

The Zero Carbon Bill

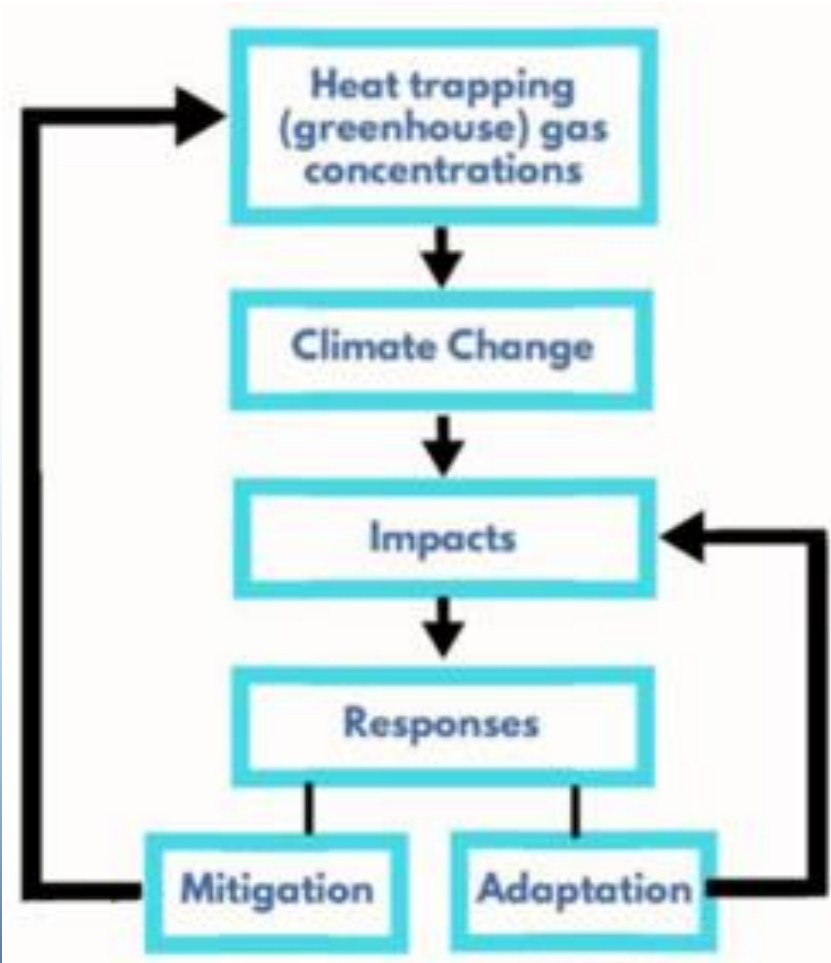
Adaptation and Mitigation
Business, Community, Government
Is our thinking wide enough?

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Local Government and Environment Committee 15 August 2019

