

January 2024

Community Case Studies Research Report

Tairāwhiti Climate Adaptation
Planning Project



Preface / Kupu Whakataki

Extreme weather events have become more frequent with climate change. The East Coast has been particularly hard hit in recent years. In early 2023 the Gisborne District Council commissioned Te Weu Charitable Trust to investigate ways communities could be supported to do their own adaptation planning in conjunction with development of a regional adaptation plan. Te Weu undertook a literature review confirming the importance of residents being actively engaged in the planning process if it is to be effective in achieving desired outcomes.¹ The review noted that deliberative democracy approaches (such as citizen assemblies) have been particularly useful tools for promoting flax-roots participation in addressing civic issues and informing local government policymaking.

A working group of Council staff and Te Weu personnel subsequently agreed a project plan in two phases. The first was a series of community case studies using locally based researchers to investigate how selected communities were recovering from the cyclone in early 2023 and adapting to such events becoming more frequent and severe. That research is intended to provide input to a randomly selected deliberative 'Citizen Assembly' process to be designed and implemented in 2024. The assembly (or assemblies) will consider a wide range of evidence and how the Council in collaboration with private and public sector stakeholders could facilitate and support communities to develop their own adaptation plans as well as contribute to the development of regional adaptation plans.

The following report is a combined effort by the research team. The team would like to express its appreciation to the staff working group and to the Council for supporting the project and agreeing to give effect to key recommendations from the deliberative process in future climate adaptation and transition planning and projects.

The Research Team / Te Tīma Rangahau

¹ The literature review and discussion paper by Te Weu was titled *A Deliberative Democracy Approach to Tairāwhiti Climate Adaptation Planning*. <https://teweu.nz/>

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Executive Summary / Whakarāpopototanga

The Project

- Extreme weather events and sea-level rise are expected to affect the Tairāwhiti region more often with increasing impacts in the future. The Gisborne District Council has developed a [Roadmap 2050](#) for responding to climate change and wishes to know how they can support community-led adaptation.
- Te Weu Charitable Trust was commissioned to undertake a two-stage project, starting with a series of community case studies culminating in this report. One or more ‘citizen assemblies’ will then assess the findings and make recommendations to Council.

The Communities

- Three case study communities were selected based on criteria including demographic diversity, geographic spread, extent of cyclone impacts, state of community climate awareness and where post-cyclone Council/stakeholder interventions were already concentrated ([Appendix B](#)).
- Muriwai (Ngāi Tāmanuhiri) and Matakaoa are small rural communities located at either end of the region. The Gisborne city disabled population is an urban based community of shared interest and need.

Methodology

- Official statistics were either too broad geographically or too outdated to permit stratified sampling (see [Appendix C](#)). Instead, a personal networking process was adopted to create a pool of potential informants from which interviewees were selected.
- Community interviews focused on six key questions ([Appendix E](#)). Researchers transcribed each interview, coded (labelled with phrases) the most frequent responses and then met as a team to convert the coded phrases into statements articulating the main points made by interviewees ([Appendix H](#)).

Main research findings

- What works in promoting and sustaining participation in adaptation planning and action?
 - (a) Recognise and utilise existing skills so people have a sense they’re really contributing.
 - (b) Use personal networks and social media to spread the word about climate change and the importance of preparing for future impacts.
 - (c) Adaptation planning and action is more likely to be well-supported when a committed local group takes the initiative.
- What are the barriers to individuals, families and groups participating in community adaptation planning and action?

- (a) People in economically disadvantaged communities or with disabilities frequently lack the time, resources or support to participate in organised community planning.
 - (b) Communities often lack the necessary people skills and resources to undertake their own planning without external support.
 - (c) People give little credence to adaptation planning unless they see community ideas being responded to positively by authorities.
 - (d) Cultural norms, suspicion about the climate science and/or mistrust of government can be barriers to involvement in planning and action.
- What different approaches to community organising and planning suit groups with unique perspectives and needs?
 - (a) Community-based planning can be more effective when it builds on what households and whanau are already doing to adapt.
 - (b) For some communities, a multi-faceted approach to raising climate change awareness works better than a narrowly focused campaign.
 - (c) Groups like the Disabled Community or extended whanau require diverse outreach methods and online technology to be able to access information and participate actively in planning.
- How can the Council and other stakeholders improve support and coordination so communities can access necessary information, skills and resources when they need them?
 - (a) Outside stakeholders need to trust that communities know their local situation best and can, with appropriate upskilling and resources, lead their own planning process.
 - (b) Regular structured engagement opportunities are needed between Council and communities to progress climate adaptation, not just occasional 'consultations'.
 - (c) There needs to be an agreed process, improved information sharing and better cooperation between the Council and other stakeholders around community-led adaptation as part of developing a regional adaptation plan.
- How do communities get assistance in identifying and engaging with the powerful corporate and individual interests that can influence their adaptation plans?
 - (a) Leaders could help identify such interests by networking and initiating community conversations, which has the potential to strengthen relationships, raise citizen awareness, and consolidate community power.
 - (b) Where their interests are aligned, communities may achieve better outcomes by establishing mutually beneficial relationships with powerful stakeholders and acknowledging their contributions in responding to climate change.
 - (c) Communities can seek assistance from academics with relevant research interests, community activists and communities with previous planning experience on how best to identify and engage with influential interests.

- How do communities get central and local government to recognise the importance of supporting citizen deliberation exercises and community-led adaptation planning?
 - (a) Communities should do their own homework, find out what other communities have done, and acquire the basics of community-led adaptation planning and action ('Don't wait for the state').
 - (b) Council and stakeholders need to do more than pay lip service to communities knowing and caring about their local situation. Community leaders should publicise and spread the word to all levels of Council about successful adaptation planning exercises and opportunities.
 - (c) Effective local/regional climate adaptation planning is more likely to result from Council and communities establishing a partnership based on equal and transparent terms, with communities receiving adequate resourcing.

Key Messages

- Organised groups exist in many communities who care deeply about their community and have the skills and expertise to build climate resiliency. They can serve as conduits/activators for any concerted effort to promote and facilitate community-led adaptation planning.
- Communities aren't always aware of or well-informed about the 'powerful interests' who might help or hinder their adaptation efforts. More awareness raising and community conversations are needed to identify who these people and organisations are and how to engage with them.
- Established communication processes and relationships with Council have been disrupted by recent weather-related emergencies. Some communities have been hammered repeatedly and lack regular up-to-date information and appropriate resources for rebuilding and adapting. These issues need rectifying urgently.
- Cyclone Gabrielle and subsequent events have made people realise perhaps they haven't taken environmental threats as seriously as they should have. Awareness needs to be followed up with concerted community-wide discussions and demonstrations of successful community-led adaptation planning.
- Communities are not 'basket cases' despite recent extreme weather events or what some stakeholder representatives might think. Even special needs groups like the Disabled Community have been relatively self-sufficient and can become even more so with appropriate information and resourcing.

Conclusion

The findings will be presented as evidence to the deliberative democracy process which is the next stage of the project. These community studies confirm New Zealand and overseas research about the value of a community-led, deliberative approach to building climate resilient communities and contributing to more effective government climate policies and action.

Mihi

Whiringa wairua, he muka tangata. Whiria mai i tawhiti nui, whiria mai i tawhiti pamaomao.

Tangihia o tatau mate o te wa ratau ma kua ngaro i te tirohanga kanohi, moe mai ra i roto i nga ringa manaaki o te Runga Rawa ki reira okioki ai.

Otira ki a tatau nga waihotanga o ratau, kei te mihi, kei te mihi, kei te mihi.

Ki nga maunga whakahii, nga puke korero, nga wai kaukau o tena pa, o tena hapu, o tena iwi horapa i te Tairāwhiti, ā, tena ra tatau katoa.

Introduction / He Kōrero Timatanga

Cyclone Gabrielle was just the latest in what scientists anticipate will be more frequent extreme weather events that will affect Tairāwhiti in future. People and government organisations came together after the cyclone and made extraordinary efforts to recover from the devastation. Unfortunately, the cleanup and rebuilding process has been prolonged by further rain events. Parents report their kids are scared of the rain. People are becoming tired, anxious and irritable. Most try to carry on as before, but lives and work are regularly disrupted. Small business, farming, and horticultural production are affected. Disadvantaged groups are disproportionately impacted.²

Naturally, people ask when things are going to get back to normal. The reality is that there's no going back to the way things were. Climate change will continue to impact our lives. We're going to have to adapt and do things differently in future. Under the Labour Government's National Adaptation Plan, government agencies were expected to coordinate their efforts and work with local authorities to "ensure communities have the information and support they need to prepare for the impacts of climate change we cannot avoid." Irrespective of the change of government, the need is still there. But is that coordination and planning taking place? Is appropriate, timely support getting to communities and mana whenua so they can do their own adaptation planning as well as contribute to regional planning?

