

West Coast – climate risk, vulnerabilities and impacts 2025

2050 climate outlook

- **Drought:** Mostly modest risks associated with drought in the region. Drought-related risks are assessed as among the lowest of the New Zealand farm regions assessed.
- **Rainfall/flooding:** Additional doubling (2–3x) in the frequency of extreme rainfall events by 2050. Expectation of an additional 10% rain falling during equally rare events by 2050, e.g. 200mm rainfall becomes 220mm.
- **Cold hazards:** No heat-related risks, modest cold-related hazards in winter.
- **Fire:** There is woody vegetation nearby however, so potential fire risk in future.



Vulnerability to climate change

- Farms coping with current heavy rain levels but increased rainfall will cause flooding.
- Droughts have impacted farms profit in the past.
- Soils are erosion susceptible.



Improving climate resilience

Pasture and feed

- Strengthen pasture management capability.

Animals and technology

- Utilise livestock with heat tolerance, feed efficiency and low-methane genetics.
- Use wearable technologies (e.g. e-collars).

Infrastructure

- Improve energy resilience through localised generation.
- Upgrade laneways and culverts to withstand heavy rainfall.
- Increase feed pads and stand-off capacity.
- Maintain and progressively upgrade drainage capacity.
- Expand water storage and reticulation infrastructure.

Trees, shade and shelter

- Increase tree cover for shade, shelter and erosion control.
- Increase riparian planting.

People and operations

- Improve staff capability in adverse weather response and PPE use.
- Strengthen relationships with local stakeholders and emergency management groups.

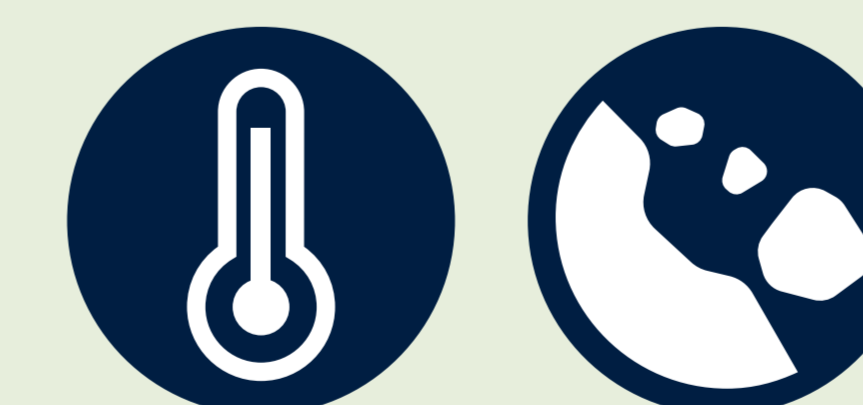
Climate change risk



Extreme cold Fire Extreme wind Pests and disease Extreme heat



Very low



Drought Erosion



Pasture production Heavy rainfall / flood



Very high