

Wellbeing Workshop Notes

Link: [Recording, Attendees, and Transcript](#)

Location: Online, Zoom Hui

Time: 9/02/23 10am-12pm

Climate staff present:

Stuart Dymond (Facilitator)

Jo Hendy (Presenter)

Alison Cole (Presenter)

Olivia Pryor (Presenter)

Anita King (Presenter)

Jazial Crossley (Communications)

Emme Bulpitt (Communications)

Lara Brinsdon (Communications)

External Attendees:

[x] withheld on the grounds of privacy and in reliance on section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Information presented to attendees:

Introduction by Stuart Dymond; aim of meeting to seek input in what we should be including and who we should be talking to; who is in meeting; housekeeping

Welcome by Jo Hendy; acknowledge Auckland flooding and importance of wellbeing within an already climate impacted world; Importance of centering people in our thinking as we focus on policy issues; summary of Commission's position in Aotearoa's climate transition.

Response Act by Alison Cole; explained role supporting upholding responsibilities for iwi Māori under Climate Change response act; summarised specific provisions; independent entity; 5M(f) states 'give effect' and consider crown-Māori relationship across all workstreams. Mandatory provisions ensure people are centered in our work

Commission's role by Olivia Pryor; provide independent advice to government but do not set policy ourselves; hold success of govt to accounts to achieve long-term climate goals; governed by board; advice to minister of climate change; govt can accept or reject advice and must explain why; summarised our prior and upcoming work; summary timeline & process;

Emissions Reduction Plan by Dr Anita King; explained ERP; consider impacts on individuals, communities, workers, businesses, and families; ITN highlighted importance of policies to ensure a fair equitable and inclusive transition; interested in hearing the opportunities and challenges in this space; key framework – He Ara Waiora;

Discussion Key Points

(non-attributable, names removed for privacy considerations and in reliance on section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act)

- Being aware of consultation fatigue and working better together to avoid this.
- Centering Disabled people in all work streams. Learning from lived experiences and adaptability of disabled people; call for national disability reference group.
- Funding continues to be an issue across various groups. There is strong desire to do community work/research but lack of resources.
- Climate impacted communities e.g. rising sea levels/low-lying land to be considered. Intersection with disabled people. Call for reference group from climate-impacted communities.
- Large number of SMEs in NZ. Hard to connect with. Many want to make changes but lack resources unlike big companies.
- Youth voice needs to be included and amplified. Eco-anxiety prevalent in youth.
- Mental Health is a critical consideration rather than only a complex impact of climate change. Opportunity to amplify importance to encourage cross-political public support to take climate action.
- Need to understand not only what communities need to do but **how** to do it. Uncertainty creates well-being issues. Wellbeing is a main concern of businesses and farmers also.
- Need to remember our responsibilities to Pacific communities in all work.
- Commission plays vital role in relaying urgency to govt.
- Issue of sovereignty for Māori throughout climate conversation. Have been offering answers/making agreements with minimal return and now being invited to the conversation, taxing process for Māori.
- Mindful in how we approach conversations as people suffering eco-anxiety (eco-terror). At core is our children's future – the need to empower them while not giving them nightmares.
- Policy decisions thus far have been around making profits (e.g. transport prioritising move to EV vehicles over accessible public transport). Need to center people in policy decisions over profit.

Organisations mentioned:

- Ora Taiao
- Climate Health Aotearoa
- Just Transitions (MBIE)

- Motu
- Disabled Person's Assembly
- Brighton Observatory of Environment and Economics
- He Kaupapa Hononga (Otago University)
- Youth Climate groups (Hawkes Bay Regional Council)
- Climate Psychology Taskforce (New Zealand Psychology society)
- Te Tira Whakamātaki,

Full Discussion Notes:

Questions that were asked to spark discussion:

What are the biggest opportunities and concerns about transitioning to a low emissions Aotearoa NZ?

What could the government do in this space?

Who do we need to consult with?