The Review Panel on the Future for Local Government observed in their 2023 report that active community participation is a feature of robust democracy. They noted that local council engagement and consultation processes in Aotearoa/New Zealand are often reduced to compliance exercises "rather than deeper engagement and collaboration. People need the opportunity to fully participate in decision-making on policies and issues that affect their futures and future generations." The Panel recommended local councils invest in democratic innovations such as 'deliberative democracy' exercises to promote citizen-led planning and policy processes.

² Macinnins-Ng, Cate et al, 2023. 'Climate change impacts on Aotearoa New Zealand: a horizon scan approach.' Special issue: New Zealand and Antarctica in a changing climate. Published online 19 October. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03036758.2023.2267016>

Overseas research and New Zealand community development experience supports this recommendation. Community-based, community-led adaptation to climate change is a social as well as a public planning process. It's about building community capacity. That means doing more than just providing services and distributing resources to meet basic emergency needs. It means supporting neighbourhoods and rural communities to develop their own plan for rebuilding infrastructure, services, housing and livelihoods appropriate to the new realities climate change is presenting.

The Gisborne District Council, like other local authorities, has a mandate to assist in recovery from disasters, develop regional adaptation plans and help build more climate resilient communities. In accordance with that mandate, the Council began work in 2020 on a climate change response framework and in 2022 released a regional action plan called Roadmap 2050. The Roadmap foreshadowed initiatives the Council, in cooperation with key stakeholders and communities, would lead to mitigate regional emissions, adapt to climate impacts and transition to a more sustainable economy. Many of those initiatives are now underway, like establishment of a Regional Coordination Centre (RCC), whose staff are available to help communities who would like to lead their own community planning.

To learn more about how communities are thinking about adapting to climate impacts, the impediments they are facing and the role that the Council and other stakeholders could play to assist them, Te Weu Trust was commissioned to undertake a study of communities and a 'citizen assembly exercise' to make recommendations to the Council.

The following report covers the first phase of the project – an investigation of three case study communities from around the Tairāwhiti region. The report begins with an overview of the project design, followed by brief profiles of each community. The report then sets out the main findings from field interviews in each community in response to six key questions. After a brief comparison of the findings between the three communities, the report ends by highlighting several important messages from the study for the citizen assembly and Council.

Project Overview / Te Tirohanga Whānui

Purpose

The overall purpose of the project is two-fold:

- a) To document and garner lessons from several case studies around how communities are recovering from Cyclone Gabrielle and what they are doing to plan how they will adapt and transition to a more resilient, survivable future; and
- b) To organise and trial a deliberative Tairāwhiti ‘citizen assembly’ to consider expert advice and case study feedback on how Gisborne District Council (GDC) in collaboration with private and public sector stakeholders can best facilitate and support communities to develop their own adaptation plans and contribute to the development of regional adaptation plans.

Design

The project was designed in two phases. This first phase involved a team of researchers engaging with and documenting the experiences of selected communities from June to November 2023. Particular attention was paid to whether and how communities were able to engender participation, sustain leaders, develop a planning and implementation process suitable to them, secure enough resourcing not just for cyclone recovery but for building capacity for planning, and whether they were able to work with outside stakeholders to receive timely advice and assistance.

The research process employed interviews with randomly selected individuals in each community, supplemented by events records and participant observation notes by each researcher. The interviews were semi-structured and focused on six key questions (see [Appendix E](#)):

1. What are the main barriers to individuals, households/whanau and groups (marae, land blocks, catchment communities, companies) participating in adaptation planning and implementation?
2. What works and what doesn't in promoting greater participation and sustaining leaders in adaption planning and action?
3. What different approaches to community organising and ‘planning’ suit different groups with their unique perspectives and needs?
4. How can government agencies, local council, regional development authorities, sector organisations, iwi entities and businesses improve coordination and communication so communities can get access to the information, skills and resources they need when they need them?
5. Where do communities get information and assistance in identifying and dealing with the powerful interests that influence their adaptation planning and intended outcomes?

6. What successes have community advocates had in convincing organisations with influence and public policy decision-making powers to encourage citizen participation and support community-led solutions for effective adaptation?

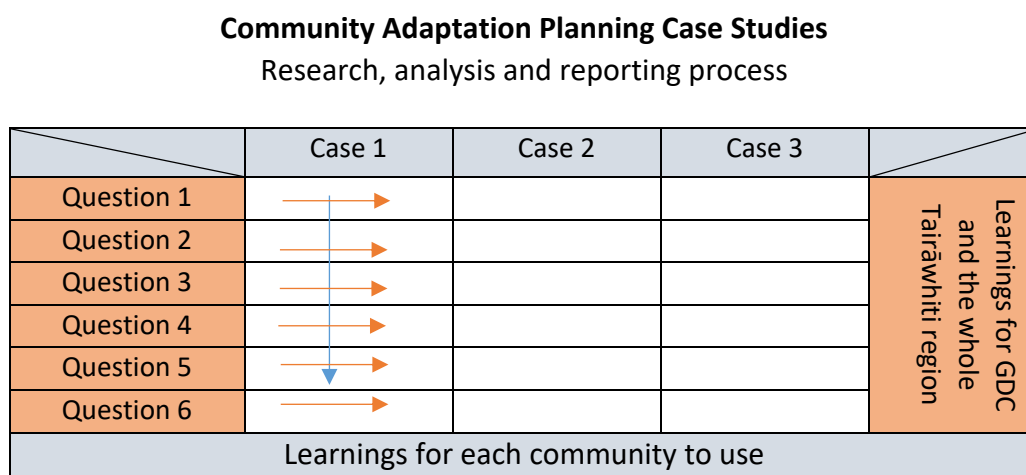
Out of a list of potential case study communities, three were selected using criteria set out in [Appendix B](#). The communities were Muriwai/Ngāi Tāmanuhiri to the south of Gisborne, Matakaoa in the far north, and the Gisborne Disabled Community, an urban community of shared need and interest. Each case study community was at a slightly different point in their journey of recovering from Cyclone Hale, Cyclone Gabrielle and other weather events and considering how they could adapt to future climate impacts. The research project was about observing, engaging with citizens, and gleaning lessons from each community’s experience so these could be shared with other communities and inform the Council’s climate adaptation planning.

Official statistics provide only a broad context for estimating each community’s population profile (see [Appendix C](#)). The data for the disabled population nationally and locally is a decade old and does not provide the full range of standard demographic variables that the census does. The data relevant to Muriwai and Matakaoa pertain to the ‘statistical area’ in which they are located. They could only be used as approximate guides to the population profiles of the two villages and their surrounds. For these reasons it was decided not to attempt stratified sampling. Instead, a personal networking approach was used to create a pool of potential informants from which interviewees could be selected, using available statistical data as a rough guide.

Following fieldwork in the three communities, researchers met as a team to review the coding of responses from their interviews to identify the most frequently mentioned responses to each of the six questions. These were converted into interpretive phrases and eventually synthesised into statements that summarised the important points interviewees were making (Appendices [F](#) and [G](#)).

Findings from the case studies are intended to be shared with the communities themselves as well as providing input to a deliberative democracy regional citizen assembly planned for 2024. After the citizen assembly, the research findings from the case studies will be available to communities across Tairāwhiti (see Figure 1):

Figure 1



Community Profiles / Ngā Whakamaramatanga ā Kaenga

The following community profiles were prepared by local research teams as an introduction to their community including how the community has responded to recent extreme weather events.

Muriwai/Ngāi Tāmanuhiri

Exposure to climate impacts

Muriwai is a beautiful coastal village 20 km from Gisborne which encompasses Muriwai Marae and approximately 85 homes, highly exposed to the impacts of severe weather events, rising sea level, increased frequency and severity of storms, earthquakes resulting in tsunami and coastal erosion. Tawatapu settlement sits in the foothills of Wharerata Forest to the south of Turanga which encompasses Rangiwaho Marae and approximately 12 homes.

Muriwai Marae was relocated many years ago from its position at Te Whero Whero due to the rising water levels and the ever-changing environment where the river meets the sea. Locals remember the Tsunami in the 1960 's, where the water came up to, and evacuating from Kura up surrounding hills for safety.

