

VISUALISING UNCERTAINTY

A case for simple graphic communication to support conversations with communities adapting to climate change.

Teddington

This is an artist's impression of what the future might look like in Teddington as we adapt important public assets to coastal hazards over time.

- 1 **Governors Bay Teddington Road**
Not a lot is going to change for a while. In the future, we might need to accept the road being impacted by flooding and other coastal hazards more often.
- 2 **Charteris Bay Road and Gebbies Pass Road**
We could maintain the road as it is, for a while, before raising it to reduce the impacts of coastal hazards.



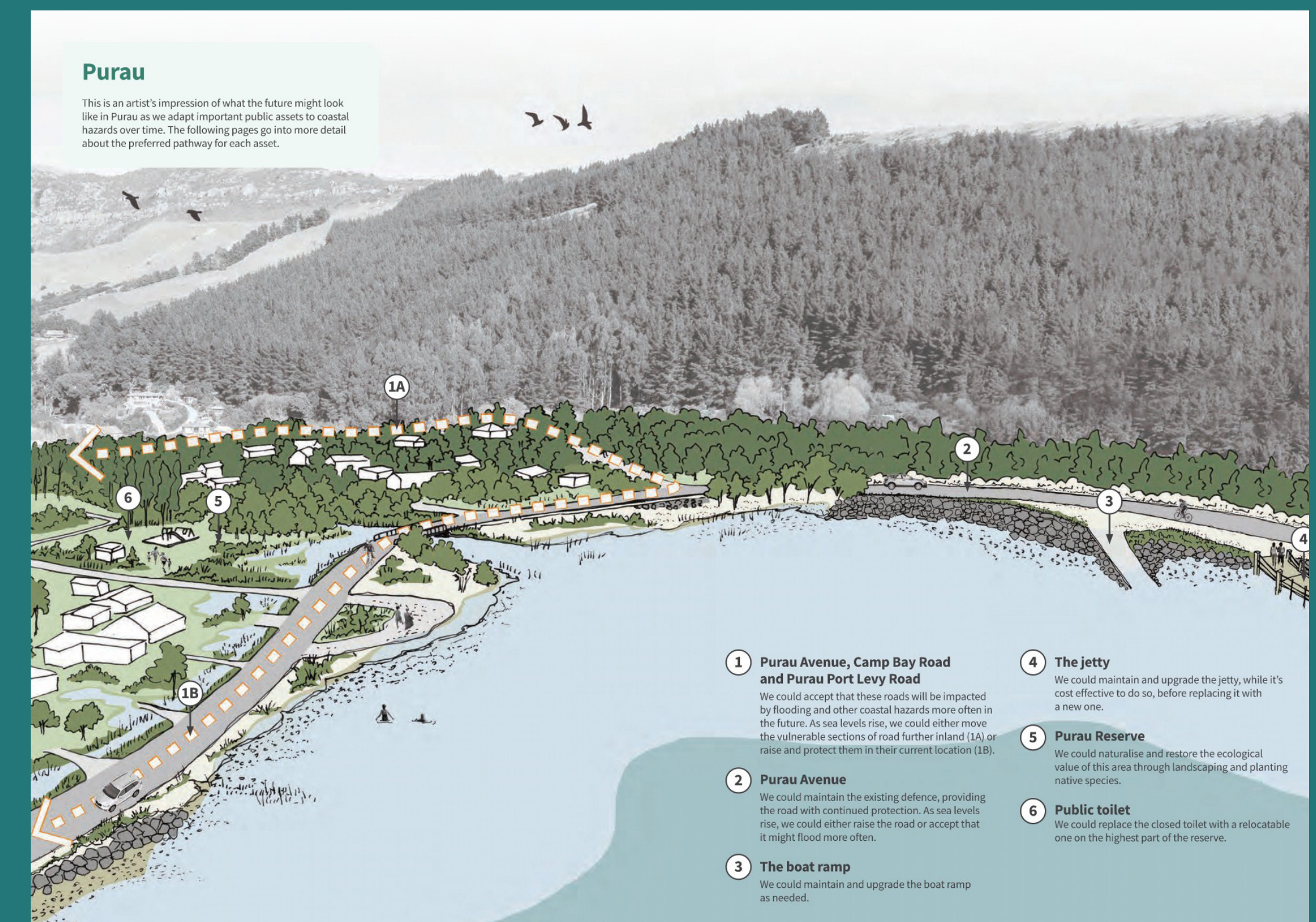
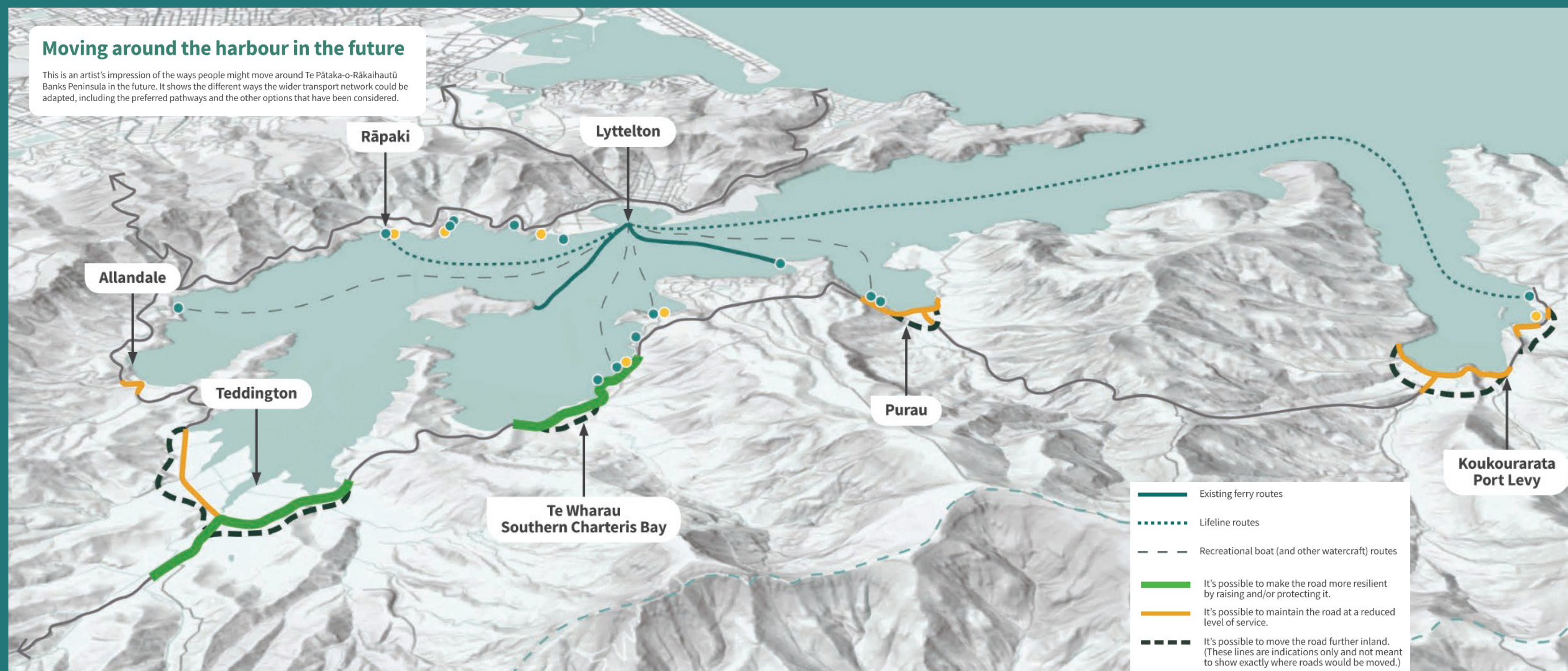
CASE STUDY

