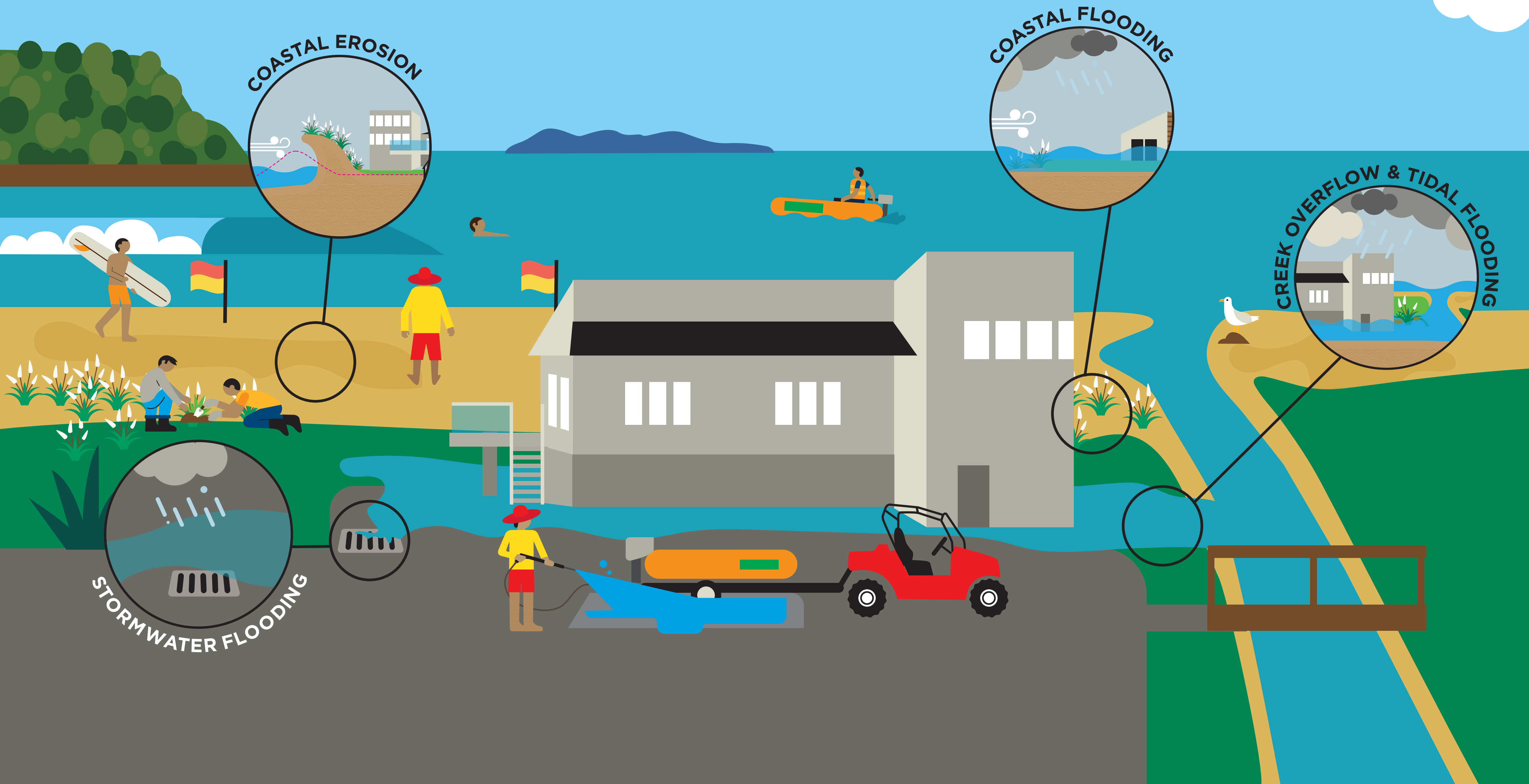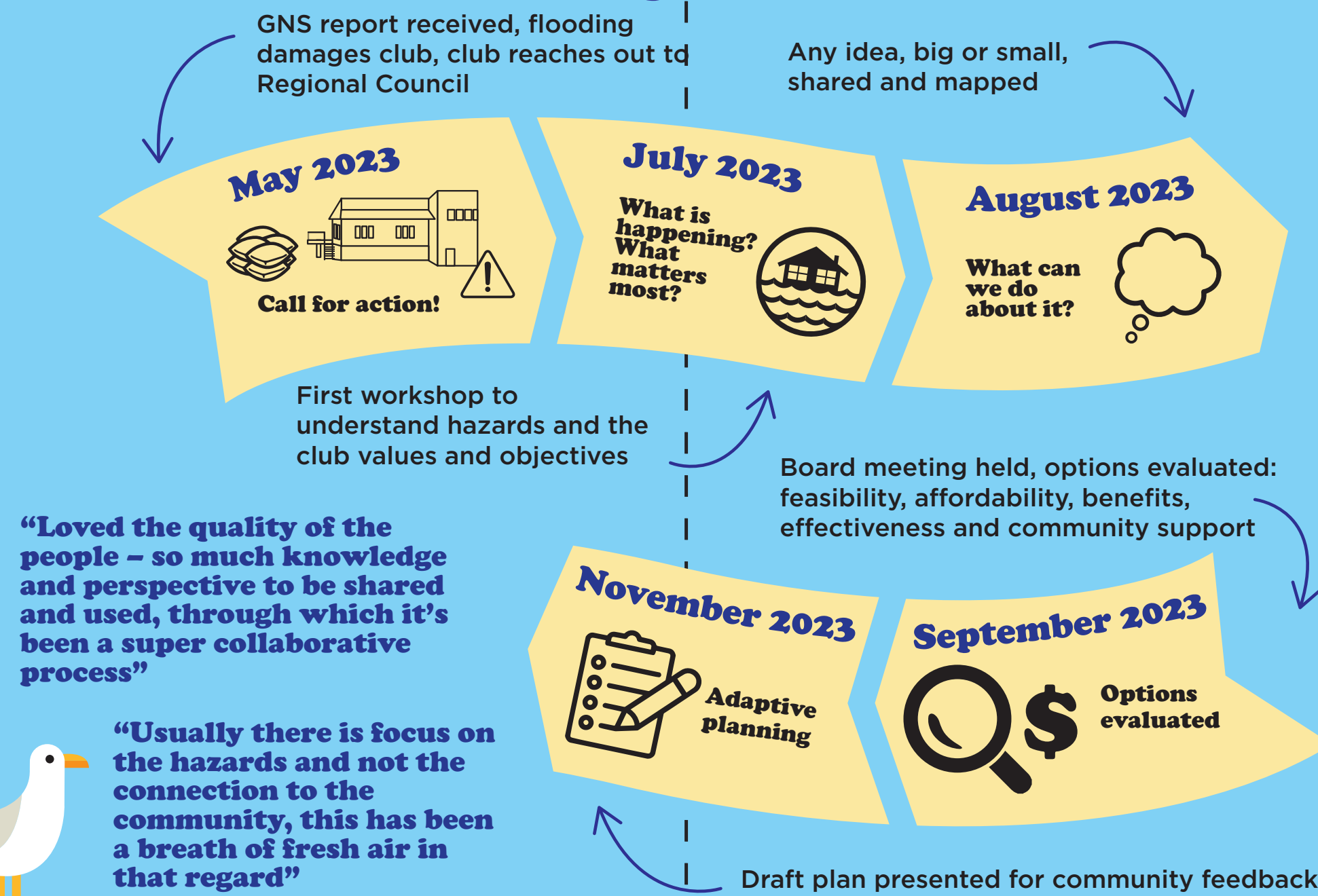# Natural hazards impacting the