CRITICAL AREAS OF FOCUS FOR NEW ZEALAND

There are four critical areas New Zealand needs to focus on over the next 5–7 years. Climate change is altering how pests and diseases affect all areas of the biosecurity system. We need to climate-proof our system. Find out more in the **Implementation Plan.**

Respond to climate change

Climate change will affect all areas of the biosecurity system.

The goal is to make sure our strategies and actions are adaptable and flexible across the system so we can effectively manage the changing risks and uncertainties driven by climate change.

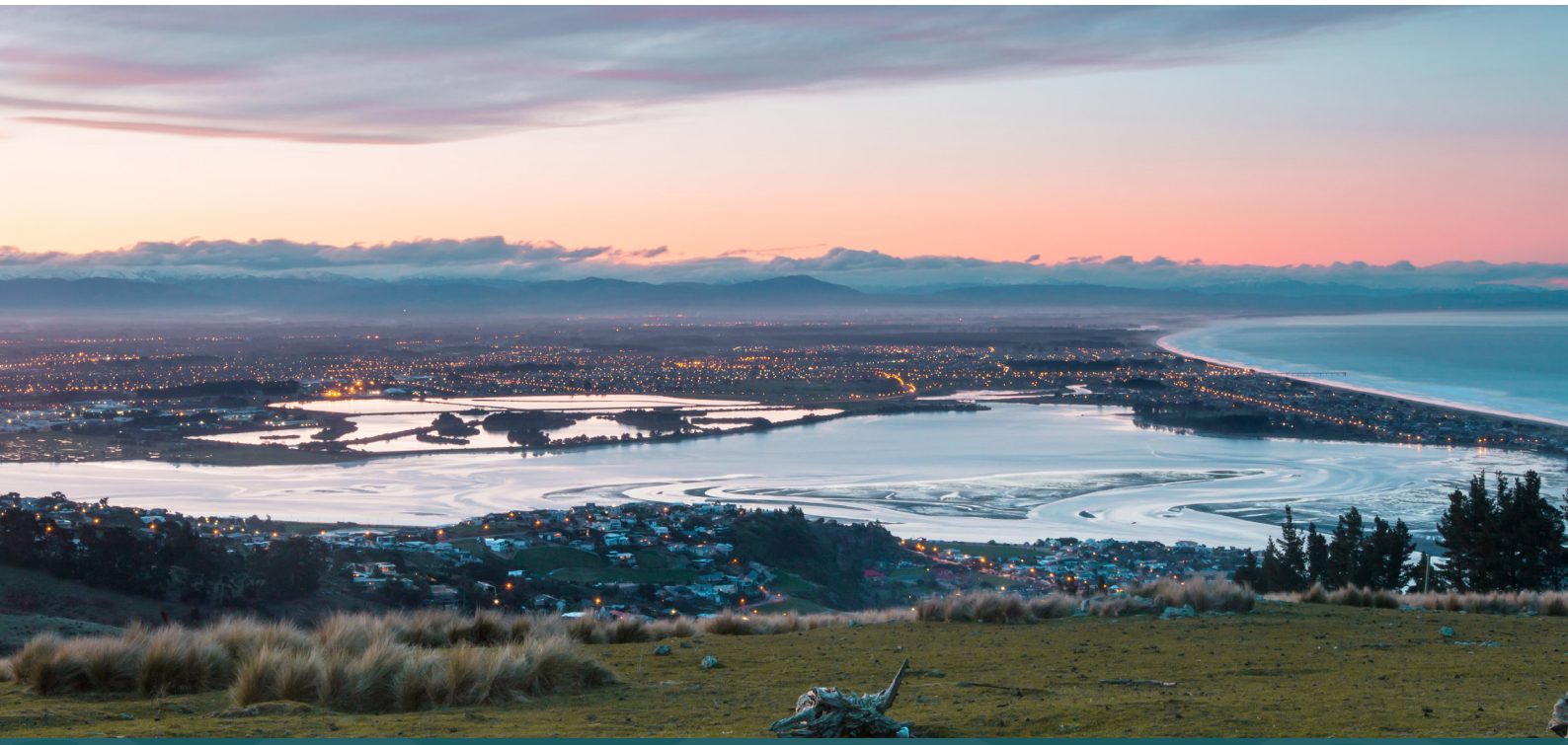
Elements of climate change: average temperatures will increase; rainfall patterns and sea levels will change; floods, droughts and storms will increase in frequency and severity.

For New Zealand a warmer world means:

- Different pests and diseases will establish themselves.
- Existing pests will change distribution patterns and behave differently, affecting biocontrols, and sleeper pests will become active.
- New Zealand's plants and animals may become pests elsewhere.

Biodiversity and production systems will face different risks, as pests move into new areas, and will need different management approaches.

Māori as kaitiaki are dependent on land and marine economies and will face particular climate change challenges.



Climate-proofing our biosecurity system

- Understand the impact it will have on the biosecurity system, pests, diseases and risk management.
- Increase prevention strategies, including ensuring surveillance and monitoring systems are sensitive to expected changes.
- Include climate change adaptation in decision-making and long-term future planning for pests and diseases.
- Prioritise actions in the most vulnerable areas, including freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- Work with other countries to understand the changing risks of pests and diseases worldwide.

Suggested projects

- Ensure climate change is a priority in the long-term management of pests and diseases.
- Climate change material introduced into training and advice for community, iwi and regional organisations.
- Climate change data and information-sharing prioritised for long-term planning for pest management.

CLIMATE CHANGE What we can do

Elevation of Te Ao Māori
Building capability among Māori will contribute to good biosecurity actions combatting the impacts climate change will have on our cultural connections to the environment as kaitiaki, and economically.

Protecting the marine environment
The marine environment connects us all to each other and to the rest of the world. Addressing climate change effects on marine biosecurity risk will strengthen system performance in the marine environment.

Strengthening global biosecurity
Climate change is a global issue and New Zealand will feel the impacts from overseas. Understanding the changing risks and threats will allow us to plan for tomorrow, today.

Climate change adaptation
Include climate change in biosecurity strategies and plans – nationally, regionally and locally.

Respond to Climate Change and the Implementation Plan

Exercise kaitiakitanga 1

Kaitiakitanga will be important in anticipating and managing the impacts of climate change on the biosecurity system. Exercising kaitiakitanga will depend on establishing system stewardship arrangements, providing leadership to drive delivery of Biosecurity 2025, and monitoring and reporting on system health.

Create a movement 2

Communities need to be aware how climate change will affect and change their backyards, the risks and what they can do to help mitigate these. To create a movement we need to encourage proactive biosecurity behaviours and support collaboration across the system. Awareness campaigns should focus on climate change and its impact on biosecurity.

Collaborate in knowledge 3

Biosecurity organisations share knowledge, and work together in science, research and technology. Climate change data is prioritised so we can understand impacts on our biosecurity system. Connecting climate change officials through **Bionet** to share knowledge and craft best biosecurity practice.

Build resilience 4

A system approach to investment in biosecurity skills and strategic assets, including regulatory frameworks and networks, need to be future-focused including climate change. Biosecurity issues and risks from climate change need to be understood and recognised so the system becomes responsive to expected changes. Regional and national pest management strategies and plans should incorporate the impacts of climate change.

Enable smart data 5

Sharing data and unleashing its value through analytics, in science, research and intelligence, will improve decision-making on changing biosecurity and climate risks.

It takes all of us to protect what we've got

IT'S TIME TO GET STARTED

Get involved and ask questions by emailing **biosecurity2025@mpi.govt.nz**

Read about Biosecurity 2025 online **www.thisisus.nz**