



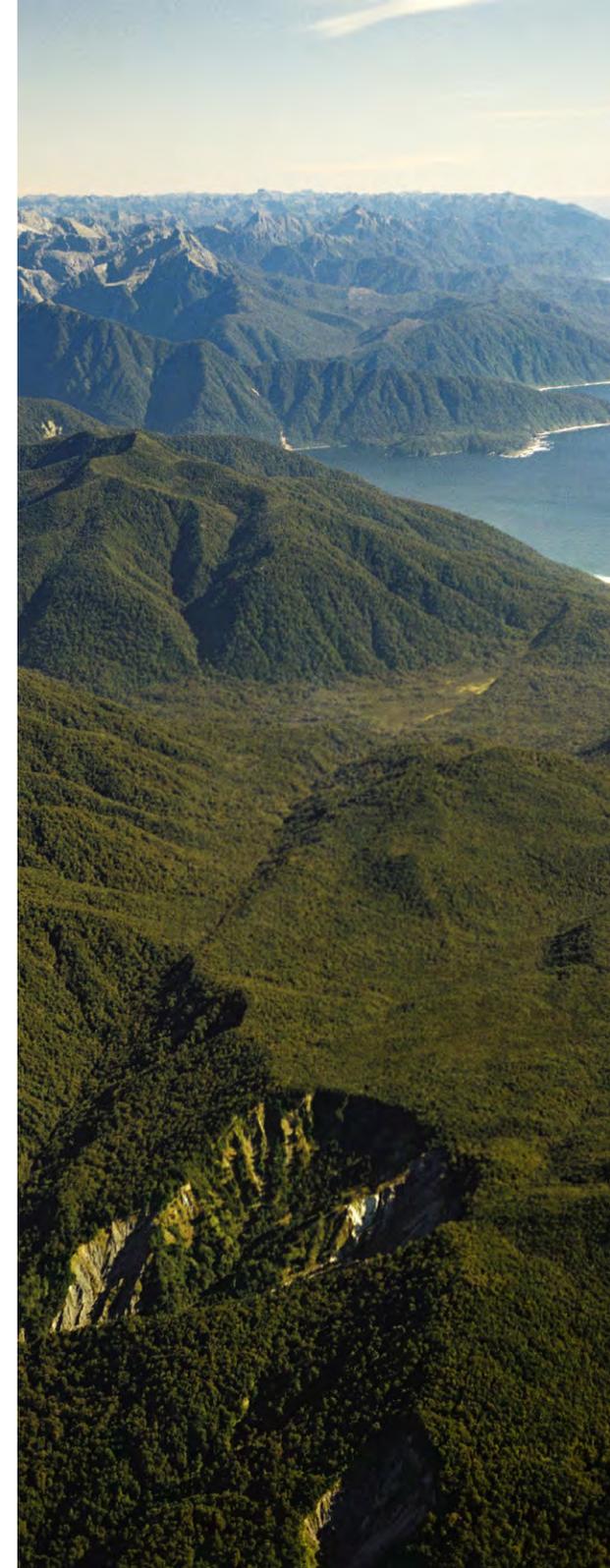
# Programme Strategy 2022-25



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# Executive Summary

AF8 [Alpine Fault magnitude 8] is an award-winning programme of scientific modelling, coordinated response planning and community engagement designed to build collective resilience to the next Alpine Fault earthquake, across Te Waipounamu our South Island.

The programme aims to share the Alpine Fault hazard and impact science and preparedness information widely, through communication and engagement activities, to increase awareness, enable conversation and build societal preparedness to natural hazard events.

AF8 has been operating on a year-to-year basis since its inception in 2016, and has had no agreed strategy beyond that. This is largely due to the constraints of the programme's *ad hoc* funding model, and because there is no clear counterpart or existing pathway that enables a view of where or what to aim for – we are breaking new ground.

Despite these constraints the programme continues to prove its value and relevance. Overwhelming feedback from stakeholders, via the *AF8 Programme Evaluation 2020*<sup>1</sup> and informally through networks, has indicated a clear need for AF8. The programme has proved extremely successful as a mechanism to bring researchers, agencies, communities, and regions together to tackle the complex problem of a magnitude 8 Alpine Fault earthquake.

We have been successful in raising awareness, bringing people and organisations together, building relationships, prompting preparedness, and supporting readiness and response planning activities.

