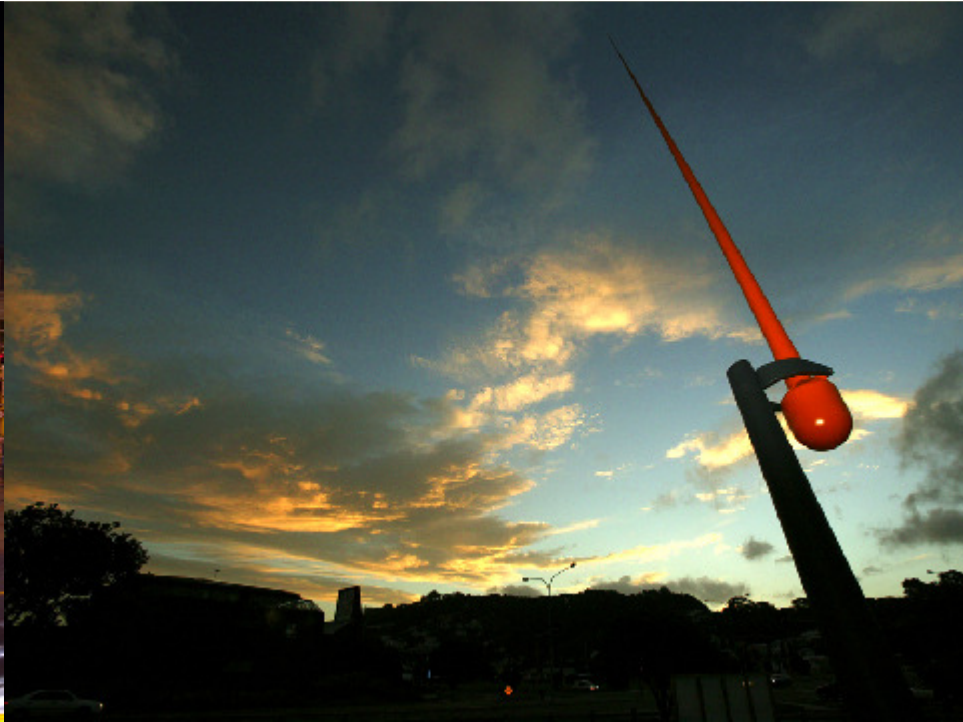


Health and Climate Change: Wellington Perspectives

8 July 2009

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Wellington City Council



Legislative context for local government

- Councils required to look after public health issues and climate change impacts under
 - Local Government Act (2002)
 - Resource Management Act (1991)
 - Emergency Management Act (2002)
 - Building Act (2004)

Council services and public health

- Water supply, storm water and waste water treatment
- Refuse disposal and treatment
- Food hygiene/safety
- Civil Defence
- Avoiding and mitigating natural hazards
- Development approval and control powers
- Community support and outreach

Climate change risks for Wellington: Temperature

- Warming of 2° C by 2100 may lead to:
 - Increased food and water-borne disease
 - Increased presence of tropical infectious diseases
 - Water quality issues (additional treatment)

Climate change risks for Wellington: Sea level rise

- MfE guidance: plan for 0.9m by 2100
- But suggestions that more is possible
- May lead to:
 - Flooding related accidents
 - Water quality issues

Climate change risks for Wellington: Extreme weather events

- Drier summers and wetter winters
- 1 in 100 year event becomes 1 in 20 year?
- Increased heat-stress
- Potential increase in accidents related to:
 - Surface flooding
 - Slips
 - Poor road conditions

Council response: Adaptation

- Previous impact studies: environmental changes
- Risk assessment gives cost / benefit
- New adaptation work initiated
- Dealing with uncertainty
- Working with others is crucial

Council Response: Mitigation

- Insulating and heating homes efficiently
- Overlaps: Mitigation / adaptation
- High payback rate
- Focusing on developing other significant actions

Summary / Discussion