Christchurch City Council Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan

To support the CCC Coastal Hazards Adaptation Planning Team to carry out public engagement on the Plan, Boffa Miskell prepared illustrative graphics that visualised the preferred adaptation pathways for Council infrastructure around Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour and Koukourarata Port Levy. This included communicating changes to the transport network, roading level of service, emergency access and marine transport network.

The challenge was to translate technical information into relatable graphics that communicated the likely future outcomes, while leaving room for the inherent uncertainty that comes with predicting change due to natural systems in a 30-100 year timeframe.

How are you communicating change?



Keep it simple

The topic of climate change is emotive and can trigger fear. While some people have a strong desire for technical information, for others this can overwhelm more than inform. This can lead to disengagement and missed opportunities for people to have meaningful input into the decisions that affect their local places. Clear, approachable graphics empower people to participate and regain a sense of control.

Place-based

It is important to show change in the place where it is likely to happen, while not being so specific that there are unintended consequences. The chosen approach was to use a 3D perspective view to help with orientation, overlaying hand drawing onto drone photography to give an identifiable context to an augmented reality.

Creative license

Often it is when we draw a line on a page that an idea becomes real. A definitive line can trigger a sharp response, while a looser style can be more implied and leave room for imagination. When communicating climate change, an illustrative approach can be a useful tool to describe a pathway rather than an absolute outcome, helping to keep focus on the key messages.

CURIOUS ABOUT THE BIGGER PICTURE?
View the CCC Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan here

Contact: Megan.Walker@boffamiskell.co.nz

Christchurch City Council 



Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan

Planning for sea-level rise in Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour and Koukourarata Port Levy.