lifeguard club's delivery of services now and in the future
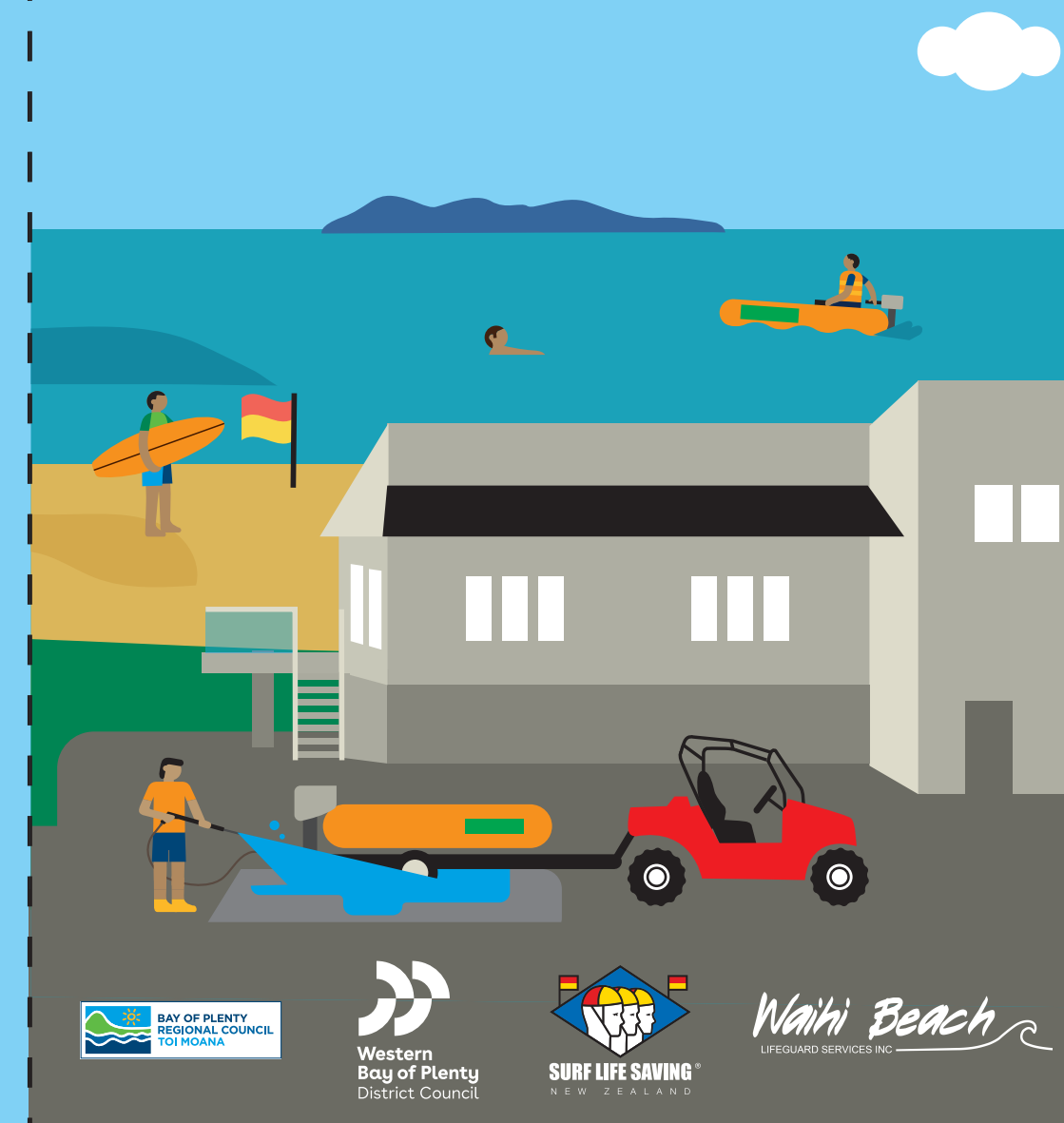
Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services vision: to ensure the beach community is protected and empowered.