Over the past 5 years, appetite and demand for information, collaboration and networking has steadily increased, influenced by:

- The updated 75% probability of a future Alpine Fault earthquake occurring in the next 50 years (up from 30%)<sup>2</sup>
- Extensive stakeholder and community engagement activities (eg. AF8 Roadshow and science presentations)
- Growing awareness and engagement from partner agencies and stakeholder networks
- Media relationships and their ongoing support
- Dedicated human resources to facilitate and implement work (eg. Programme Lead)

What began as a 1-2 year project has now evolved into a fuller programme of work. AF8 has become recognised as a leader in how we coordinate, communicate, plan and prepare for complex natural hazard events in Aotearoa New Zealand.

But are we ready for the next Alpine Fault earthquake? No.

We have built strong foundations, relationships and trust, which has generated an appetite for action, but there is still a lot more to do. This programme strategy aims to build and capitalise on our successes, to progress work efficiently and effectively, and enable a clear path to meet short to long-term outcomes.



1. Scally-Irvine, K., 2020.  
2. Howarth, J., et. al., 2021 (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-021-00721-4>)

# Background

AF8 is best understood as a ‘*boundary organisation*’<sup>1</sup>: an interdisciplinary partnership between research, policy and practice designed to support, build and coordinate readiness and response capability for the next great Alpine Fault earthquake, across the South Island. It was established and continues to be led by the 6 South Island Emergency Management (EM) Groups and key Alpine Fault hazard risk science partners Resilience to Nature’s Challenges (RNC) and QuakeCoRE: NZ Centre for Earthquake Resilience.

Governance and leadership for the programme is provided by the AF8 Steering Group comprising the 6 South Island Group Managers, science leaders and a National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) representative. Emergency Management Southland acts as the chair and the administrative authority for AF8. West Coast Emergency Management currently acts as the deputy chair.

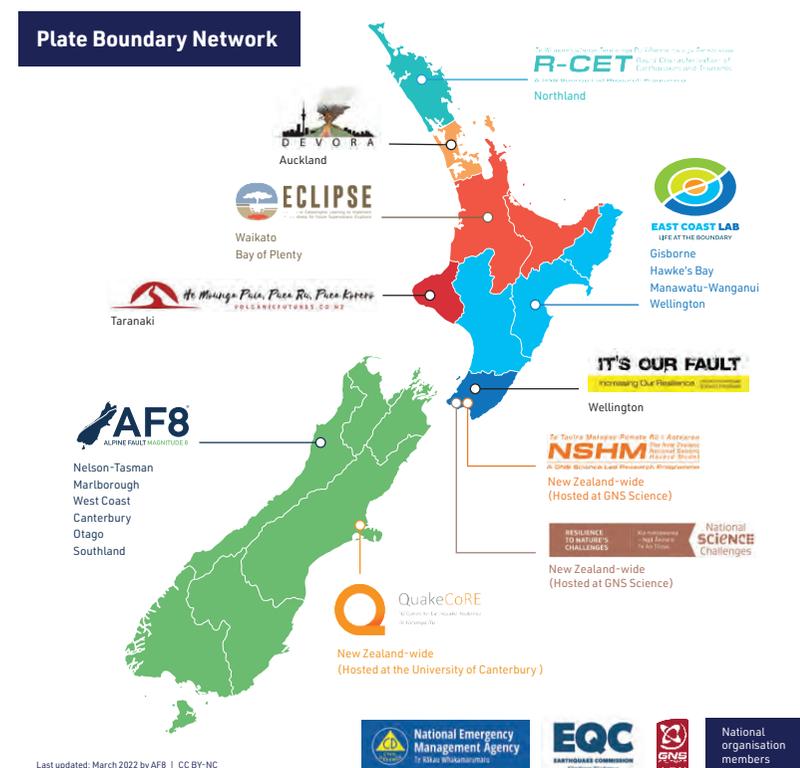
AF8 is also a member of the Plate Boundary Network: a group of regionally branded natural hazard programmes actively involved in sharing natural hazard and impact science and supporting public education and engagement in Aotearoa New Zealand (see image right).

In its **first three years (2016-19)** AF8 was funded by the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM) Resilience

Fund, with significant co-funding from science partners. Key outputs from Years 1-3 include: the AF8 Hazard Scenario<sup>2</sup>, the AF8 SAFER (South Island Alpine Fault Earthquake Response) Framework<sup>3</sup>, and the development of communication and engagement initiatives to support and socialise this work widely with communities, decision-makers and emergency management agencies (eg. AF8 Roadshow).

