

CLIMATE HEALTH AOTEAROA

NGĀ MIHI O TE WĀ NGAHURU

GREETINGS IN THE SEASON OF
AUTUMN

Tēnā koutou,

The first few months of 2024 have highlighted the enormity of the challenges we face in advancing oranga tangata and oranga taiao. The new coalition government has launched an outright assault on public health, equity, Indigenous rights and the environment. From a CHA perspective, one of the most concerning actions is the Fast-track Approvals Bill, which would allow Ministers to override existing environmental protections. We strongly encourage you to make a submission opposing the bill – see page 6 of this newsletter for further details and guidance. This is an important part of the ongoing advocacy we will all need to engage in to counter the ‘three-headed taniwha’ and its anti-science, anti-nature and anti-democracy agenda.

Ka whawhai tonu tātou.

Mauri ora,

Rhys Jones, CHA Co-Director

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Ō MĀTOU TĀNGATA OUR PEOPLE



SHAUN AWATERE

RESEARCHER - *TANGATA WHENUA CAUCUS*

Dr. Shaun Awatere (BMS MMS PhD, Ngāti Porou) is the Kaihautū Research Impact Lead at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Pou Pātai, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga | New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence.

Shaun's work involves improving the incorporation of Māori values into economic decision-making for collective assets that will enable Māori organisations to make more kaupapa Māori attuned decisions. This mahi identifies the trade-offs between short-term gain from expanding production and the additional costs of environmental mitigation versus the long-term benefits from managing collective assets in a more sustainable manner. With an applied focus to his work, Shaun has been active supporting Māori manage collective assets in a more sustainable manner consistent with the kaupapa-Māori principles of kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga and whakatipu rawa.

He is currently engaged in research and policy to help prepare iwi/hapū Māori for climate change mitigation and adaptation planning. Shaun and a team of Nga Pae o Te Māramatanga researchers have recently summarised the latest research and guidance surrounding observed and projected climate change impacts on whānau/hapū/iwi and Māori business in Aotearoa-New Zealand. This research considers the implications of these changes for diverse interests and investments, and provides commentary about risk and uncertainty, knowledge gaps, and options for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Manaaki Whenua are also working in a more coordinated way to develop the capability of early career Māori researchers. We have a number of Māori summer internship opportunities that are supported by our Manaaki Taiao (Māori Research Team) to develop new skills and explore how science and mātauranga Māori can support whānau/hapū/iwi and communities make better decisions for the environment. Our Manaaki Taiao team mentors each of our summer interns to provide cultural mentorship and support. At the same time, technical supervision of our interns is the responsibility of the scientist/researcher within a research programme.

CAROLINE SHAW

RESEARCHER - TANGATA TIRITI
CAUCUS

Dr Caroline Shaw is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health, University of Otago Wellington. She is a public health medicine specialist and through a circuitous route she now works in climate health. In hindsight, this was inevitable, given her support for environmental causes since age 15.

Caroline grew up in Te Awa Kairangi (Lower Hutt) and now lives in Te Whanganui a Tara where she enjoys sea swimming, reading and running along Te Akau-tangi/Evans Bay hoping to see dolphins, orca or whales.

Her research is mainly centred on transport and health (human and planetary) with a strong focus on equity. She is currently finishing up an HRC funded project looking at the health, health system, environmental and equity impacts of moving to a low carbon transport system in Aotearoa. The main output of this work involved modelling the transport pathways towards net zero outlined by He Pou a Rangi/ Climate Change Commission. This work has shown that, by 2050, the different pathways have quite different health and health equity outcomes and implications for the health system, despite having very similar GHGe reductions. It also shows that equity in the transport system (eg which groups are cycling or walking or driving more or less) matters a lot for health equity, highlighting the importance of decisions made by transport policy makers, planners and engineers.

She has also spent time in the last few years undertaking work to document (in)equity in the current transport system - both in transport patterns and in the health and environmental outcomes of the transport system. The transport sector contrasts with health, where monitoring for equity is a routine part of reporting. Examples of this work include an analysis of Pacific peoples' travel patterns and different patterns of travel by gender.

She also leads the research component of an ebike long term loan scheme being run by Kokiri Marae, where 25 ebikes have been on long term loan to people who live in Wainuiomata. The research involved interviewing people who have the bikes on loan before and after they have received the ebikes. See here for a recording of some of the interviews with participants about their experience with the ebikes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITyUS6n0U8c>



KAEWA SAVAGE

OUR CHA-ESR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

Tēna koutou katoa,
Tēnei te mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa.