COASTAL EROSION

COASTAL FLOODING

CREEK OVERFLOW & TIDAL FLOODING

STORMWATER FLOODING

# The process

**GNS report received, flooding damages club, club reaches out to Regional Council**

**May 2023**

Call for action!

**First workshop to understand hazards and the club values and objectives**

**Any idea, big or small, shared and mapped**

**July 2023**

What is happening? What matters most?

**August 2023**

What can we do about it?

**Board meeting held, options evaluated: feasibility, affordability, benefits, effectiveness and community support**

**November 2023**

Adaptive planning

**September 2023**

Options evaluated

**Draft plan presented for community feedback**

"Loved the quality of the people – so much knowledge and perspective to be shared and used, through which it's been a super collaborative process"

"Usually there is focus on the hazards and not the connection to the community, this has been a breath of fresh air in that regard"

# Rising to climate challenges: Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc.

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL TOI MOANA · Western Bay of Plenty District Council · SURF LIFE SAVING NEW ZEALAND · Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc.

# A short history

The lifeguard club is located in the heart of Waihi Beach and has been helping to keep swimmers safe since 1936. It still plays a critical role in the community today as a:

➤ base for summer patrols
➤ base for Search & Rescue (SAR)
➤ training centre
➤ community hub

Recent flood events and a report by GNS Science on sea-level rise and coastal flooding (inundation) has highlighted the club is one of the most vulnerable to coastal inundation in the country.

Faced with this knowledge, in May 2023 the club reached out to Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council for technical advice and support. This led the club to apply for funding to support adaptation planning. This funding set in motion a series of workshops to produce a community-led adaptation plan that will help ensure the club is more resilient in the future.

This brochure is about the journey this emergency services group took to better understand the climate challenges they will face and what changes they can implement to ensure the delivery of their patrolling and SAR services.

# A dive into Adaptation Planning

**Adaptive planning,** often referred to as Dynamic Adaptive Policy Pathways or DAPP, is an innovative approach to decision-making under uncertainty. It empowers organisations and communities to make informed choices over time, adjusting strategies as conditions evolve. Here's how it works:
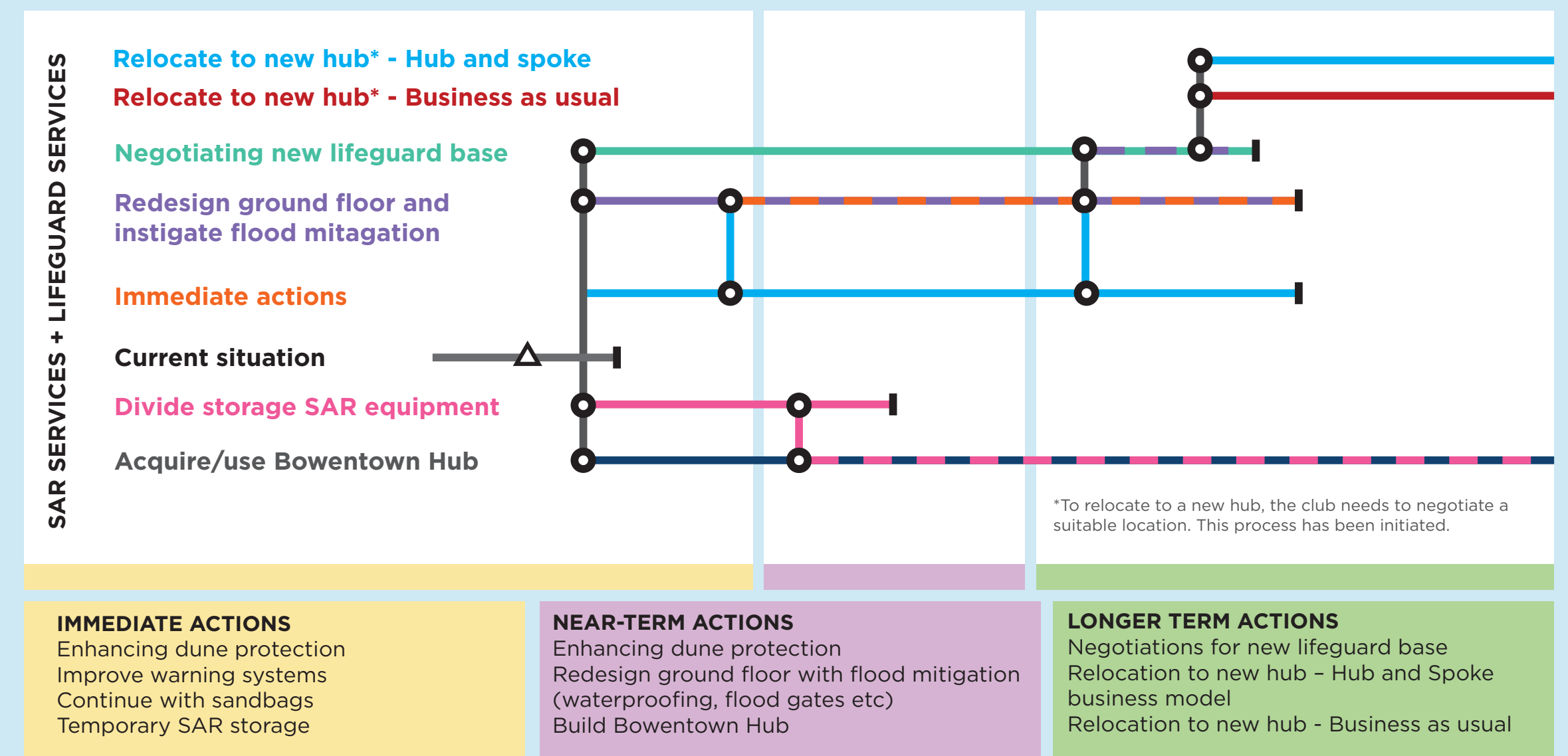
1. **Pathways of action:** Imagine interconnected routes on a map. DAPP develops these pathways, each representing a potential course of action. They emerge based on unfolding events.

