

► Our atmosphere and climate

The air we breathe, the skies we observe, and the weather we experience, can affect our wellbeing.

URURANGI

means 'winds of the sky' and is connected to atmospheric conditions, winds, and the sky.

WAIPUNARANGI

means 'water that pools in the sky' and is connected to the rains and other atmospheric conditions.

Navigation

Aotearoa has a strong connection to the winds through sailing and wayfinding using the stars.

RAINFALL AND WEATHER PATTERNS ARE CHANGING

Changes in future temperature and precipitation will have impacts on people and ecosystems.

Observing the sky

Some tikanga Māori practices rely on the observation of the sky to predict the correct times for planting and harvesting or hunting and fishing.

AIR QUALITY IMPACTS OUR HEALTH

At times, poor air quality is negatively impacting people's health. How we generate and use energy and transport affects air quality.

Our culture

The ability to practice mahinga kai is intertwined with the weather, along with access to plants used for medicinal, practical, artistic, or ceremonial purposes.

Increase in extreme events

Damage to property and infrastructure

Impact on food production

Impact on mental wellbeing

Floods

Harm to people and the economy

Droughts

Fewer frost days

Increasing temperatures

Melting glaciers

Extreme winds

IMPACTS ON SPECIES

Changing temperature, rainfall patterns, and extreme events increase the vulnerability of taonga species by altering their distribution, life cycles, and migrations.

Altered species distribution and life cycles

Health risks

Air pollution

Increase in respiratory diseases

Increase in allergies

Air quality is slowly improving although pollution levels are above international guidelines at least some of the time.