The Brighton Observatory of Environment and Economics

Priority for Adaptation



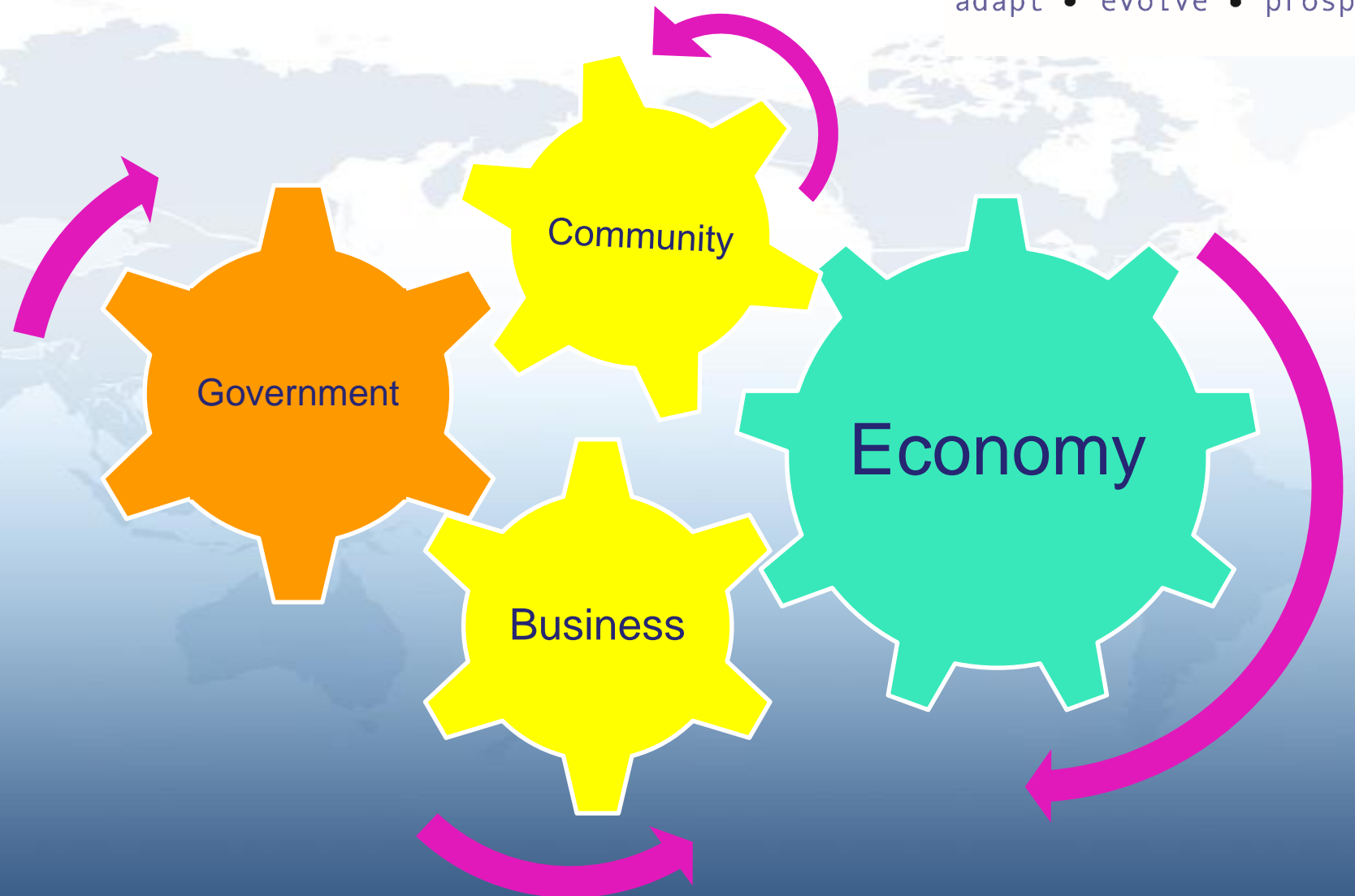
- ‘Braking Distance’ about 50 years
- Adaptation will be necessary anyway
- ‘silver linings’
- Competitors and partners

OECD (2019) Responding to Rising Seas: OECD Country Approaches to Tackling Coastal Risks. OECD Publishing. available from https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/responding-to-rising-seas_9789264312487-en#page1

How Adaptation should work

NZ currently does not have the capacity or capability to adapt.

State Sector Act reform good first step



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How to adapt?

Barriers to adaptation *unknown unknowns*

- Problems and solutions are multi and cross-sectorial
- Ministries too slim and siloed
- Adaptation requires *inter*-disciplinary perspectives, most CRIs and universities are *multi*- or *mono*-disciplinary
- Political consensus

Donald Rumsfeld (2002), US Department of Defense news briefing on the existence of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq, (12 February 2002)

