

EXERCISE: APPLYING FORESIGHT TOOLS TO NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL RISK REGISTER

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Training session: Foresight and Futures Thinking with
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A. PROBLEM DEFINITION

Six 'What if' statements derived from New Zealand's National Risk Register

1. Natural and Environmental Hazards

What if, by 2030, 30-metre rogue waves become the norm between Australia and New Zealand and air turbulence prevents planes flying 30% of the time?

2. Biological and Human Health Hazards

What if, in 2030, a pandemic becomes deadly for 50% of under-5-year-olds?

3. Technological Hazards

What if, in 2030, a prolonged cyberattack on critical infrastructure (across banking, water, energy, transport, and ICT sectors) leaves the North Island without power or connectivity for three months?

4. Economic Crises

What if, in 2030, geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific cut off New Zealand's access to key export markets and critical imports, forcing a shift to greater economic self-reliance?

5. Malicious Threats

What if, during the 2030 election, significant foreign interference in New Zealand's democratic systems occurs?

6. Regional and National Security

What if, in 2030, a climate-driven crisis in the Pacific causes mass migration to New Zealand?

B. FORESIGHT TOOLS

Foresight tools used:

- STEEP+C
- Animal Metaphors
- Futures Wheel

C. METHOD

Apply tools to one of the problem definitions in Section A.

Stage 1: Combine *STEEL+C* and the *Futures Wheel* (3 layers of 'what if' impacts). Draw diagram on the right onto a large flip sheet. Use Post-it notes to write down the impacts.

Stage 2: Use the *Animal Metaphors* to illustrate the known knowns, the unknown knowns, the known unknowns and the unknown unknowns from the exercise in Stage 1. The aim is to ensure you are testing your thinking widely.

Stage 3: Groups come together to share the unknown unknowns they identified.

D. FURTHER TASKS

Stage 4: For those groups that have time (or wish to extend this exercise at home or work) they might like to apply:

- Map Risks: Ideally, for variety, please use another set of characteristics (not STEEP+C), to map each of the four areas set out in *Mapping Critical Risks*.
- Apply the *Futures Triangle* to the risk.
- Identify two critical uncertainties (see *Scenarios by the Numbers*). These four scenarios can be explored in detail to help create clarity over a wide range of possible outcomes (four possible worlds).

DIAGRAM FOR FLIP SHEET
(THREE COLOURED POST-IT NOTES ARE PROVIDED)

