

Thursday 20 August 2026

8:00	Registration Desk Opens
8:30 – 9:00	OPENING Mihi Whakataua
9:00 – 9:10	WELCOME Welcome to the Conference
9:10 – 9:20	Address from ASAP RUA Co-Convenor • <i>Sarah Bogle</i> – <i>ASAP RUA Co-Convenor</i>
9:20 – 10:05	KEYNOTE How Bad Is It? Big Picture, Systems and Current State An honest assessment of where we stand – the science, the systems and the stakes for Aotearoa and the world. • <i>Anahera Nin</i> – <i>Co-Founder, Kōmaru</i> • <i>Prof. James Renwick</i> – <i>Professor of Physical Geography, Victoria University</i>
10:05 – 10:15	Ice Breaker
10:15 – 11:15	CROSS-PARTY PANEL Each Party's Vision for Adaptation, Collaboration and Priorities Representatives from across the political spectrum share their vision for climate adaptation, followed by open Q&A. • <i>Facilitator - Kay Harrison</i> – <i>Former Climate Change Ambassador</i> • <i>Hon. Simon Watts</i> – <i>Minister of Climate Change, National</i> • <i>Hon. Deborah Russell</i> – <i>Spokesperson for Climate Change, Labour</i> • <i>Dr Kayla Kingdon-Bebb</i> – <i>Opportunity Party</i> • <i>Chlöe Swarbrick</i> – <i>Co-Leader of the Green Party</i>
11:15 – 11:30	Ti Ata Morning Tea
11:30 – 12:00	KEYNOTE TBC International Perspective: Why Climate Adaptation Isn't Scaling A global lens on the barriers preventing adaptation action from matching the pace of change – and what Aotearoa can learn. This session will explore the complex interplay between weakening institutions, declining public trust, funding/financing realities and what this means for adaptation.
12:00 – 12:45	PANEL How Will We Pay for Adaptation? As climate risks intensify, adaptation will require major investment across communities, infrastructure, businesses and the natural environment. This panel will explore who should pay and how costs should be shared, examining the roles of government, local authorities, infrastructure providers, insurers, investors and property owners. Panellists will discuss funding mechanisms, affordability, equity, and sustainable financing models to support adaptation in New Zealand. • <i>Facilitator - Kris Faafoi</i> – <i>Chief Executive, Insurance Council of New Zealand</i> • <i>Shamubeel Eaqub</i> – <i>Chief Economist, Simplicity</i> • <i>Dr David Hall</i> – <i>Co-Founder & Executive Director, Toha Network</i> • <i>Rachel Sanson</i> – <i>Independent Director</i>

12:45 – 13:15	<p>KEYNOTE What Can We Learn from an International Perspective? Climate adaptation intelligence in an age of urgency: from science to decisions that matter” Johanna will unpack climate adaptation, earth observations and decision-making. She will challenge us to think about ‘wild cards’ and the assumptions we are making about the future, and whether we suffer at times from a failure of imagination in what we think is going to happen and is possible. • Assoc. Prof. Johana Nalau – <i>Adaptation Scientist, Griffith University, Australia</i></p>
13:15 – 14:00	<p>Tīna Lunch</p>
14:00 – 15:15	<p>PANEL AND WORKSHOP Adaptation in Practice: Early Reflections from the Front Line What does real-world adaptation look like on the ground? Honest reflections from those leading the way. This session will involve an introductory panel discussion followed by a facilitated workshop - exploring insights, challenges, barriers. • Facilitator - James Hughes • Katy Simon – <i>Adaptation Programme Lead, Far North District Council</i> • Roana Bennett - <i>Community adaptation coordinator, Maketu</i> • Other TBC</p>
15:15 – 15:30 pm	<p>Tī Ahiahi Afternoon Tea</p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>WORKSHOP Waka Hourua in Practice Exploring the dual-hull waka as a model for navigating complex, interconnected systems and what it means for adaptation. • Lara Taylor – <i>Kaiwhakahaere – Director, E Oho!</i> • Dr Shari Gallop – <i>Senior Associate – Climate Resilience, Beca</i></p>
16:30 – 17:15	<p>CLOSING SESSION The Great Adaptation Debate A lively, structured debate to close the day – challenging assumptions and sharpening thinking on Aotearoa’s adaptation path.</p>
17:30 – 18:30	<p>EVENING Welcome Function Join fellow delegates, speakers and sponsors for drinks and networking.</p>

Friday 21 August 2026

8:00	Registration Desk Opens
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome Back
9:15 – 9:45	<p>KEYNOTE Eco-Anxiety: Carrying the Psycho-Social Load of Adaptation The mental health dimension of climate adaptation – how professionals, communities and rangatahi are experiencing and managing the weight of ongoing change. • <i>Gerhard Reese - VUW Associate Professor of Climate Change</i></p>
9:45 – 11:00	<p>WORKSHOP National Climate Change Risk Assessment, NAP – and So What? A deep dive into the Ministry for the Environment and Climate Change Commission’s national risk assessment and adaptation plan – what they mean and what needs to happen next.</p>
11:00 – 11:15	Tt Ata Morning Tea
11:15 – 12:00	<p>WORKSHOP Natural Hazards Commission Workshop An interactive workshop exploring current challenges and opportunities in natural hazard adaptation. • <i>Natural Hazards Commission</i></p>
12:00 – 13:15	<p>WORKSHOP Accelerating Adaptation to Climate Change: Closing the Planning–Implementation Gap Why does adaptation so often stall between planning and doing – and what can we change? A practical, solutions-focused workshop. • <i>Bridget Lange – Knowledge Broker</i></p>
13:15 – 14:00	Ttina Working Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	<p>CONFERENCE CLOSE Where to From Here – ASAP RUA Closing reflections, key takeaways and the road ahead for the Aotearoa adaptation community.</p>