He uri ahāu nō Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāi Tahu me Te Whānau a Apanui me Tūwharetoa ki Tai hoki. Ko Kaewa Savage tōku ingoa. I am a 22 year old Māori student who grew up in Tauranga Moana where I have completed five years of studies thus far. My academic background is an AUT degree in Sport and Recreation (2021), Te Reo Māori

Diploma - Te Tohu Paetahi, through The University of Waikato Tauranga Campus (2022) and I am currently studying a Masters of Health Science specialising in Māori Health through Massey University. My focus within my masters is around the importance of reconnection to the environment for the health of our planet and people. Our taiao (environment) is depleting and it is important that it is prioritised not only for it to flourish but for us as people. I have been adding to my kete (basket) of knowledge through internships, my studies, my mahi and my whānau which has supported me to learn and grow as a Wāhine Māori. My mahi I am currently in is Hēteri Ā Nuku, a conservation programme for rangatahi through Department of Conservation. It is enabling me to explore different career pathways in the taiao and attend wānanga where I am able to learn from different pūkenga (knowledge holders) in the taiao space. I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given through the CHA-ESR scholarship through my masters journey and I look forward to connecting and learning with the organisations.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Kaewa Savage



AN UPDATE ON THE LEGAL
CASE AGAINST CLIMATE
POLLUTERS

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT...

In our [May 2022 newsletter](#) we wrote about the upcoming Supreme Court case of CHA member Mike Smith (Ngāpuhi/Ngāti Kahu). This February 2024 the Supreme Court ruled that **he has the right to sue seven big polluters for their role in causing climate change**. The lawyers of the polluting companies argued that because climate change affects everyone, it should be dealt with through laws and Parliament. The Supreme Court stated that **even though everyone is affected, some people are affected more**, and as a result, Smith could bring a case to the courts. This was contrary to the Court of Appeal ruling that the crisis was too big and ubiquitous to deal with at this level. It is unknown when a court date will be set, but *the court's ruling affirmed that climate action is urgently needed.*

Ō MĀTOU MAHI OUR WORK

SUSTAINABLE NEW ZEALAND KAI

A presentation at Kōrero Tahi 2024

This February 2024, CHA members Cristina Cleghorn and Hemi Enright presented at a hui for Healthier Lives – He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge stakeholders.

They spoke of how the extensive data gathered from the Sustainable New Zealand Kai project could inform the selection of viable policies. Implementation of these policies could help bridge health disparities between Māori and non-Māori populations, while also yielding health and environmental benefits. This project delved into Māori perspectives on healthy and sustainable kai, illustrating how policy can empower Māori self-determination with Kai Sovereignty, an exercise of Tino Rangatiratanga.



IMPORTANT CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

By 19 APRIL 2024

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S FAST-TRACK APPROVALS BILL

This bill would allow a small number of Ministers to override all existing environmental protections, including the Resource Management Act, and approve any project they deem “regionally or nationally significant”.

Ministers’ speeches in parliament, interviews and the parties’ coalition agreements show a clear emphasis on new mining projects, new four-lane roads (the ‘Roads of National Significance’), and large-scale water storage like the Ruataniwha and Wairarapa dams that would facilitate further intensification of our agricultural systems.

Such projects have significant public health consequences, not least of all being increased greenhouse gas emissions.

- Make a submission and find more information (including the full Bill) through parliament’s website [here](#).
- Read the Environmental Defence Society’s submission draft [here](#).
- Consider writing your own as copy/paste submissions are less impactful (though still better than no submission!).
- If you’re able, ask to speak to your submission. The more people speaking to Select Committee, the more powerful the public voice will be. And, please alert others to this submission process. Feel free to send them this information.

SUGGESTED POINTS

- I oppose the Fast Track Approvals Bill in its entirety.
- The Bill undermines democratic process, having been introduced under urgency unnecessarily, not including projects to be fast-tracked, excluding the vast majority of the public from having a say on projects that impact them, and allowing Ministers to ignore a large number of existing laws.
- The Bill overrides decades of environmental protections in law that generations of New Zealanders have worked for and undermines the enormous effort of the public to restore our nature environment.
- The Bill puts too much power in the hands of individual Ministers, opens the door to corrupt decision making and will worsen inequality.
- The Bill will inevitably have major impacts on public health as mining, large new roads and water storage will increase our greenhouse gas emissions, have direct impacts on people’s health such as contamination of drinking water and reduce our ability to invest in sustainable transport, agriculture and other economic activities that would help communities transition to a low-emissions economy.
- I oppose any projects that might be included in future lists of approved projects because they have not gone through any democratic process and are likely to have major negative consequences for communities, our environment, and our future.



