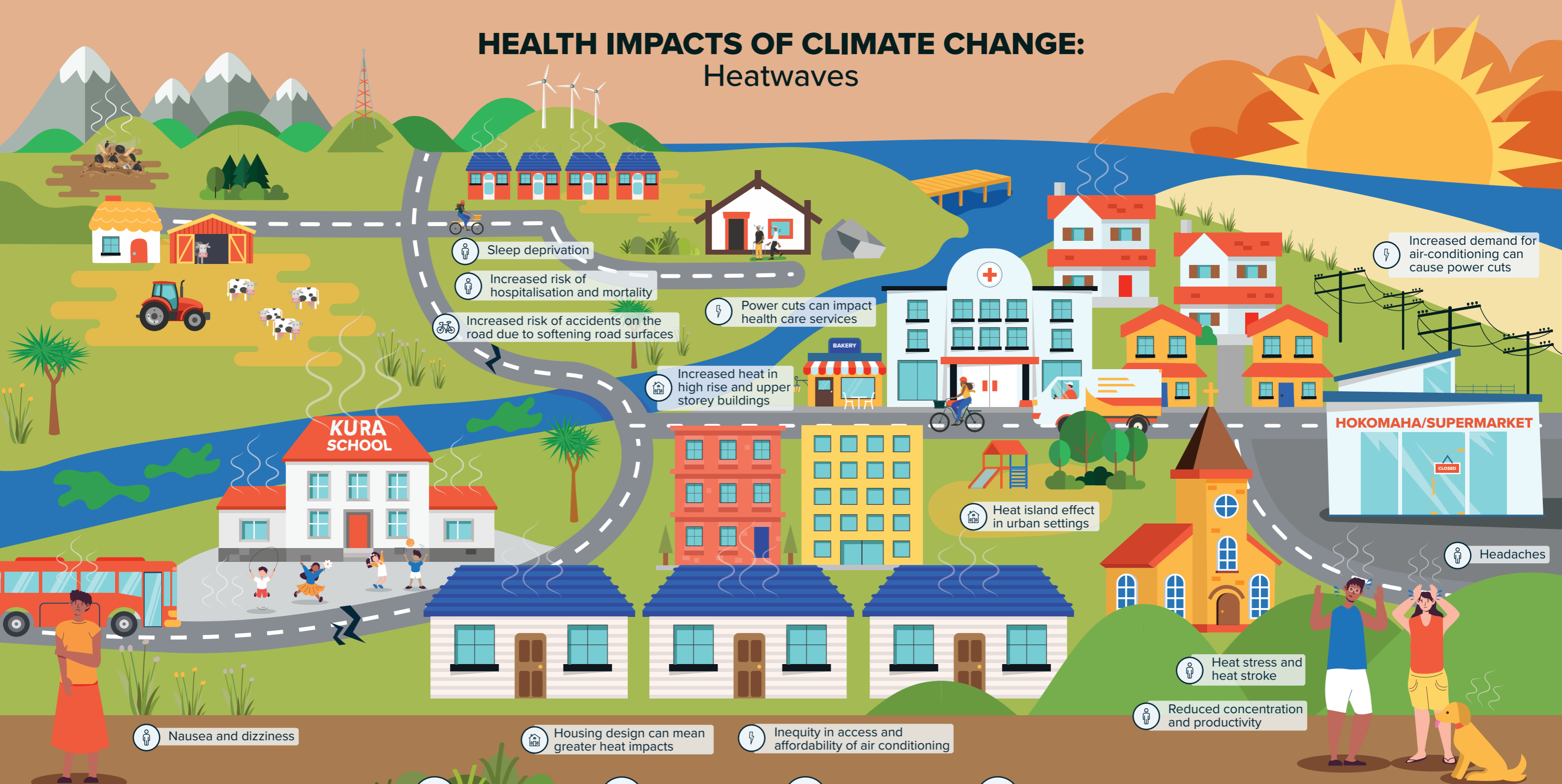


HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: Heatwaves



Nausea and dizziness

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
Many houses are not well designed to keep cool during a heatwave event. Materials in urban environments can also increase heat health risks; materials such as brick, concrete, and steel can trap heat, causing a heat island, and increasing the overall temperature in urban communities.

TRANSPORT
Increased temperatures can cause road surfaces to soften and melt, leading to more accidents. It can also cause railway lines to buckle, impacting freight supplies. Damage to roads and railways can reduce accessibility of locations, including health care services, schools and work.

ENERGY
Heatwaves can create higher demand for air conditioning, potentially overloading the energy system and resulting in power cuts. Households may not be able to afford the power costs of air conditioning, leaving some at higher risk of heat-related illness. Power cuts can impact health care services and care needs within facilities such as aged care homes.

DIRECT IMPACTS
Heatwaves can cause significant health impacts, particularly for pregnant people, babies, children under five, older people, disabled people, and people with existing and chronic health conditions.

Housing design can mean greater heat impacts

Inequity in access and affordability of air conditioning

Sleep deprivation

Increased risk of hospitalisation and mortality

Increased risk of accidents on the road due to softening road surfaces

Power cuts can impact health care services

Increased heat in high rise and upper storey buildings

Increased demand for air-conditioning can cause power cuts

Heat island effect in urban settings

Headaches

Heat stress and heat stroke

Reduced concentration and productivity