Muriwai and Tawatapu settlements are vulnerable to climate change. Muriwai village is below sea level. Indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They are also key to the global response due to centuries of knowledge and tikanga in caring for Papatūānuku. Indigenous peoples' rights must be part of all future climate change and emergency response action, policy and law. Whanau and hapori are at the sharp end of social statistics, and addressing inequities must be part of climate change resilience measures. Iwi, hapū and Māori organisations are exercising their self-determination and leadership – for the benefit of all in the community. Such leadership warrants recognition and support. The subtle and not so subtle weather pattern changes, flora and fauna impacts and landscape adjustments have been noticed by uri for some time. We have and will continue to adjust our sails. Ngāi Tāmanuhiri want to be front and centre of its emergency response and climate change mitigation measures. There are disproportionate impacts of climate change and disasters on Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, and local people are best placed to make decisions on this.

Te Tairāwhiti has experienced seven severe weather events in the past 24 months and continues to have regular weather warnings. Severe Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle devastated Te Tairāwhiti in February 2023. It was the deadliest cyclone and weather event overall to hit New Zealand, surpassing Cyclone Bola in 1988. The Gisborne District was hit hard, with power, all forms of communication and eftpas out for multiple days. All transport routes in and out of Tairāwhiti were severed. The damage is significant and devastating, worsened by the forestry debris which has impacted local infrastructure, waterways, food sources and taonga spaces. The response of marae-based communities in many ways defined our national response to Cyclone Gabrielle. Manaakitanga, respect and care for others, was placed above all else. Driven by immediate needs, Māori have provided determined leadership for a Papatūānuku-driven approach to our environment. Reflecting on the performance of Government and emergency services in Gisborne, we can identify the areas for improvement and ensure the best outcomes for Muriwai/Tawatapu residents for future weather

events. Extensive consultation is vital to informing the emergency planning. Multiple community hui have occurred following Cyclone Gabrielle, led by Tāmanuhiri Tutu Poroporo Trust and our local hapū leads Haumarū Roopu.

Community response - Positive Developments

After the cyclone, the community had no communications or access to cash because EFTPOS was down. Eventually some people got access to Starlink. There has been at least one meeting to discuss cyclone recovery progress and next steps. Recently a community fun day was held on the beach and local leaders managed to add themes about adapting to climate change. Recently Tāmanuhiri Tūtū Poroporo Trust have purchased land outside of Category 3 areas as a safe evacuation location, plans are underway to resource this sufficiently to accommodate the local community in the event of an emergency.

There still is a certain amount of disconnect between residents and central and local government entities. Tāmanuhiri Haumarū Roopu was established during the Covid 19 pandemic. The aim was to bridge the gap between Government priorities with the aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi in Te Muriwai and Tawatapu. The aspirations of the group of volunteers were to:

- Construct an individual household whānau response framework.
- Build a productive, resilient, sustainable and inclusive community.
- Improve the wellbeing of Te Muriwai community members.
- Foster leadership and mana restoration within our people.

The years of experience, trust and relationships the Haumarū Roopu have established have been essential to informing this resilience & emergency planning. Haumarū Roopu approach is that community / whānau are the fundamental foundation of Māori society. This is the basis for how they engage, how our strengths are viewed and how success is shared. It's about community / whānau leading their own aspirations. Wai to Muriwai provides some water resilience for the community through town supply filtration. Emergency support agencies are assisting to keep this kaupapa at the forefront of our residents' minds by providing some resources (ECCT, Red Cross, Mahaki and Civil Defence).

Matakaoa

Background

Matakaoa is a small coastal community comprising of Waikura Valley (222km north of Gisborne) at the western end, East Cape Road (190km north of Gisborne) at the eastern end and the largest settlement Te Araroa (170 km north of Gisborne). It has a combined population of around 1800.

The community is extremely isolated from central services, the impacts of climate change are likely to be very different in Matakaoa compared to other communities – for example access to services are very restricted due to roading infrastructure and the travel distance and time involved.

Matakaoa traditionally referred to a large peninsula in our region, which rests on the eastern fin of Te Ika a Māui (the North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand) however from the early 1900s it came into use to refer to the townships from Whāngaparāoa in the west, across to Whāngaokena (East Cape Island) and down to Whakaangiangi. We still hold functional and familial relationships to Whāngaparāoa. Our population can swell to over 5000 during the summer with inter-regional and international tourists who all come to enjoy our beautiful beaches, New Zealand's oldest and largest Pohutukawa tree, the historic lighthouse at East Cape, the region's wild, remote countryside. The area's population is approximately 95 percent Māori and there are some 16 hapū within our boundaries.

Matakaoa has a long, proud history of resilience. In the days of our ancestors, it was a site of abundance, holding many healing springs, wetlands and gardens, and was the nest of leadership for our region - a sovereign nation that was self-sustaining and self-determining. Early explorers noted that the ancestors of our region were strong, healthy, and immaculate in presentation. With the arrival of colonization came numerous pandemics. While these impacted on our ancestors heavily, we also created our own responses to these challenges to protect our community. This included setting up checkpoints to stop the entry of diseases and donating land and marae for the establishment of hospitals.

Exposure and impacts of recent severe weather events

The community has been impacted heavily by recent climate events. Frequent heavy rain and flooding have cut communications, and the main road has been cut repeatedly. This has impacted the local businesses and the whole community by preventing people from getting to work, children getting to school, and caused difficulties getting to the doctor. In one case a local kuia who was seriously unwell and the ambulance was unable to get to her house because the bridge crossing the river through town was damaged and closed. She eventually was flown out by helicopter.

Some households have been seriously affected financially. With not being able to get to work and having no income for long periods of time, they've had to draw upon their limited savings. Some whanau don't feel safe driving state highway 35 to Gisborne. They fear damage to their vehicles due to all the potholes and damaged roads that could add extra costs which they can't afford.

Riverbank erosion along the Awatere River in Whakaangiangi was a common theme in our interviews. Over the past few years, the river has done a lot of damage to the riverbanks, It has got worse over the past six years as weather events have increased in frequency and severity. At least six farms and residential properties in the catchment have lost parts of their land in the last six years. Interviewees said there's been no support, resources or finance from local or central government agencies to help this situation.

Community Response – Positive developments

Most residents feel the community response to the cyclone had been positive. Locals in the community and local community organisations Manaaki Matakaoa and Te Puna Manaaki a

Ruataupare have been able to respond straight away to helping households and businesses to cope with the impacts. The local Four Square agreed to allow credit as internet services were down and EPTPOS wasn't working .

The general feeling in the community seems to be that the response from the Council and other agencies had been average at best. People felt they could have done better in providing more resources and financial assistance sooner. Most residents who have been interviewed were concerned about the possibility of similar such events in the future but were uncertain about whether and how to do adaptation planning including community emergency preparedness and developing a resilience strategy.

Matakaoa community is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of natural disaster and climate change events. As we have experienced, current emergency response mechanisms by GDC and Civil Defence show a lack readiness and cohesion, hindering effective coordination and the timely deployment of resources and aid.

Gisborne City Disabled Community

Background

There are an estimated 8600 disabled people living in Gisborne city, meaning that some 25 percent of the population have some form of disability. Of this population, around 65 percent are Māori.

People in the Disabled Community prefer the social or the independent living model which regards disability as a neutral difference between people and acknowledges that people with disabilities can live happy and healthy lives. In 2011, members of the Disabled Community developed the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) approach, that gives a foundation and framework for positive change, shifting power and authority back to disabled people and their families, to increase choice and control in their lives.

Enabling Good Lives is guided by a series of principles based on respect towards disabled people and their families, culminating in trusting disabled people and their families to be decision-makers in their own lives and to govern the resources used for their support.

Tairāwhiti Community Voice is a regional voice for support agencies. It is a network of agencies who collectively address needs of our community. TCV provides a collective voice that influences social, political and economic systems for benefit of communities served.

There are currently 30 members of TCV who for example include Barnardos Gisborne to Alzheimer's Tairāwhiti. These agencies are currently supporting all those who were interviewed in this research project.

Despite the cyclone and the following floods affecting our Disabled Community, our community members were supported extensively by agencies including the Police and church groups amalgamating together to support families. Church groups accessed homeware (e.g. washing

machines and fridges to give to families) and CCS Disability Support purchased generators to support families.

The community received support from many volunteers. In one instance, a total stranger travelled all the way from Auckland to help. This person was in Gisborne for a week and was able to support a family to pull down mud-soaked walls to pulling up mud-soaked floors. Such kindness and support were overwhelming!