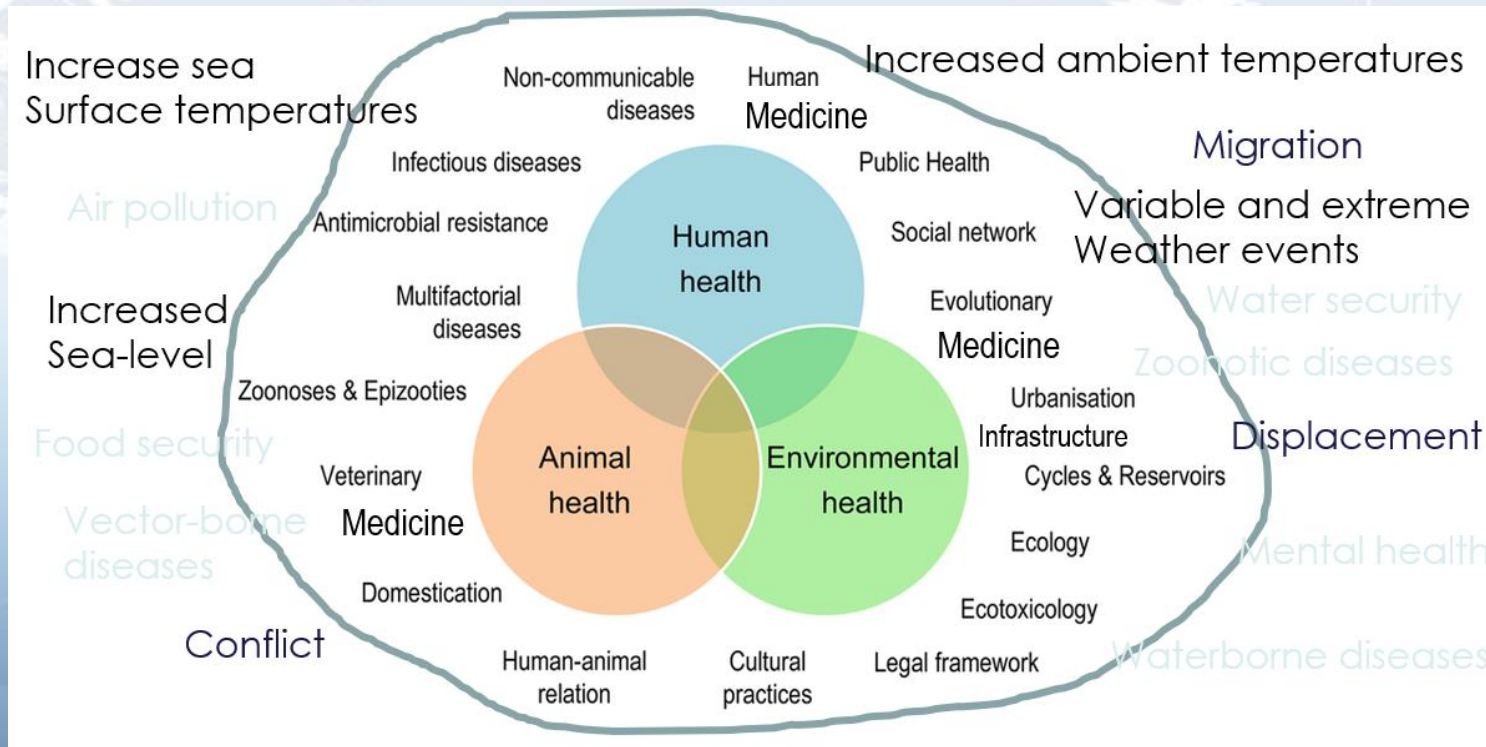
Adaptation a 'simple' example

Multi-sectorial
Progressive
Interdisciplinary



How to adapt?

Barriers to adaptation *unknown unknowns*



Bolton (2018) Cross-sectorial action required for adaptation to climate change. OneHealth Aotearoa.

Is our thinking wide enough?

- Zero Carbon Bill with National Adaptation Plan
- Our scientists are trying to modify the result of evolution on the bovine digestive system
- Our economy is an old economy and reflects inequity and lack of increase of productivity ‘if we do what we always did, we will get what we always got’
- Future-proofing organizations and Businesses
- Acting before thinking (maladaptation)
- Not just the coast

Questions

“...Judge a person by their questions, not their answers...”