

Kāpiti CALM Submission - Illustrative National Policy Direction (NPD)

15 October 2026

Coastal Planning: Establish the Risk. Justify the Response. Involve the Community.

Kāpiti CALM (Calm Alarmist Law Madness) is a community advocacy & awareness group formed to challenge and question our local councils continued and persistent use of extreme modelling scenarios for coastal hazards.

We trust our submission highlights the stress on local communities when councils stop listening to residents' concerns and rely on hugely expensive consultants reports that take little notice of historical climate data, local geomorphology and other geological local features.

We believe a well thought out National Policy Direction is desperately needed to sort out the messy and complicated situation that so many coastal communities and councils find themselves in. We hope our case study in Kapiti will assist in this process & how a National Policy Directive could work in practice to the mutual benefit of both councils and communities.

We support effective coastal planning grounded in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) as amended in 2025

1. Evidence and proportional risk must come first and we need to:

- Establish the risk and proportionality before committing communities to millions in mitigation costs or restrictions that could create even more financial harm. A hazard map alone does not explain how likely harm is, how serious it could be, or what response is justified if any. A hazard map and notifications on LIMs can mislead and create enormous damage on face value to property values.
- Apply Policy 24's requirement to assess coastal hazard risks over at least 100 years, taking account of national guidance and the best available information on the LIKELY effects of climate change.
- Clearly distinguish likely outcomes as required by NZCPS, from high-end scenarios for the use of planning. Transparent scientific and statutory justification is needed before UNLIKELY projections that are not legally compliant like SSP5-8.5 or RCP8.5 are used to determine planning controls.
- Require assessments to account for historical evidence, local coastal processes, geomorphology and geological conditions, with independent technical scrutiny.
- Explain how current international evidence and central government advice have been considered and review outdated assumptions.
- Publish alternatives, costs and benefits. Explain how coastal expenditure compares with other significant community risks.

Kāpiti CALM remains concerned that substantial resources have been committed without sufficiently clear, publicly scrutinised answers about the actual level of risk. On top of millions of ratepayers funding being spent on unlikely scenarios, another advocacy group in Kapiti, Coastal Ratepayers United (CRU) reports spending more than \$100,000 seeking proper application of the coastal hazard framework. Communities should not have the doubled burden to fund costly challenges to secure sound evidence and fair treatment.

2. Community involvement must influence decisions.

Coastal planning can affect homes, property rights, values, insurance and lending. We seek requirements for:

- Clear advertising and direct notification of affected owners.
- Early access to evidence, assumptions, uncertainties and consultation findings.
- Transparent panel selection declared conflicts and safeguards against bias.
- Genuine opportunities to question experts and present alternative evidence.
- Published explanations showing how community input changed decisions.
- Disclosure of how engagement methods, including Delphi processes, represent differing views.

OUR REQUEST

Strengthen national direction so councils assess risk first, justify restrictions, demonstrate value for money and involve communities before decisions are settled.

Kāpiti CALM supports Coastal Ratepayers United (CRU) submission and seeks coastal planning that protects community safety, property rights and ratepayers through sound evidence, proportionate decisions and fair process.



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