

Calm Alarmist Law Madness

Adaptation Zones could cost YOUR home !

26 March 2024

Dear Chair, Councillors and Community Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of CALM (that is Calm Alarmist Law Madness, a grassroots advocacy group).

As spokesperson, I would like to provide feedback on the Urgent Community Meeting we held last Tuesday evening.

We had an excellent turnout of around 150 Kapiti residents, with standing room only. We appreciated the attendance of Councillors Glen Cooper, Martin Halliday and Nigel Wilson. CALM has received an overwhelmingly positive response in the days following the meeting, and we are gaining a large amount of support and traction as a result.

The common thread in the feedback is why the Council would use extreme modelling upon which to base a scenario that would lead to an unrecoverable loss of property values, insurance premiums which are beyond the means of most home and business owners, and the very real potential for the cancellation of policies altogether.

Secondly, residents were totally blindsided and angered by the incredulous news there was a blanket placement (without community consultation) of hazard notices with reference to Jacob's on all Kapiti ratepayers' LIMs, including elevated properties kilometres inland. This appears to us to be a pre-determined result since CAP have not yet finished their recommended pathway plan for the Council to vote on in the next few months. We are already in a recession and staring down the barrel of a proposed 17% rates rise by the Council. Perhaps it's time for the Council members to explain their actions to the community.

CALM believe people are now being seriously impacted by the Coastal Advisory Panel process - the personal stories the community has shared with CALM have been heartbreaking.

Last Wednesday, a Newsroom article by Jonathan Milne had this to say: "when councils go getting involved and start picking extreme values, it has massive impacts on flood risk projections and it skews the perceived viability". Professor Dave Frame, who was a lead author on the Fifth and Sixth Assessment Reports of the IPCC, agreed that extreme modelling "puts the council at risk of legal challenge, and could impose added costs on developers and ultimately the community".

Therefore, today, we ask you as Paraparaumu Community Board members and Council Representatives to advocate on the behalf of Kapiti ratepayers:

- That notations on LIM's referring to hazards & Jacob's be removed immediately (titled "Coastal Erosion and Inundation Hazards") or any other variations of this type.
- That extreme modelling (e.g. SSP/RCP 8.5) is removed from CAP pathway plans in their recommendations to Council.

Thank-you.