

*“He nui maunga e kore e taea te whakaneke, he nui ngaru moana. Mā te ihu o te waka e wāhi”*

*A great mountain cannot be moved, but a giant wave can be broken by the prow of a canoe (Do not give up too easily – some things are possible).*

— Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku: Te Tangi a Taurira

# Investigating Tangata Whenua Views and Responses to Climate Change

Tangata Whenua residing in Murihiku (Southland region), Aotearoa/New Zealand have experienced a long history of seismicity, resulting from their proximity to the Alpine Fault system. Earthquakes have significantly shaped the land, and exacerbated the ongoing impacts of other environmental hazards. Climate change-related events such as sea level rise, ex-tropical cyclones, and severe storms (e.g. February 2020 Southland Floods) have added to the complex hazardscape in the region, and adversely impacted Tangata Whenua, physically, culturally, economically and spiritually. Iwi, hapū and marae frameworks such as Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku’s Te Tangi a Taurira environmental management plan (2008) and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu’s ‘He Rautaki Mō Te Huringa o te Āhuarangi’ climate change strategy (2018) take into account these climate change-related impacts and provide mechanisms for preparing, mitigating and responding to them.



Murihiku Māori climate change planning context



Aotearoa/New Zealand climate change planning context

This research will draw from kaupapa Māori methodologies and Western European science to explore climate change issues that are impacting Tangata Whenua as well as the effectiveness and relationships between mātauranga Māori, Iwi/rūnanga management plans and national and regional planning strategies/practices for mitigating climate changes in Aotearoa.

## OBJECTIVES

- Identify what the impacts of climate change are for Tangata Whenua
- Identify how impacts of climate change are being addressed and planned for at the takiwā/rūnanga/iwi levels
- Identify how Tangata Whenua-led approaches to managing the impacts of climate change are situated within an Aotearoa/New Zealand context



**Lucy Kaiser**

L.Kaiser@gns.cri.nz  
PhD student Massey University/GNS Science

## PEPEHA

*Ko Tākitimu te māunga  
Ko Aparima te awa  
Ko Te Ara a Kiwa te moana  
Ko Ngāi Tahu te iwi  
Ko Takutai o te tītī te marae  
No Ōtautahi ahau  
Ko Lucy Kaiser ahau*

## METHODS



Hui, wānanga



Mātauranga Māori,  
purākau, waiata



Document analysis



Interviews/kōrero

Photo background source: Dr Kyle Bland, GNS Science  
Images of climate change plans sourced from (left to right): 1,3= Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku, 2= Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, 4,5,6= Ministry for the Environment

Generously supported by....