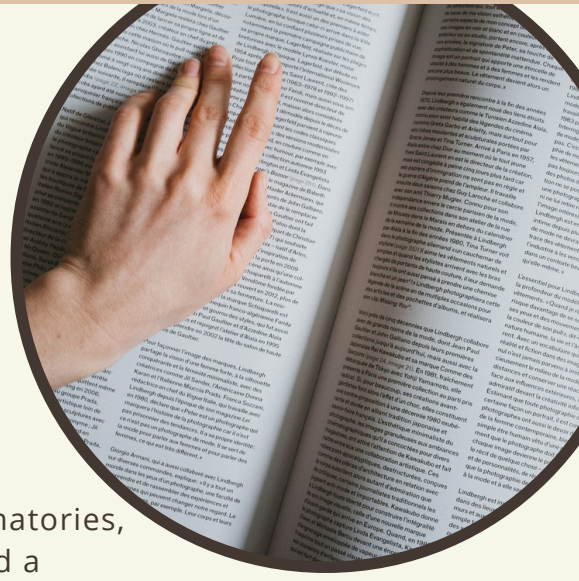
HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE: ADAPTATION POLICY IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

CHA members Annette Bolton, Claire Salter, Simon Hales and Alistair Woodward [published this Lancet piece recently. Read it here.](#)

"AT PRESENT, ADAPTATION POLICY EMPHASISES PROTECTION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES FROM CLIMATE EXTREMES; THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION PAID TO BROADER DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH. WE ARGUE FOR GREATER HEALTH INPUT INTO ADAPTATION PLANNING."

An update on Elsevier's support for fossil fuel industries

Since the publication of our [December 2022 letter to The Lancet](#), CHA was contacted by a former employee of Elsevier who has been actively involved in advocating for the company to end its support for fossil fuel industries. In coordination with the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#), they have launched the [Climate Rights Coalition](#) to document their advocacy.



In February 2024, along with 150+ partner groups, petition signatories, and other stakeholders, the Climate Rights Coalition submitted a [climate-related human rights complaint](#) to The Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council. CHA will be following this process and looks forward to Elsevier's response.

**TAUTOKO |
SUPPORT
FOR CHA
COLLABORATION**

CHA aims to generate new, member-led research. CHA can help with:

- administrative support
- peer-review
- networking opportunities
- collaboration opportunities
- dissemination in our newsletter or listserv

Contact us and we will help where we can!

HE KAWEPŪRONGO IN OTHER NEWS



SIGN THIS PETITION TO
PROTECT
TE AKA WHAI ORA 

This petition calls on Minister of Health, Hon Dr. Shane Reti to change course and keep Te Aka Whai Ora. This must include:

- The truly Māori-led structure, independent from Te Whatu Ora
- The power and resources to commission hauora services that work for Māori
- The freedom to advocate unapologetically for Māori health

QUANTIFYING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN HEALTH



This January 2024 report from the World Economic Forum predicts an additional 14.5 million deaths and \$12.5 trillion in global economic losses by 2050 due to climate-related factors.

The first part of this paper describes the events that are likely to result from the selected IPCC scenarios and the cause-and-effect relationship between these events and health outcomes.

Based on the analysis of six chosen weather events, a matrix was developed which identified health outcomes, determined geographies at risk and quantified and prioritised high-impact areas. Outcomes included morbidity, mortality, productivity and costs to the health system.

Lastly, recommendations are made for building resilient health systems through resistance and recovery focused solutions, and the policies and incentives needed to enable the health systems.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



HUI

upcoming events

TE TIRITI-BASED FUTURES AND ANTI-RACISM ONLINE CONFERENCE

- MARCH 16-25 2024
- REGISTER AND WATCH ONLINE AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.TIRITIBASEDFUTURES.INFO/](https://www.tiritibasedfutures.info/)

HE WHENUA RONGO: INDIGENOUS SEED, SOIL AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY SYMPOSIUM TĀMAKI MAKAURAU, AOTEAROA

- 11-13 APRIL 2024
- REGISTER AT [HTTPS://WWW.PAPAWHAKARITORITO.COM/HE-WHENUA-RONGO](https://www.papawhakaritorito.com/he-whenua-rongo)

CRITICAL TIRITI ANALYSIS WORKSHOP NOVOTEL, ROTORUA LAKESIDE

- OFFERED BY DR HEATHER CAME & ASSOCIATES
- 9AM-4PM, SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2024
- COST: \$450 PER PERSON, \$400 FOR PHANZ MEMBERS
- REGISTER AT: [WWW.HEATHERCAMEASSOCIATES.COM/](http://www.heathercameassociates.com/)

PACIFIC CLIMATE CONFERENCE

OUR OCEAN, OUR HOME : CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR A BLUE
PACIFIC

APIA, SAMOA

- 20-23 MAY 2024
- FOR MORE INFORMATION: [HTTPS://NUS.EDU.WS/4TH-POPCCC/](https://nus.edu.ws/4th-popccc/)

Tēnā, whakapā mai.
Get in touch. Ngā mihi!

PAE TUKUTUKU
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WHAKAPĀ
[CONTACT US](#)