideration of infrastructure investment to mitigate flood risk in Tangimoana.

- 3.3 Option 2 is not recommended. As a signatory to the Statement of Intent, and with representation on the group that developed the Plan, this option carries reputational risk. Not receiving the Plan may undermine relationships with Horizons Regional Council, the Tangimoana Community Committee, tangata whenua, and other partners involved in the process. A decision not to receive the Plan would not alter that work but may create inconsistency between Council's actions and its stated commitment to the collaborative process.

- 3.4 Any future commitments would be subject to prioritisation through Council's LTP or Annual Plan processes, regardless of whether Council receives the Preliminary Adaptation Plan.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 There is a potential reputational risk that Council may face community disappointment or criticism if it chooses not to progress future adaptation actions that fall outside the commitments made in the current Statement of Intent/Framework Agreement. While the Council has current budget to commission stormwater modelling (a priority action outlined in the plan) future recommendations based on findings from that modelling

assessment, particularly those requiring new investment, may raise expectations that exceed Council's current mandate or resourcing.

- 4.2 Council's commitments remain limited to the jointly signed Statement of Intent/Framework Agreement, which focuses on providing technical support during plan development and engaging with the Community Committee on the plan's recommendations. Any future actions not covered by the current plan or beyond existing capacity will be subject to prioritisation through Council's Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan processes, if Council elects to consider them.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No additional engagement is required for the Council decision on this report.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

Community Engagement

- 5.3 No additional engagement is required for Council's decision on this report. There is underlying continued engagement with the community through the Tangimoana Community Committee as progress is made with the other priority actions identified in the Preliminary Adaptation Plan.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no immediate operational implications for Manawatū District Council at this stage. However, future operational implications may arise depending on the findings of the modelling assessment, particularly in relation to infrastructure performance, flood management, and potential adaptation responses. These will be assessed once the technical outputs are available.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 The total indicative cost of the Tangimoana stormwater modelling is approximately \$72,867.60. Manawatū District Council and Horizons Regional Council have agreed to share the cost equally. MDC's portion of the cost is already provided for within existing budgets, and no additional funding is required at this time.

8 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 8.1 Once sufficient information to identify and access key actions is gathered, the Preliminary Adaptation Plan would be reviewed and updated, likely in 2027/ 2028.

9 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Resilient Tangimoana Preliminary Adaptation Plan