From **Year 4 (2019-20)** onwards, the 6 South Island EM Groups have contributed funding on a per regional population basis to cover the role of the programme lead. In Years 4-5 AF8’s programme activities have been made possible with co-funding from RNC, QuakeCoRE and the Earthquake Commission (EQC). Most recently, in **Year 6 (2021-22)**, the AF8 programme activities have been supported by the following co-funding partnerships:

- QuakeCoRE co-funding supports the programme lead role, and science and risk communication activities, eg. workshops.
- RNC funding supports science research and communication, eg. scientific expertise, research assistants.
- EQC co-funding supports public education activities eg. the AF8 Roadshow.
- NEMA co-funding supports planning activities and products, eg. coordinated intelligence for planning.



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1. Beaven, S. et. al., 2017 ([https://doi.org/10.1061/\(ASCE\)NH.1527-6996.0000202](https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)NH.1527-6996.0000202))
2. Orchiston, C. et. al. 2016 (<https://af8.org.nz/af8-scenario/>)
3. AF8 [Alpine Fault magnitude 8], 2018 (<https://af8.org.nz/safer-framework/>)

Beyond this, AF8 attracts significant in-kind contributions from science partners (e.g. universities, GNS Science) which is estimated to exceed, by far, the value of the EM contributions. Even harder to quantify, but perhaps of greatest value, is the time and expertise given by multiple stakeholders in support of AF8's activities. Often described as 'a coalition of the willing', this collaborative partnership approach has been critical to the programme and the progression of its objectives thus far.

However, as our understanding of the hazard risk grows, and momentum, demand and appetite for action increases, this *willingness* is not enough to sustain an effective and efficient programme of work. It is clear that the work required to plan and prepare for the next AF8 earthquake goes well beyond the initial three-year MCDEM Resilience Fund funded project.

## What is AF8?

It is important to understand what AF8 is, and is not. AF8 has no statutory role, nor will it take on the role of managing a response to an Alpine Fault earthquake. These responsibilities lie with the EM Groups, NEMA and their partner agencies. AF8 has several key roles:

- Bringing together emergency managers, scientists, policymakers, practitioners and communities to build capability for earthquake readiness and response;

- Providing a conduit for the direct application of Alpine Fault related research to support policy and practice;
- Facilitating and coordinating engagement between scientists, emergency managers and the public;
- Translating and communicating hazard risk science to enable informed decision-making for planning and preparedness;
- Supporting Alpine Fault response planning and community preparedness.

All of these roles and responsibilities align very closely to the National Disaster Resilience Strategy aim, which includes managing risks (eg. identifying and understanding risk scenarios) and enabling, empowering and supporting community resilience (e.g. cultivating connectedness). AF8 has been extraordinarily successful in this regard, winning awards for communication and engagement (AF8 Roadshow)<sup>1</sup> and collaborative action (SAFER Framework)<sup>2</sup>.

## Partner Roles & Critical Contributions

AF8 is not responsible for the mandated roles of it's core partners: the 6 South Island EM Groups, science and research organisations, and NEMA. However, the successful implementation of this strategy is reliant on the contributions, cooperation and participation of these partners. AF8's mission and objectives do not operate in isolation, and

should be embedded in partner workplans where appropriate. Partner roles and critical contributions as they relate to this strategy are outlined in the next section.

The AF8 Programme Strategy aims to build on and strengthen these partnerships in the context of planning and preparing for the next Alpine Fault earthquake. It is intended to provide clarity for all partners, so we may progress our work efficiently and effectively together.



1. <https://af8.org.nz/af8-roadshow-empa-award/>
2. <https://af8.org.nz/af8-receives-excellence-award/>

## Partner Roles & Critical Contributions

This table outlines the roles and critical contributions of AF8's core partners as they relate to this strategy. The successful implementation of this strategy is reliant on the contributions, cooperation and participation of our partners. AF8's mission and objectives do not operate in isolation, and should be embedded in partner workplans where appropriate.