Community Comparisons / Ngā Whakaritenga ā Kaenga

This section briefly describes the three communities and compares the interviewee samples from each against available population data (see Appendices [C](#) and [D](#))

Muriwai and Matakaoa are small rural communities of about the same population located at either end of the region. The Gisborne disabled population (approximately 12,800) is an urban 'community' based on shared interest and need. Cyclone Gabrielle and subsequent weather events caused wind damage, minor flooding, and some land erosion around Muriwai. Matakaoa has experienced wind damage, significant flooding (long periods waiting for the whenua to dry, damage to fences and stock getting loose), erosion of agricultural land, and destruction of transport infrastructure resulting in disruption of local businesses, food supply and services. Rural roading and bridges are taking longer to repair. Urban Gisborne was affected by severe flooding particularly on the flats, along the main rivers and low-lying housing areas. Health and social services important to the Disabled Community were disrupted. Damage to main transport routes impacted businesses and caused food shortages. All three communities were affected by power and communications outages for extended periods.

Although the interview process was not based on stratified random sampling for reasons discussed earlier, a comparison of interviewees with the population profiles of the areas in which each community is located is useful for suggesting where findings might be weighted toward certain perspectives or viewpoints (e.g., older people versus younger generations).

Age

The median age of the statistical areas in which each of the rural communities are located was a little over 40 years. For the Disabled Community the national figure was close to 50 years; 35 percent of disabled people are over 65 years old. There is no current data specifically for Gisborne.

Comparing the interview samples, the median age of Muriwai interviewees was 53 and the median age of Matakaoa interviewees was 54.5, so both samples are weighted toward older respondents. The median age of the Gisborne Disabled Community sample was 64.5. which similarly means the interview sample leans toward older respondents.

Gender

For the Te Arai statistical area in which Muriwai is located, 51 percent of the population are males and 49 percent females. For the East Cape statistical area where Matakaoa is located, 53 percent are males and 43 percent females. Again, there is no Gisborne-specific data but we do know from the 2013 national survey that approximately 47 percent of disabled people are males and 53 percent females.

Comparing the interview samples, 45 percent of Muriwai respondents were male and 55 percent female so the interview sample was weighted slightly more toward females. For Matakaoa, 59 percent of respondents were male and 41 percent female, so the sample tended to be more male

than the area population. And for the Disabled Community sample, 40 percent were male and 60 percent female. This is a similar weighting to the national disabled population profile. During analysis of the interview findings, the team observed that younger females and middle-aged men seemed less interested in being interviewed when the purpose of the interview was explained to them.

Ethnicity

The national census allows people to list more than one ethnic background, which means the totals add up to more than 100 percent. In the last census, 54 percent of the Te Arai statistical area in which Muriwai is located identified as European/Pakeha, 58 percent Māori and 4 percent other. For the East Cape statistical area where Matakaoa is located, 23 percent identified as European/Pakeha while 92 percent identified as Māori and 6 percent other. Of the Gisborne Disabled Community, 29 percent are estimated to be European/Pakeha, 65 percent Māori and 6 percent other.

Comparing the interview samples, all were heavily weighted toward Māori respondents. 100 percent of the Muriwai sample were Māori. For Matakaoa, one person (6%) was European and the rest Māori. And for the Disabled Community the opposite was the case: 90 percent were European/Pakeha and 10 percent (one person) Māori. Since nearly 50 percent of the population of Tairāwhiti are Māori and small communities like Muriwai and Matakaoa tend to be heavily Māori, it is not inappropriate that most of the interviews in these communities were with Māori. The disability sample is light on Māori representation since an estimated 65 percent of the Gisborne Disabled Community are Māori.

Research Findings / Ngā Kitenga

The following findings are based on analysis of informant responses across all three case study communities, employing the coding and synthesis technique described earlier (see [Appendix H](#)). The group discussion around how to articulate each key point was augmented by researcher examples from their interviews and observations about people's reactions to significant local events related to climate change. Each of the main findings includes a list of supplemental findings and examples. These were points that were mentioned less frequently but still considered valuable since they raised slightly different issues or solutions.

1) *What works in promoting and sustaining participation in adaptation planning and action?*

Main findings

- a) For sustained involvement in community-led planning, it's important to recognise and build on existing skills so people have a sense that they are contributing meaningfully to helping achieve the community's priority outcomes.

Interviewee: "I think we've actually got those skills in our community... if we did a stocktake of the skills in our community, I think we would all be blown away by just how bloody switched on we are here. We've got farm workers who know the land really well. We've got pakehe who have, you know, tuned the whenua."

- b) Community leaders wanting to encourage participation in adaptation planning should and often do utilise social networks to spread the word about the need to prepare for future impacts. A strongly connected community can provide the basis for collaboration with outside stakeholders because the extent of commitment is evident, and they can trust in local matauranga.

Interviewee: "It's talking amongst ourselves, belonging in the community to things like the Haumarū group, our church groups and things like that."

- c) Well-supported adaptation planning and action is more likely to occur when a committed local group takes the initiative; but supports and resources need to be put in place to sustain community leaders throughout the process.

Interviewee: "They need to feed into someone like [community organisation] who have gone through the questions, identified key issues, and then those are the key issues you take to those resource departments and government and other agencies."

Supplemental findings

- Build local capacity so smaller communities, whanau and special needs groups don't have to wait for or rely on outsiders to organise their adaptation planning.
- Extreme weather events catalyse collective action and raise awareness of climate change, but community leaders need strategies for getting people to think longer-term around how to cope with future impacts (e.g., starting individual conversations, holding informal or activity-based meetings, appearing on talk-back radio shows or writing opinion pieces for the local newspaper).

Interviewee: "Real life scenarios wake people up."

- People who are sceptical about climate change need to be presented with the opportunity to talk about the frequency of extreme weather events and how that relates to changes they have experienced in their daily lives (e.g., changes in kaimoana availability or behaviour, trends in veggie gardens or the local environment).

Interviewee: "We only have two seasons now."

- For people to get involved in community discussions about climate change adaptation, they need access to easily understood information from trustworthy sources about how extreme events are related to climate change, how they are and will be affected, and what they can do to prepare (i.e., not just the occasional Council newsletter or media piece).
- Some communities are already taking practical steps (e.g., arrangements for communication in an emergency, cash key drawcards, go bags, community gardens).

Example: In preparation for future disasters, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri has arranged for a container full of emergency supplies to be located in a safe zone for the Muriwai community. The Haumaruru Roopu organised an emergency planning hui at Tāmanuhiri marae to discuss whanau plans, identify safe zones, and agree on evacuation procedures in case of a tsunami or extreme weather event.

2) *What are the barriers to individuals, families and groups participating in community adaptation planning and action?*

Main findings

- a) The increasing cost of living is a concern for everyone. People in economically disadvantaged communities or people with disabilities are more likely to lack the time, resources and/or

support to involve themselves in community planning and action. They have other pressing priorities just to survive.

Interviewee: "Until you actually get assistance in your own backyard it's pretty hard to start worrying about what everyone else needs too."

Interviewee: "Priority for people is just to put food on the table, pay the bills, pay the power, make sure you have enough to provide your children".

- b) Some communities lack the skills and resources to undertake their own planning and are not helped by intermittent communications or piecemeal advice from Council.

Interviewee: "I don't think they [community] do know. All we know in this community is the Council. All we know is civil defence."

Interviewee: "I do my planning on what I know. If I don't know there's a group out there that can assist in something or that can give me some informational resources, then I'm not going to use them because I don't know. You don't know what you don't know."

- c) People will give little credence to adaptation planning unless they see evidence that authorities respond positively to community ideas and priorities and the final plan addresses their basic needs and concerns. This reluctance is sometimes misinterpreted as complacency.

Interviewee: "We've already discussed this issue, but they haven't come back with a solution. It's like they're coming out here to tick their box."

Interviewee: "I feel like people just aren't interested in talking in circles. There needs to be a result from the information that's been garnered."

- d) Cultural norms and beliefs, or lack of understanding of climate science can be barriers to planning and action when engaging with the Council and outside agencies. People feel whakamaa or hōhā when the planning process doesn't recognise and cater for the expression of alternative perspectives.

Interviewee: "If you talk about climate change, it becomes like almost political. And people say, oh, what's this stuff? You know, that it's just a conspiracy."

Supplemental findings

- People don't always trust the Council. Council representations are perceived as having ulterior motives or withholding key information.

Interviewee: "I don't really, and people don't trust council, unfortunately, in villages. They don't trust councils because the Council does one thing, but they often have ulterior motives."

- Feedback from respondents is that the Council does not communicate well and is unfriendly to disabled people. There are still difficulties accessing many public buildings and carparks.

3) *What different approaches to community organising and planning suit groups with unique perspectives and needs?*

Main findings

- a) Community-based planning can be more relevant and effective when it builds on the efforts that households and extended whanau are already making to prepare for future climate impacts.
- b) Community leaders could consider a multi-faceted approach to promoting climate change awareness and planning participation by organising different types of formal and informal 'planning' activities or piggybacking off existing local events to highlight concerns over climate change.

