

## Submission by C.A.L.M to the NZ Parliamentary Inquiry on Climate Adaptation

16th July 2024

Dear Committee Secretariat,

My name is Tanya Lees and today, I'm representing C.A.L.M, an acronym for Calm Alarmist Law Madness, an advocacy group based on the Kapiti Coast.

Our submission addresses the **proposed subversion of democracy**, which includes the removal of private property rights and the culture of climate alarmism. This is driving extreme and implausible climate change modelling, and creating unnecessary emotional, social and financial harm to communities.

Our concerns are around the Expert Working Group Report, on which the Inquiry is based. We summarise it as follows:

- It proposes a model where the central government will have extraordinary powers to override longstanding private property rights.
- The EWG draft proposal is seen as an attempt at co-governance as it excludes those with Maori ancestry from being affected by most of the Adaptation or Managed Retreat measures.
- It also suggests the establishment of a separate crown entity to make final decisions on managed retreat with no right of appeal for property owners. In the case of holiday homes, the EWG even suggests that owners will receive no compensation in the event of managed retreat taking place.
- There is a shift from a risk-based approach to a well-being approach, which is highly subjective and open to interpretation. Similarly, there is a move from post-event adaptation to pre-emptive adaptation based on speculative climate models rather than actual risk. The projective costs for implementing such measures are unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Climate alarmism is being used as a tool to project worst-case scenario modelling to strike fear in community members even though in many cases the modelling is improbable. CALM would like to see a range of scientists' views rather than those specially selected to drive a certain narrative. The science is not settled, and independent opinions from alternate climate scientists and experts must be considered for a more balanced view.

To reflect probable outcomes for sea level rise projections, more realistic scenarios such as SSP/RCP4.5 (as opposed to SSP/RCP8.5) need to be used.

Historical climate data does not support the claim that severe weather events are happening with more regularity and intensity.

At present, the Kapiti Coast District Council is undertaking Coastal Adaptation work. The Coastal Advisory Panel has already used around five million dollars of ratepayers' funds on this, including quarter of a million dollars alone on the Jacobs Report which has a number of controversial inconsistencies. Community engagement has also been woefully inadequate, with many residents still completely unaware of the potential risks they are facing as property owners.

On this basis, if the Expert Working Group Report and this submission process are used to form the framework of a Climate Adaptation Plan and Legislation, the government is negligent in its duty of care towards the people it was set up to act in the best interests of.

In conclusion, CALM would like to know the answer to three questions:

1) **how** would the NZ government fund managed retreat?

2) **where** would the displaced persons be relocated to?

3) **what happens to properties** which are designated for managed retreat, and who stands to gain ownership?

Thank you for your time.