Discussion points by Person (non-attributable):

Public Health, Associate Professor in environmental health at Otago University. Previously a co-convenor of Ora Taiao, now co-direct Climate Health Aotearoa

- Hopes already engaging with Ora Taiao
- CHA; Te Tiriti based org gathers researchers around motu who are linking climate change with wellbeing. Approx 50 members. Most belong to mana whenua caucus. Interdisciplinary: Public health physicians and researchers, environmental scientists with Public Health focus, psychology etc.
- Emerging themes: health sector sustainability and need to adapt to climate change health challenges. Significant expertise around health co-benefits; growing expertise around health equity centered adaptation.
- Very keen to partner with team in developing relationship and support wellbeing chapter
- Requesting update on Commitment from Commission for health advisory group

Response: Jo - acknowledging incredible work of CHA; Confirms working with Ora Taiao, working towards best partnership for health advisory group. Commission has had conversations with Ora Taiao; in planning stages of what would benefit both parties, what we need and how best utilised; nothing commissioned yet.

Response: suggests CHA included in commissioning process

MBIE, Just Transitions Partnership Team, (focused on supporting regions and communities to transition to low emissions futures)

- Developing Just Transitions guide led by Motu. Huge amount of research, amazing dialogues across country; guide aimed at people on the ground leading their own transitions
- MBIE equitable transition strategy; aimed more at govt-govt policies but important to be part of conversation
- Aware of consultation fatigue; we should be more strategic in what's already been heard and how we can work better together

Response: Jo – Acknowledges Motu's work; Acknowledges consultation fatigue; Key is to acknowledge different roles of core agencies (Hands-on) versus Commission (high-level and monitoring).

Policy advisor at Disabled person's Assembly (DPA), policy lead on climate change work.

- Disabled people most impact by climate change and least able to respond and adapt; Auckland floods
- Homes often on level ground for accessibility (vulnerable to flooding)
- Keen to discuss intersection between disability and climate change; have done so in submissions
- Suggested national disability reference group around Transition for disabled people; often lack of understanding between intersection
- Accessibility is multipurpose; use lived experience of disabled people e.g. dropped curb; tap into adaptability of disabled people
- Want to know disability considered in all aspects of advice
- DPA keen to make contact;

Response: Jo – Importance of disability lens through everything we do; agrees often lack of consideration in policy work

Director of Brighton observatory of Environment and Economics; registered charity, purpose is facilitating adaptation to climate change

- Two focuses community and research – focusing on Community today
- Community program engaging public in adaptation conversations; what it means for them
- Not only information conversations, but lead to follow-up event seminars; discuss how climate affected environment they are in;
- Finding people very interested in conversation and want to talk further
- Discriminate between communities (environmentally) to assess economic value of community to itself. Considering when benefits no longer outweigh costs.
- Call for funding

Response: Jo – Appreciates community-based action; clarifies not core-funder, while central govt agencies do have funding abilities; ITN highlighted importance of engaging with communities; should not silo thinking to emissions reduction; next year first monitoring report on adaptation plan, engagement incl. in process.

Disabled Person's Assembly, regional policy working with local govt.

- Need for engagement by Commission with climate impacted communities incl. South Dunedin (highly vulnerable location, rising sea levels/low lying)
- Disabled people often living on flat surfaces for accessibility
- Uncertainty in community; grassroots work occurring
- Commission should have reference group of people from climate impacted communities around motu

Response: Jo – request to connect [X] with adaptation team for follow up.

Associate professor in Business and Sustainability and co-director of He Kaupapa Hononga at University of Otago

- Aotearoa has large number of SMEs; many of which do not have resources for the transition process; working with making Just Transitions network applicable to businesses
- SMEs difficult to get in touch with; very busy
- Smaller companies planning transitions but struggles around finances to achieve this.
- Need for understanding effect of (climate) disruptions on business owners wellbeing. Similar data already from covid and earthquakes

Response: Jo - team to follow up on data/research discussed; tendency to think of big players in emissions, pathways needed for SMEs without resources of big companies.

Environmental education community facilitator, Regional council. Predominantly work with youth/secondary schools.

- Query around youth voice being included/consulted; expressed urgency due to youth anxiety around climate issues
- Hawkes Bay Youth Climate Action Camp; cool to see more events/conversations like this
- Everyday conversation to be encouraged to make people comfortable.