Interviewee: "With the church, the weekly events, even rallying up with the school, the local school. Just to keep that topic being pushed from multiple angles."

Example: The Muriwai/Tāmanuhiri community organised a post-cyclone festival on the beach called Nuku Ki Tai which focused on water safety training but included weather and climate awareness.

- c) Unlike localities, groups based on shared interests and needs such as the Disabled Community or kin-based groups like whanau require geographically dispersed outreach methods and online technology to share information and allow more people engage in adaptation planning.

Example: Most disabled individuals cannot rely on community organising or planning because of major health issues. They must have an emergency bag ready when needed.

Supplemental findings

- Many members of the public have clear expectations of face-to-face contact with Council during and immediately after an emergency, with appropriate follow-up to ensure they have the resources they need to recover and plan.
- Older people are often resistant to change and harder to engage. It's important for organisers of adaptation planning to reach out to youth and get them involved (e.g., via schools and youth groups). Their concerns and perspectives are crucial for developing appropriate adaptation plans for communities and for the Tairāwhiti region as a whole.
- To appeal to a range of ages and interests in the community, organisers should utilise a wider range of communication methods, from traditional (flyers, notice board) to digital (iwi Facebook pages, Instagram, TikTok).

4) *How can the Council and other stakeholders improve support and coordination so communities can access necessary information, skills and resources when they need them?*

Main findings

- a) Effective adaptation planning requires Council and other stakeholders to trust that communities know their local situation well and, with upskilling where necessary and appropriate resources, can lead their own planning process.

Interviewee: "I think if you want to promote something around here, I think you really need to know the people and the circumstances. And that's when I think it should go back to the iwi because they know their people quite well and they know what their needs are."

- b) The pandemic and extreme weather events have disrupted the pattern of communications and occasional kanohi ki te kanohi meetings that existed between Council, communities and iwi. Many groups and small communities feel left out. More regular proactive engagement opportunities are needed between Council, stakeholders and communities. The Council needs to maintain good relationships to ensure that when an emergency occurs the connections are already there.

Interviewee: "The cyclone's not here anymore, it's not raining, and like I said, when we're all good, we just don't hear from them anymore."

Interviewee: "All the damage from Gabrielle [recovery] could have been organised better. It took over 6 months to get a hui with Council. We are only a small community and are always forgotten about. They should have kept regular contact with us."

Interviewee: "There's a huge problem with erosion here in [community]. This is getting worst and people living close to it are worried. There needs to be clear communication and more hui about it, even door knocking and radio advertising."

- c) Lack of coordination due to silo working among agencies and Council has resulted in wasted time and resources for many communities. There needs to be an agreed process, improved information sharing and better cooperation between the Council and other stakeholders around community-led adaptation as part of developing a regional plan.

Interviewee: "Sometimes the Council comes up to consult with community, and sometimes some of their consultation processes are doubling up... And then people get disheartened, and that's why whenever someone says they're coming out, the numbers that participate in those hui have dropped because people are not getting the answers they need. They feel like they're doubling up on information, or the stuff you give them isn't being actioned."

Interviewee: "Not much we can do about climate change when there is little support or resources. Bring back the old catchment board. Was 50 years ago and our roads were in a better condition than now."

Supplemental findings

- Communities need more readily available, concise information for their recovery and adaptation planning from one or two points of contact so they don't have to waste time engaging with multiple sources or searching the internet for assistance.
- Council and other stakeholders need to review how they work together, share information and communicate with communities and groups. Communities need to know the time and input their representatives provide is valued and made use of.

5) *How do communities get assistance in identifying and engaging with the powerful interests that can influence their adaptation plans?*

Main findings

- a) In planning how to respond to climate change, citizens often overlook outside interests that could influence their adaptation outcomes positively or negatively. Leaders could identify these interests by initiating strategic conversations among their personal networks about where the community is heading. Such community networking has the potential to strengthen relationships, raise citizen awareness and consolidate community power.
- b) Communities need to determine whether the interests of powerful individuals or organisations are aligned with their own aspirations or not. Where they do align, communities

are likely to achieve better outcomes by establishing mutually beneficial relationships with these stakeholders and acknowledging their contributions.

Interviewee: "So it's a two-way thing. We feed what we need, they need to feed in what they can provide in the case of a disaster."

- c) Communities can seek assistance from academics with relevant research interests, community activists and communities who have had similar experiences to their own. For example, academics can provide research evidence and help organise local 'citizen science' projects to support adaptation planning.

Interviewee: "I don't think they do know [other sources of help]. All we know in this community is the Council. All we know is civil defence."

Supplemental findings

- Communities are often unaware of how government agencies, not just the Council, can help with planning and resourcing because they're not widely known by flax roots organisers or easily contactable.

Interviewee: "I do my planning on what I know. If I don't know there's a group out there that can assist in something or that can give me some informational resources, then I'm not going to use them because I don't know. You don't know what you don't know."

- Education is needed around how to go about identifying who the powerful interests are in a given locality and their possible influence on or contribution to planning.

Interviewee: "Educate us. I don't know how outside interests can affect us. I don't even know where to get resources from."

6) *How do communities get central and local government to recognise the importance of supporting citizen deliberation exercises and community-led adaptation planning?*

Main findings

- a) Communities should do their own homework, find out what other communities have done, and acquire basic understanding of community-led adaptation planning that incorporates their own values and outcomes. (I.e., "Don't wait for the state".)

- b) Council and stakeholders need to do more than just pay lip service to communities knowing their local situation best. Community leaders could publicise and report to Council on community discussions and successful adaptation planning exercises as practical examples of how community-led efforts work best.

Interviewee: "I reckon get the iwi involved. They know their people the best, and I reckon give them the funds they need to actually get programmes running."

Interviewee: "They need to feed into someone like the [community organisation] who have gone through the questions, identified key issues, and then those are the key issues you take to those resource departments and government and other agencies."

- c) Effective local and regional climate adaptation plans are more likely to result from Council and communities establishing a partnership on equal and transparent terms. But communities need to receive adequate resourcing. There are already examples of communities withholding working with outside stakeholders because the proposed arrangements didn't meet their expectations regarding partnership.

Interviewee: "As long as it's completely transparent and the iwi have a plan".

Supplemental findings

- More frequent Council presence at community meetings and adaptation planning sessions would improve Council visibility and better acquaint Council representatives with the value of local, community-driven responses to climate change. Communities remember bad experiences. The Council needs to maintain good relationships to ensure that when an emergency occurs, the connections are already there.
- The Council needs to review which personnel engage with communities around adaptation and transition planning and ensure they are dealing with the appropriate contacts in the community, not just the 'usual suspects.' Council should also consider establishing a Climate Project Manager dedicated to adaptation planning, if it hasn't already done so.

Interviewee: "There needs to be more funding opportunities available for people, from Council and government agencies and better advertising [of where to get help]."

Messages for the Citizens Assembly and Council / Nga Karere

Climate adaptation and transition are interdependent and ongoing processes. The message from the climate science is clear. We are going to have to keep on adapting our infrastructure, production and behaviour until hopefully sufficient mitigation action has taken place for the global economy to reach net zero emissions and climate warming slows. Communities, iwi and interest groups need to be an integral part of adaptation planning and action if humanity is to survive.

After reflecting on their interviews and observations of activities in the three communities, the research team identified several overall messages for the Citizen Assembly and Council regarding how Council and other stakeholders can encourage and support community-led adaptation.

1. There are already organised groups in many communities who care deeply about their community and have the skills and expertise to build resiliency. These entities can serve as conduits/activators for any concerted effort to promote community-led adaptation planning.
2. Communities aren't always well-informed about the powerful interests who could help or hinder their adaptation efforts. Awareness raising and community-wide discussion are needed to identify who these influential people and organisations are and determine whether their values and priorities coincide with the community's. In the process the community's own sense of identity and participation can be strengthened.³
3. Crucial communication processes and personal relationships with Council have been disrupted by recent weather-related emergencies. Some communities have been hammered repeatedly and need up-to-date information and resources. Their situation needs rectifying urgently.
4. People's eyes are opening to climate change because of Cyclone Gabrielle and other events. Growing numbers are realising they haven't taken the environmental challenges as seriously as they should have.
5. Communities are not 'basket cases' despite recent extreme weather events. Even special needs groups such as the Disabled Community have been relatively self-sufficient and can become even stronger with appropriate information and resourcing. Health issues don't define oneself. Most are fiercely independent and prefer not to be dependent on anyone.

³ C.f., Saul Alinsky, 1969. *Reveille for Radicals*. Vintage Books, New York.