2. **Thresholds (symbol):** Pathways have a limited lifespan; as hazards are identified and options become outdated, it's time to switch.

3. **Transition points to new adaptation option (symbol):** Critical junctures prompt reassessment. Decision points act as signals to switch pathways if needed.

The club's DAPP on the right, considers adaptive plans for their two most critical services: Lifeguarding and Search and Rescue. Let's explore:

- **Current situation pathway:** Starts with a signal (symbol) which triggered action in May 2023 for the club to reach out. The club faced inundation events more than three times during this year, time to act!

- **Actions:** Different adaptation pathways have been considered for immediate, near-term and long-term actions. Using the transition points, we can move from 'Current situation' to any of the actions listed by following the relevant pathway.

- **Changing lines:** As conditions evolve, the club can switch to alternative pathways over time. For instance, if negotiations for a new hub are successful, the club can relocate to a new and safer location.

**Why start now?** Adaptive Planning encourages proactive thinking without overcommitting. By acknowledging uncertainty, the club can prepare for the long term while remaining agile.

# Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services DAPP

**SAR SERVICES + LIFEGUARD SERVICES**

- Relocate to new hub* - Hub and spoke
- Relocate to new hub* - Business as usual
- Negotiating new lifeguard base
- Redesign ground floor and instigate flood mitigation
- Immediate actions
- Current situation
- Divide storage SAR equipment
- Acquire/use Bowentown Hub

*To relocate to a new hub, the club needs to negotiate a suitable location. This process has been initiated.

| IMMEDIATE ACTIONS | NEAR-TERM ACTIONS | LONGER TERM ACTIONS |
|---|---|---|
| Enhancing dune protection | Enhancing dune protection | Negotiations for new lifeguard base |
| Improve warning systems | Redesign ground floor with flood mitigation | Relocation to new hub – Hub and Spoke |
| Continue with sandbags | (waterproofing, flood gates etc) | business model |
| Temporary SAR storage | Build Bowentown Hub | Relocation to new hub - Business as usual |

◉ Transition point to a new adaption option   △ Signal   ▮ Threshold