South Island EM Groups	Science Partners	NEMA
<p>As regional representatives, EM Groups are focused on response planning in their region, preparing their communities for an Alpine Fault earthquake, maintaining regional relationships and providing strategic leadership for the AF8 programme.</p>	<p>As leaders in science excellence, AF8's science partners are responsible for growing AF8's knowledge-base, responding to knowledge gaps and making the latest Alpine Fault-related science accessible, applicable and actionable.</p>	<p>As Steward, Assurer and Operator, NEMA is responsible for national planning, supporting capability/capacity to enable the progression of regional work and maintaining central government relationships to enable progress.</p>
<p><b>Critical Contributions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Communicating and disseminating AF8 information into their organisations, partners, agencies, local authorities and communities.</li> <li>➤ Leading AF8 regional and district planning in their regions, in collaboration with national planning.</li> <li>➤ Leading and hosting workshops, talks, forums etc. in their regions.</li> <li>➤ Advocating for AF8 in the regions, with communities, partner agencies and local authorities.</li> <li>➤ Enabling EM staff to participate in AF8-related activities.</li> <li>➤ Enabling iwi partnerships and representation on the steering group.</li> <li>➤ Funding the programme lead role and co-funding AF8 Programme activities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Critical Contributions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Providing timely, up-to-date science advice and information.</li> <li>➤ Progressing research for earthquake resilience, responding to knowledge gaps with new research, and feeding it back into the AF8 Programme.</li> <li>➤ Publishing co-created knowledge to enable AF8's learnings to be shared widely and with credibility.</li> <li>➤ Advocating for AF8 in research institutions and associated organisations.</li> <li>➤ Enabling iwi partnerships and representation on the steering group.</li> <li>➤ Co-funding AF8 Programme activities and the programme lead role.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Critical Contributions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Leading national AF8 planning and support regional planning.</li> <li>➤ Providing planning resource to ensure national workplans do not surpass regional capabilities.</li> <li>➤ Providing strategic leadership for AF8 readiness and response activities, and build emergency management capability and capacity.</li> <li>➤ Advocating for AF8 at central government level, with national agencies and North Island EM.</li> <li>➤ Enabling iwi partnerships and representation on the steering group.</li> <li>➤ Co-funding AF8 Programme activities and planning support roles.</li> </ul>