Conclusion / He Kōrero Whakakapi

The effects of climate change on the Tairāwhiti region will be expected to intensify in coming years. The Gisborne District Council has a vital role to play in raising awareness and, along with key stakeholders, developing plans to reduce emissions, adapt and transition to a more sustainable regional economy and society. The Council created a Roadmap 2050 to guide this work and has undertaken several initiatives to implement its own climate response.

Cyclone Gabrielle reinforced the importance of communities being consulted and involved in the recovery and adaptation process. But there's more to citizens responding to climate change than simply being consulted. This research suggests that communities are becoming more aware of climate change, not just immediate weather events, and beginning to think about how they can prepare for a different kind of future. But some citizens are concerned they are not getting the regular, coordinated information and timely support they need to rebuild and plan adaptation.

Looking beyond Gabrielle, these community studies confirm New Zealand and overseas research about the value of local authorities helping facilitate a community-led, deliberative approach to building climate resilient communities. In turn, these communities can contribute to more effective public and private sector climate planning and action. For without action – cutting emissions and transitioning to a new way of doing things – the future doesn't look very bright.

“The world cannot adapt its way out of the climate crisis, and counting on adaptation to limit damage is no substitute for urgently cutting greenhouse gases.”

- Professor Katherine Hayhoe, Climate Scientist

Appendices

Appendix A - The Project Team



From left: Harley Dibble, Candice Gate, Te Rina Timutimu, Tarquin Stone, Kyle Ngarangione Smith, Phil Reid, Terrence Loomis.

Not pictured: Sheena Luke, Manu Caddie, Erica Rutherford.

Appendix B - Criteria for community case study selection

1. Geographic area or rohe in relation to the kinds of impacts expected (spread).
2. Recent experience of significant climate change-related impacts (recovery focus).
3. Rural community weighting with forestry/agriculture sector involvement, but if possible, include urban area (population balance, access to major resources and support).
4. Communities, rohe or catchments prioritised for Gisborne District Council and government agency interventions (coordination and collaboration challenges).
5. Range between communities where planning and/or adaptation efforts are already underway and communities less organised.
6. Capable researcher(s) familiar with the community are available and based in the area.
7. Feasibility considerations in light of constraints on project resources (personnel, budget).

Appendix C - Community profile statistics

These data provide only a partial picture of each community but were useful as a guide for researchers when they selected people to interview.

Variable		Muriwai & Ngai Tāmanuhiri (Te Arai statistical area)	Matakaoa/ Te Araroa (East Cape statistical area)	Disability Comm/ Gisborne City
Population		1128 Muriwai pop	1389 Te Araroa pop (170)	District 49,300 Est 12,800 disabled in the district (26.1%) Pop of Gisborne City 34,500. Est 8600 have a disability (24.9% of city total pop'l'n)
Age	Median age	40.8	39.8	50 (estimate from 2013 national survey)
	Under 15 yrs (%)	19.9 m 21.1 f	27.3 m 24.3 f	
	15-29 yrs (%)	19.4 m 13.0 f	15.9 m 14.7 f	
	30-64 yrs (%)	44.5 m 49.7 f	43.3 m 44.0 f	
	65 and over (%)	15.7 m 16.2 f	13.9 m 16.5 f	
Gender identity	Male	573 (50.8%)	735 (52.9%)	4155 (48.1%)
	Female	555 (49.2%)	654 (47.1%)	4475 (51.9%)
	Other	NA	NA	
Marital status	Married	46.2%	32.3%	
	Never married	34.2%	47.2%	
	Separated, divorced	12.4%	9.6%	
	Other	7.1%	10.5%	
Ethnicity (counting all ethnic backgrounds reported by respondents)	European/pakeha	54.3%	22.7%	2630 (minus Pacifica, Asian, other)
	Māori	59.3%	91.6%	52% of Gisborne City are Māori (17,940). National Māori disability rate is 32%. Est 5740 of city disabled are Māori (65% of City disabled)
	Pacific	2.1%	2.2%	5% of City pop (1725); 550 are disabled

Variable		Muriwai & Ngai Tāmanuhiri (Te Arai statistical area)	Matakaoa/ Te Araroa (East Cape statistical area)	Disability Comm/ Gisborne City
	Asian	0.3%	2.8%	3.5% of City pop (1205); 385 are disabled
	Other	1.8%	1.3%	1.3% of total (450); 145 are disabled
Iwi/hapu affiliation(s)		Ngāi Tāmanuhiri	16 hapū including: Te Whanau a Tāpaeururangi, Te Whānau a Te Aotaki, Te Whānau a Tūwhakairiora, Te Whānau a Kahu, Te Whanau a Te Aopare, Te Whānau a Hinerupe, Te Whanau a Te Aotaihi, Te Whānau a Tarahauiti, Te Whānau a Hunaara	
Occupational status	Full-time employ	53.4%	28.9%	
	Part-time employ	16.1%	16.6%	
	Unemployed (over 15yrs old)	5.4%	10.2%	
	Not in workforce	24.5%	44.6%	
Income	Median income	\$30,300	\$18,500	City median income \$24,400 total Est median for disabled comm ____?
Educational attainment	No qualification	23.2%	31.8%	
	Level 1-3 Certif	35.8%	36.4%	
	Level 4-6 Certif	23.9%	19.8%	
	Tertiary	10.9%	6.8%	
	Post-grad	5.5%	4.5%	
Dwelling tenure	Owned or partly owned	52.6%	40.9%	
	Not owned, not a trust	40.6%	42.9%	
	Family trust	9.8%	16.9%	

Appendix D – Interviewee profiles by community (gender, age, ethnicity, employment)

Muriwai Interviewees	Gender	Age	Ethnicity	Employment Status
1	Male	70	Māori	Retired
2	Male	47	Māori	Employed
3	Female	31	Māori	Employed
4	Female	37	Māori	Employed
5	Male	35	Māori	Employed
6	Female	63	Māori	Employed
7	Female	60	Māori	Employed
8	Female	50	Māori	Employed
9	Male	55	Māori	Employed
10	Male	32	Māori	Employed
11	Female	34	Māori	Employed
12	Female	61	Māori	Employed
13	Male	42	Māori	Employed
14	Male	68	Māori	Retired
15	Female	78	Māori	Retired
16	Male	43	Māori	Employed
17	Female	42	Māori	Employed
18	Male	44	Māori	Employed
19	Female	62	Māori	Employed
20	Female	28	Māori	Employed

Matakaoa Interviewees	Gender	Age	Ethnicity	Employment Status
1	Male	75	Māori	Retired
2	Female	34	Māori	Employed
3	Female	42	Māori	Retired
4	Male	48	Māori	Employed
5	Female	35	Māori	Employed
6	Male	65	Māori	Employed
7	Female	64	Māori	Employed
8	Male	52	Māori	Business Owner
9	Female	50	Māori	Employed
10	Male	52	Māori	Employed
11	Male	69	Māori	Employed
12	Male	79	Māori	Retired
13	Male	52	Māori	Employed
14	Female	46	Māori	Employed
15	Male	49	Māori	Beneficiary
16	Female	40	Māori	Employed
17	Male	60	Pakeha	Business Owner