Response: Jo – emphasized the importance of youth voice. Recommendations made in ITN and to return to in future work around broadening tools for participation in decision making. CCC engagement previously with Ministry for youth development (survey design).

[X] challenging to meet youth due to time/life pressures. Previously partnered with The Hive; looking to work with youth environment councils, groups like this.

From chat: [X] support importance of planning for future; raising importance of climate change while empowering youth to make change and have a voice

Follow up points,

- Health, mental health conversation really important for reducing harm, also international evidence showing that talking positively about tangible wellbeing co-benefits strengthens public and political will to take action.
- Critical importance of mental health, not to be forgotten in wellbeing aspects of advice – focus, rather than a complex impact but opportunity for improving through climate actions and taking part in community activism
- Research funding in this space is a real problem – intersection research falls between research funders (e.g. health + climate)

Climate Action Ambassador, Hawkes Bay Regional Council

- Co-ordinate group of businesses with sustainability officers/managing. #1 request for well-being training in implementing initiatives and feeling resistance
- Developing workshop for farmers around wellbeing, considered #1 need.
- Issues with wellbeing come from uncertainty; ERP not clear on **how** we get there, need next steps after policy/document for on-the-ground work.

Response: Jo – importance of not just having a plan but how to implement, take away for ERP2 and monitoring work.

Co-convenor Climate Psychology Taskforce in NZ psychology society

- Bring together academic and practitioner expertise, and Māori & Pasifika
- Need to remember our responsibilities in the Pacific
- Mandates come from central govt, but funding doesn't
- Concerns expressed about bureaucracy, silos, slowness
- Lack of urgency, Commission vital role in pressing home urgency to govt
- Councils struggling with knowing how to implementing four wellbeings
- Don't discard the initiatives that fail - they provide vital information
- Have expertise to help govt with this.

Response: [X] – supports bringing up partnership/responsibilities with pacific communities. ITN modelling indicated pacific communities disproportionately impacted. On radar of all work streams. Acknowledging new commissioner Steven Ratuva with connections to Pacific.

Chief Scientist: Te Tira Whakamātaki, Māori biosecurity network

- All through conversation is issue of sovereignty for Māori and indigenous communities; Te Tiriti provides empowerment (comparative to other nations)
- Constantly in response; many agreements has amounted to minimal change on ground: increasing pressures to be involved, appreciate but taxing given minimal return
- Paradigm shift – away from capitalism, not legal. Indigenous people have offered answers and only now being looked to.
- Never get into reduction and readiness phase of recovery; expectations unfulfillable

Response: [X]— generations of lived experience in system's shift, subject of own PHD research (climate justice and indigenous knowledges). As a commission we are intermediary; making sure message for Māori, by Māori, led by Māori is at forefront then we're doing best we can. Keen to keep conversation going.

Clinical psychologist >20y, recently back into research: how do we heal from intergenerational trauma.

- Trauma from events e.g. flooding, earthquakes; our children seeing world events at finger tips
- Tautoko including youth involvement
- Being mindful of how we approach/speak with people on complex climate topics.
- People don't talk about this stuff for a reason because impacts people at emotional level. How to discuss without affecting people?
- Dress things up with talk of policy etc. but at core is our children and the world we are leaving them.
- Eco-anxiety, just terror and dread at what we're facing; want to equip children without giving nightmares

Response: [X] - Māori uniquely placed on intergenerational trauma; justice/equity for future generations. Korero around lateral violence, where intersectionality comes to forum. Nga Pae O Te Maramatanga report 2021, groundbreaking in unpacking health impacts for Māori in NZ. Speaking to pre-traumatic stress as opposed to post-traumatic stress

[X]

- Need for macroeconomic transformation: concrete connection between that and public health
- Designing climate policy has identified solutions that make people money in current economy, (transport sector moved to E, continue to make large profits without bringing benefits to health – whereas public transport/active transport beneficial on health inequity more than profits.)
- Emphasis from Public health perspective to make policy free from commercial influences particularly when demonstrated lack of moral interest.
- IPCC in latest reports pointed out commercial influencers holding back govt action, fossil fuel and big agriculture lobby groups.