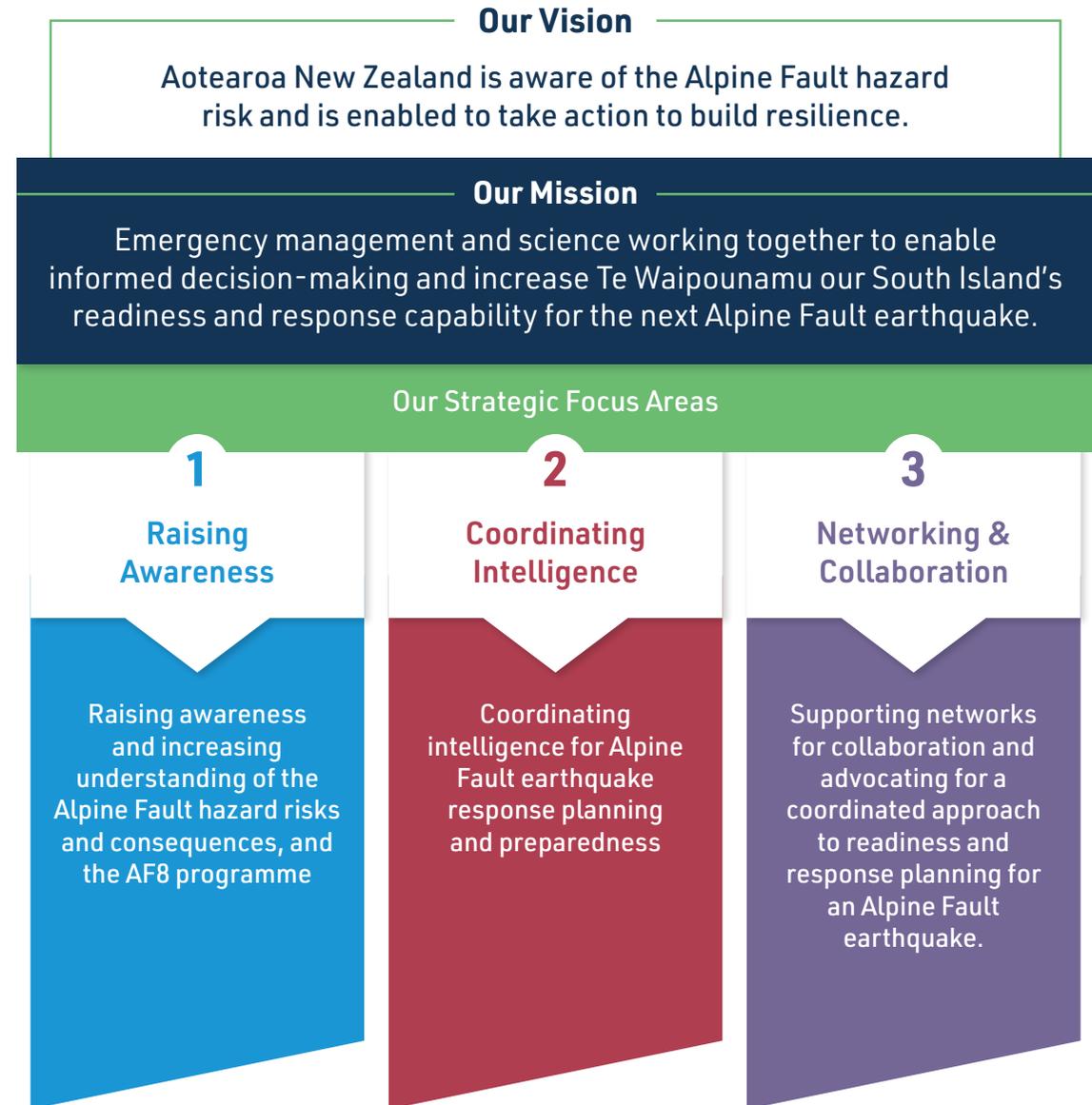
## Vision & Mission

The AF8 programme's overarching message and call to action is:

***"We can't predict earthquakes, but we can prepare for them"***

This statement references the science and emergency management partnership at the core of AF8, and makes a collective call to action that can be applied at every level: national, regional, local, organisational, community and individual.

Our vision and mission statements reflect this call to action, and guide the programme's strategic focus areas to achieve these aims.



## Strategic Focus Areas & Objectives

Focus Area 1: Raising Awareness	Objectives:	We will do this by:
<p><b>Raising awareness and increasing understanding of the Alpine Fault hazard risks and consequences, and the AF8 programme.</b></p>	<p>A. To provide quality and consistent messaging to a wide range of audiences (including stakeholders and partners), communicated in a way that is accessible, understandable and actionable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintaining an engaging, up to date website and digital media presence, which acts as a central knowledge-point and pathway to understanding the Alpine Fault hazard.</li> <li>➤ Providing frequent and targeted science engagement, making the latest research accessible and applicable.</li> <li>➤ Coordinating the AF8 Roadshow with EM Groups, to bring Alpine Fault hazard science and preparedness information to South Island communities.</li> <li>➤ Developing other public education initiatives (eg. <i>What's On Our Plates?</i> StoryMaps).</li> </ul>
	<p>B. To build capability in hazard risk communication in the regions to support South Island planning and preparedness activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Developing and maintaining resources for risk communication and public education for use by EM Groups and partner agencies.</li> <li>➤ Developing and maintaining curriculum-based schools resources for use by teachers/educators in the classroom.</li> </ul>
Focus Area 2: Coordinating Intelligence	Objectives:	We will do this by:
<p><b>Coordinating intelligence for Alpine Fault earthquake response planning and preparedness.</b></p>	<p>A. To build and coordinate a central knowledge-base to inform Alpine Fault planning and preparedness activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Making the AF8 Hazard Scenario accessible in a range of formats, providing a single source of information for planning and preparedness.</li> <li>➤ Coordinating and maintaining the AF8 GIS portal and supporting documentation, to define the logistical problem for the South Island and inform planning.</li> </ul>
	<p>B. To provide a conduit for the direct application of Alpine Fault related research into practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitating links between AF8-related research and emergency management practice.</li> <li>➤ Identifying critical knowledge gaps and potential barriers to resilience, for future research.</li> </ul>

Focus Area 3: Networking & Collaboration	Objectives:	We will do this by:
<p><b>Supporting networks for ongoing collaboration and advocating for a coordinated approach to readiness and response planning for an Alpine Fault earthquake.</b></p>	<p>A. To support relationships and networks for ongoing collaboration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitating workshops and forums and giving presentations to enable networking and collaboration.</li> <li>➤ Facilitating links between communities of practice and knowledge holders to strengthen networks.</li> </ul>
	<p>B. To support South Island EM Group planning for the next severe Alpine Fault earthquake at an inter-regional level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Socialising the SAFER Framework, ensuring it is accessible and applicable as the foundation for AF8 response planning</li> <li>➤ Coordinating and providing administrative support for AF8 planning activities (eg. Response Planning Groups)</li> </ul>