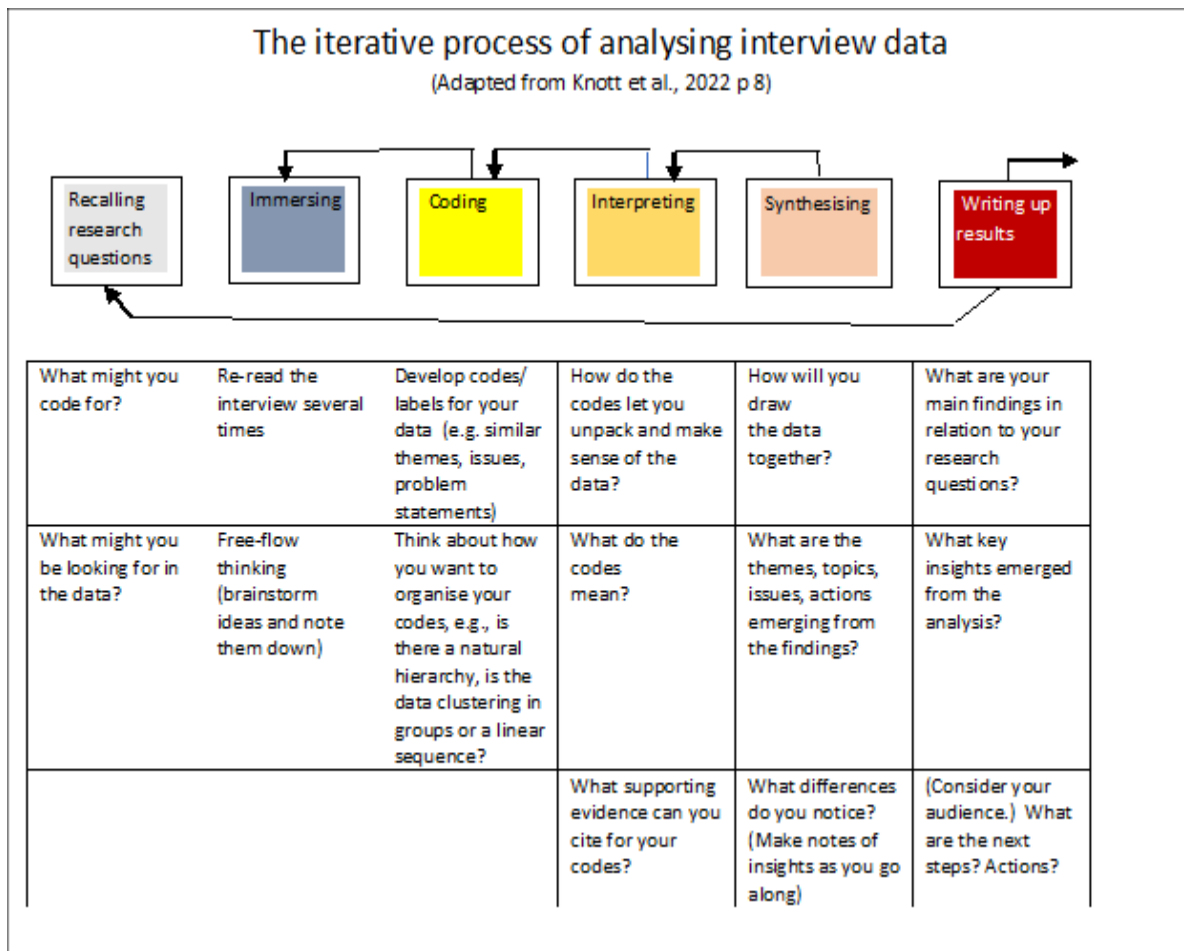
Gisborne Disabled Community interviewees	Gender	Age	Ethnicity	Employment Status
1	Male	81	European	Pensioner
2	Female	48	European	Unemployed
3	Female	62	European	Unemployed
4	Female	50	European	Employed
5	Male	50	European	Employed
6	Female	60	Samoan	Unemployed
7	Male	60	European	Sickness beneficiary
8	Female	58	Māori	Sickness beneficiary
9	Male	65	European	Sickness beneficiary
10	Female	70	European	Pensioner

Appendix E - Interview guide: key questions and supplementary prompts

Key questions	Conversation prompts
Information about the interviewee	<p>The interview is confidential, but we need to know a bit of information about you for research purposes.</p> <p>(NOTE: Researcher, please request person’s name, age, gender preference, , occupation, and ethnicity).</p>
What works in promoting and sustaining participation in adaption planning and implementation?	<p>Have people been talking about climate change more since Cyclone Gabrielle? Have they spoken about preparing or adapting to future climate impacts?</p> <p>What’s worked in getting people together to think about recovery and adapting to climate change? What kind of communication challenges have there been in getting information out and raising people’s awareness? Has keeping people involved and keeping the momentum going been an issue? If so, what’s been done to keep people involved?</p> <p>Do you think community leaders have picked up on the need to plan for adaptation? If they have, are they getting the support they need? Is organising and coordinating adaptation planning just too time demanding from some? Where has support for them come from?</p> <p>What activities are you aware of that the Gisborne District Council, government agencies or other organisations have undertaken to inform people about climate change and the need to plan for future impacts? What do you think their effect has been in the community?</p>
What are the barriers to individuals, whanau and groups participating in community and Council adaptation planning?	<p>Do you think people have other concerns that take priority over getting involved in collective adaptation planning and action? What might these other priorities be?</p> <p>What role do you think people’s financial circumstances, educational background, social networks or access to communications technology play in whether they participate? What evidence do you see of that? (examples)</p> <p>Is there much history of the community planning or working together? Are there any long-standing conflicts or friction between community members that could put them off working together?</p> <p>What do you know about the Council’s climate change planning or projects? Where would people go for information? Have you heard of the Council’s Roadmap 2050? Have you had an opportunity to be involved or provide input to Council’s recovery and adaptation planning>?</p>
What alternative approaches to community planning are appropriate for groups with unique perspectives and/or needs? (e.g. see Mertins-Kirkwood et al, 2023. <i>Don’t Wait for the State</i>)	<p>What approach have you and/or others taken to getting people discussing and planning for climate adaptation? Who has done most of the organising? How exactly have you gone about it?</p> <p>Every community is different. Are there different groups or perspectives about climate change that have had to be taken into account in your meetings or planning? How have these been catered for?</p> <p>Have outside individuals or organisations offered advice and/or training so you could lead <i>your own planning</i>?</p>
How can communities obtain the information, skills and resources they need for recovery and adaptation planning when they need them.	<p>Thinking about Cyclone recovery and climate adaptation planning, has your community had access to the information, skills, resources our outside help you needed when you needed them? (e.g., future climate impacts-NIWA; funding for planning; experienced facilitation)</p> <p>Have the Council or government agencies offered to help organise and/or facilitate your recovery and adaptation planning? What has been the</p>

	<p>community's experience working with these organisations? Have you been able to decide what's important to your community in your planning?</p> <p>Have outside organisations offered programmes, experts or asked for meetings you felt the community didn't really need or that overlapped with what the community was already doing? What do you think the problem is?</p>
<p>How can communities recognise and engage with the powerful interests that influence their adaptation plans?</p>	<p>As part of your community discussions and/or planning around climate adaptation, has the issue come up of what influence outside interests like government, sector groups, corporations or runanga have on your recovery and planning efforts?</p> <p>Do you think this is an important issue to consider in the community's planning? Why or why not? (e.g., equity, fairness, te Tiriti)</p> <p>Have you spoken with or had assistance from people who might help identify and engage with these influential interests? (e.g., academics, community activists, other communities with similar issues to yours)</p> <p>Have they suggested tools you could use to map and profile these individuals, groups or organisations? (e.g. Net-Map)</p>
<p>How do communities get central and local government to embrace and support citizen participation and community-led adaptation planning?</p>	<p>What experience have you or your community had in being consulted about central or Council climate change plans? Could you give a couple of examples? What did you think of the process involved?</p> <p>Are you familiar with the idea of community-led or by Māori/for Māori planning? Have you or others in the community made presentations directly to the Council on an issue?</p> <p>What discussions if any have you/the community had with the Council or other agencies about adapting to climate change? Are they moving fast enough to address your situation and needs?</p> <p>Have you sought to have more of a role in your own recovery and adaptation planning? What has been the result?</p> <p>What do you think the Council, in cooperation with other sectors, could do to support your community planning efforts?</p>

Appendix F - Analysis process and methodology



Researchers were asked to transcribe each interview manually or were given the option of using software like Rev, Sonix or Express Scribe. The next step was to identify and code responses to each of the six key research questions. Codes took the form of brief phrases summarising points, issues, themes, problems, or solutions mentioned by each respondent. The Muriwai team developed a template for keeping track of codes and counting how often they were mentioned by respondents. Use of the matrix was discussed in a team zoom meeting so the other teams could be comfortable with how to use it. Research teams were encouraged to use this code matrix to identify the 4-5 most important responses to each question. Frequency of response was taken as an indicator of importance of the code phrase. Because of the small sample sizes from each community and time constraints, the frequency of responses from each community index were not included in the report.

Teams recorded their most important code phrases in a chart called Analysis Tool 3 (below). The researchers then met *kanohi ki te kanohi* at the end of the fieldwork and combined codes across all three communities into the most important interpretive phrases in response to the six key research questions. These were then synthesised into statements summarising what interviewees from the three communities were telling us in response to the key questions for communicating to the Citizen Assembly and Council.

Appendix G - Team interpretation and synthesis of interview findings

Analysis steps:

1. Based on coding of their transcripts, researchers were asked to list up to five of the most frequently used codes that summarised points, themes, issues, problems mentioned by their interviewees.
2. Analysis Tool 3 (see [Appendix H below](#)) was then used by the research team during the analysis workshop to identify the most important (i.e., frequently used) coded responses to each of the key questions across all three communities.
3. These codes were converted into interpretative code phrases and then synthesised into explanatory statements of the main findings.

