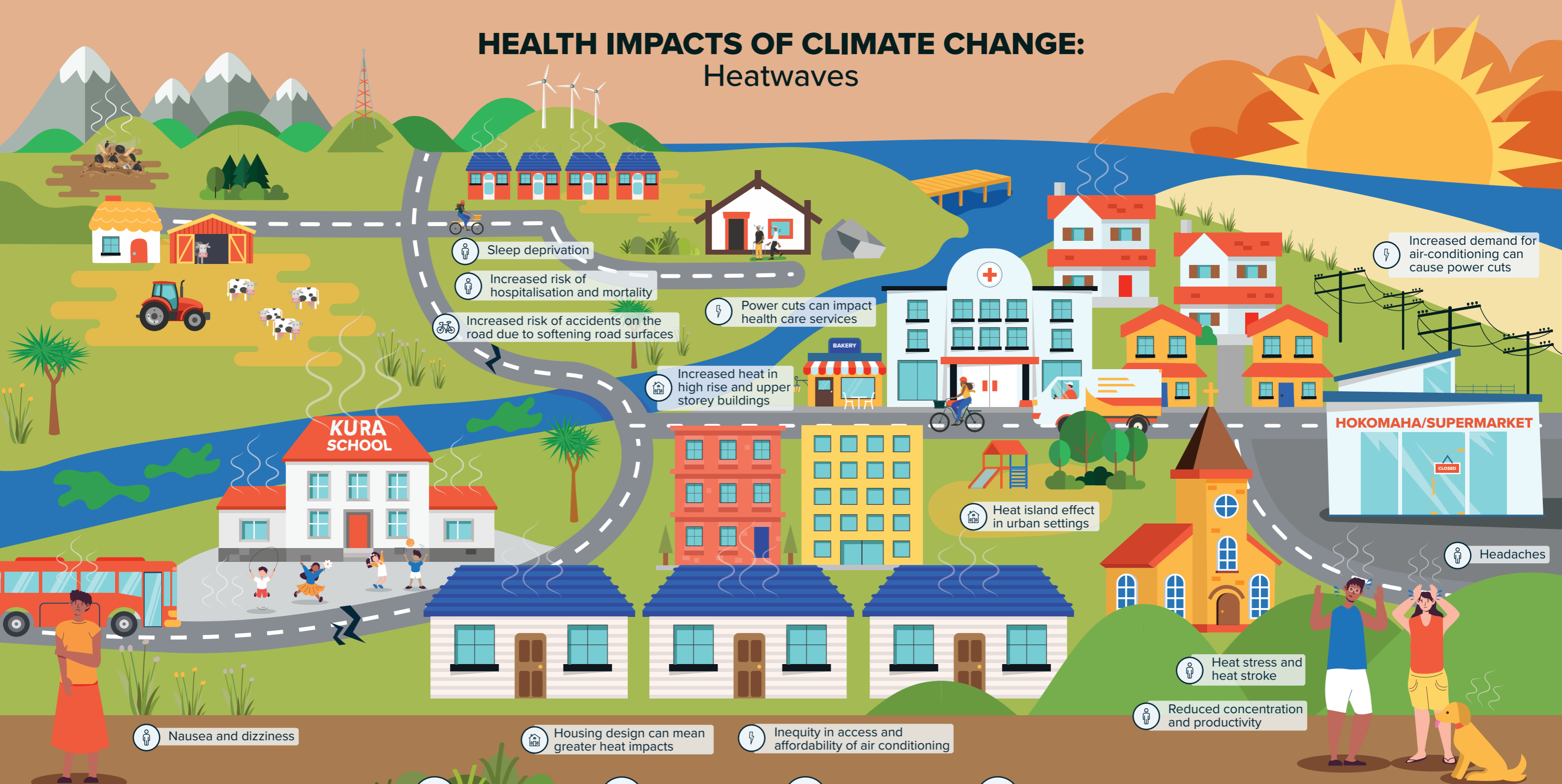


# HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: Heatwaves



**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.