Appendix H - Analysis Tool 3: Team interpretation & synthesis summary of interview findings (discussion notes)

Key questions	Muriwai/Ngai Tāmanuhiri key coded findings	Matakaoa key coded findings	Gisborne Disabled Community key coded findings	Interpretation – Important themes and issues from interviews across the case study communities (discussion notes)	Synthesis of findings & examples (Final)
<p>What works in promoting and sustaining participation in adaption planning and action?</p> <p>How do we get community speaking/planning for climate change/weather events?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizing social networks (school, church, clubs etc.) to push the topic from multiple sides. Reactive Climate awareness – increased awareness after events Activity based meetings – quiz night (topics include climate change), “food brings people together”, family friendly etc. Local groups leading and supporting planning (Haumarū group pushing response plans, church workshops) Focus on tangible/observable impacts – change in kaimoana, fruit and veggie gardens. Having clear goals to work towards – include progress on goals at meetings for a sense of progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in a few people – they sort/share info oppose to someone not living here. Informative information sharing Build a capacity not to have to rely on others Community working together Clusters area talk about preparing, planning what it looks like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication accessibility Information accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising personal networks (including Kura panui) Utilising local group to take the lead. Building community cohesiveness and capacity Proactive communication and effective info sharing Building on event-based awareness to create sustained engagement. Supporting community leaders to strategize Council meeting with the runanga Upskilling people (linked to info accessibility) Community-led workshops Offer of practical resources (communications, cash key drawcards, go-bags) Building on personal needs/ interests and values (impact of climate change on kai moana) It took ‘the crisis’ of the cyclone to get people involved. 	<p>For equitable and sustained input, recognising and building on existing individual and community skills to deliver success outcomes as deemed by the community.</p> <p>Utilising and enhancing personal networks and to promote collaboration and trust in local matauranga.</p> <p>Utilising a local group to take the lead and putting in place supports and resources to sustain community leaders.</p>
<p>What are the barriers to individuals, families and groups participating in community adaptation planning and action?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complacency – awareness peters off over time (distance from crisis) Prioritisation of daily lives, immediate concerns take precedence: family, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connectivity, financial, resources council understanding the community knows best as they live here day in day out. Recognising the importance of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication GDC non-friendly to disabled with access to buildings and carparks Previous council management inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People’s sense of complacency (someone else’s responsibility, extreme weather not associated with climate change) Lack of knowledge about how to plan and resources to plan (communication from Council etc.) 	<p>People in economically disadvantaged communities or with disabilities often lack time, resources and/or support to involve themselves in community planning and action over time.</p> <p>People give little credence to community adaptation planning unless they see evidence that community action is responded to positively by authorities and addresses their basic needs and concerns.</p>

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<p>What holds our people back from participation in community/council Planning?</p>	<p>health and well-being, making ends meet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Climate change” terminology – seen as political, a conspiracy, met with scepticism and other connotations. • Mistrust towards Government – people don’t trust council, perceived as having ulterior motives or with holding key information. • Unaware of how to gain resources and aid from external influences 	<p>community voice and skills set already in the communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling like they have been listen to, allowing everyone to speak • Coming together to see how we can support each other and decide what we want • Access to information • Financially unable to 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal priorities addressing cost of living challenge (financial constraints) - Resistance to climate change – ignorance and ideology - Reactive planning – past failings of outside agencies - Complacency - Lack of awareness - Financial constraints - Digital literacy - Tensions within communities or interpersonal issues; divisions - Reactive planning – past failings of outside agencies - Leaving to existing mandated organisations - Resilience planning versus being stuck in recovery (resolving people’s immediate problems) 	<p>People’s cultural norms and beliefs, or understanding of climate science, are a barrier to planning and action when it involves GDC other outside agencies (peoples’ voice doesn’t matter - Whakamaa or Hoha reactions)</p>
<p>What are the unique groups in your community? What are the planning needs to cater for them?</p> <p>What different approaches to community organising and ‘planning’ suit groups with unique perspectives and needs? (e.g. see Mertins-Kirkwood et al, 2023. <i>Don’t Wait for the State</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local groups leading planning – Haumaruru group meetings, church workshops. • Addressing community’s unique needs – coastal concerns, rising sea level, fire risk, water safety • Activity based events – inclusive, fun, family orientated - “a positive approach. Making it a time for community to come together... as well as planning a realistic targeted approach” • Youth involvement – getting youths perspective, crucial for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussion – hui hui hui • Working with the community, community helping community seem to work • Community understanding this is happening and we will be getting more weather events, more land slips, getting worse it’s not going to change • Financially unable to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group programmes informative • Zoom meetings invaluable • Disabled Community is a unique Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different approach: Household based planning (individual responsibility) contributing to community-based planning - Disabled Community is a unique group but is a dispersed group required dispersed outreach in planning - Different approach: Utilising existing, or organising new events about something else to increase engagement and connection around adaption planning - Different modes / channels for information sharing and feedback (new technology, door knocking for oldies) 	<p>Household based planning (individual responsibility and needs) integrated with community-based planning.</p> <p>A multi-faceted approach to engagement and planning, building on existing and new events with diverse purposes to increase awareness and awareness of adaptation planning.</p> <p>Disabled Community is a unique group but is a dispersed group required dispersed outreach in planning.</p> <p>(dispersed interest of whanau-based groups versus locality based).</p>

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	<p>the future, teach water awareness and weather patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising various communication methods – traditional (flyers, notice board) and digital (iwi pages fb, Instagram etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People will get involved if it affects them personally Older people are stuck in their ways, getting our younger generation to help make change 			
<p>How can the Council and other stakeholders improve support and coordination so communities can access necessary information, skills and resources when they need them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize community skill sets and resources – Members of the community who are “movers & shakers”, have skill sets, involved with GDC. Accessible information – simple concise information readily available Having a point of contact in GDC Limited awareness of how to gain resources, skills and information. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliability Time management Information sharing Value community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective adaptative planning requires Council (and others) trusting in communities knowing the local situation and being able to lead the planning process Regular community engagement and communications / meetings between Council, stakeholders and communities e.g. GDC visibility, presence at meeting and relevant updates Overcome operating in siloes (e.g. improved info sharing within GDC and with external agencies) Council and other stakeholders time management and coordination of meetings and initiatives (inter-agency coordination) Be aware of community and family circumstances including time demands Relationship building – consistency of agency contacts and engagement Support/resources for community led planning and priorities Improving resources for engagement 	<p>Effective adaptative planning requires Council (and others) trusting in communities knowing the local situation and being able to lead the planning process.</p> <p>Regular community engagement and appropriate modes of communication between Council, stakeholders and communities (e.g. GDC visibility, presence at meeting and relevant updates).</p> <p>In order to overcome silo working and wasted time and resources, improved collaboration and info sharing between GDC and other stakeholders around community adaptation.</p> <p>Tika / integrity needs to be woven in.</p>

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How do communities get assistance in identifying and engaging with the powerful interests that can influence their adaptation plans?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaware of how external entities outside of GDC can help with planning. • Using collective community influence • Education around who powerful interests are and possible influence on planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a local, a local present someone that seen in the community • Targeting individuals within the community • Resources, Being self-reliant, skills • Having generators on stand-by for business 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using collective community information, influence and networks - Building positive relationships with powerful interests and thanking them for their support (adversary to partnerships / relationships) - Assistance from academics, community activists and other similar communities. 	<p>Utilising collective community information networks and influence to consolidate community power and identify outside powerful interests</p> <p>Building mutually beneficial relationships with powerful interests aligned with community aspirations and acknowledging their support (adversary to partnerships / relationships).</p> <p>Assistance from academics, community activists and other similar communities</p>
How do communities get central and local government to recognise the importance of supporting citizen deliberation exercises and community-led adaptation planning?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved GDC visibility – desire for council presence at community meetings • Establish points of contact in community – key figures in the community to liaison with GDC • Desire for information and updates on initiatives • Build trust between community and GDC. • Climate “Project Manager” dedicated to adaptation planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you’re not living here in this space your experience is going to be different • Informing younger generation, the older generation are stuck in their ways • Local mobilisation and the tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing • Communication • Interactive with community Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GDC (and other stakeholders) responding to community desires for information and updates - Council and stakeholders need to recognise that communities know and care about their local situation - Providing practical examples and evidence of how and when community-led works best - Building meaningful (and sustainable) partnerships on equal and transparent terms (withholding participation is a current issue) - Proactive communications: provide feedback on central and local government initiatives - frustration with ‘once and done’ involvement/engagement 	<p>Building meaningful (and sustainable) partnership working between communities and council on equal and transparent terms with adequate resourcing (...refusing participation that fails to meet these terms.</p> <p>Council and stakeholders need to recognise that communities know and care about their local situation. Acknowledging practical examples and evidence of how and when community-led works best.</p> <p>Communities can research and build an evidence base and utilise their own values to pursue their own community led adaptive planning and action (“don’t wait for the state”).</p>