

2023/2024



Albert-Eden Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

### **London Street stormwater separation, Sutherland Rd, Parkdale Rd, and Euston Rd stormwater separations**

London Street stormwater separation, Sutherland Rd, Parkdale Rd, and Euston Rd stormwater separations are smaller (mainly targeted) stormwater separation projects in the Western Isthmus in the Waitematā Harbour Water Quality Improvement Programme's (WHWQIP) and will provide separation of approximately 130 properties (all projects together) from the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour. The projects are in early design.

#### **Oakley Bollard Methuen Stormwater Separation**

Oakley Bollard Avenue separation project is a major project in the Western Isthmus in the Waitematā Harbour Water Quality Improvement Programme's (WHWQIP) and will provide separation of 51 properties from the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour, along with other flooding and growth benefits. The project is due to begin construction in January 2025 until March 2026.

#### **Waterview Catchment Separation**

The works to separate the stormwater and wastewater networks in the Waterview area will take many years to be completed and the programme has been divided into several packages of work which will be phased over the next 10 years. In April 2024 construction started on Waterview Separation Project stage 1, a major milestone in the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme (WIWQIP) to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour and Hauraki Gulf. The remaining Waterview Separation packages are currently going through detailed design and preparing to lodge for resource consent.

#### **Pt Chevalier Stormwater Separation**

Water quality improvement project Pt Chev Separation Stage 1 was completed in September 2023. The project delivered new stormwater pipe along Wakatipu Street and Walmer Road needed to enable the separation works to continue. The project needed to be finished before Pt Chev Separation Stage 2 could begin, which is currently in construction and being delivered as part of AT's approved road improvement project to minimise costs and disruption. The stormwater works have been completed but will not issue practical completion until the remaining AT works have been completed, which is expected to occur in May 2025.

#### **Carrington Road Stormwater extension**

Design has commenced on this project, which has been identified as part of the Western Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme. The objective is to provide for growth and to reduce the risk of uncontrolled combined sewer overflows by installing a stormwater network and separating the existing combined stormwater/wastewater network. The work includes extending the stormwater network from the manhole outside 17 Fontenoy Road to the Carrington Road/Fontenoy Street intersection. This extension also includes collecting two catch pits in Carrington Road which currently rely on soakage. Design consultants have been engaged and we are reviewing the possibility to collaborate construction with Auckland Transport as they have works commencing in 2025/2026 in the area.



### **Safe Networks**

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

We took water samples in more than 40 stormwater catchments and visited 8,180 properties across Auckland to inspect private drainage connections as part of investigations into the causes of poor water quality. We have resolved many of the private drainage issues discovered and are working to resolve the rest. Our post-resolution sampling is important to ensure remediation is effective, monitor for other issues, and to provide updates to the accuracy of the SafeSwim tool.



### **Safe Septic**

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

#### **Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme**

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.



### **Urban and rural stream rehabilitation**

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### **2 in a Ute**

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.

#### **Stream Restoration 203 and 211 Richardson Rd**

The re-alignment of the stream at 203-211 Richardson Rd will improve ecosystem health, public amenity, and water quality. It is predominantly funded by the Healthy Waters Biodiversity Offset Bank, through which construction projects that have consent requirements to provide ecological offset or mitigation are able purchase offset credits. The remaining funded is provided by the water quality targeted rate. Detailed design was completed in March 2024 and the project is being made shelf-ready, after which it will be programmed for construction in line with budget availability.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

#### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the



industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 422 of these visits were in Albert-Eden with an 89 per cent pass rate in the last financial year (meaning 89 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. The Te Auaunga Water Quality Opportunities Assessment shortlisted 20 locations for further assessment to determine high level estimates of annual contaminant load that could be potentially removed. These have been submitted through a Strategic Assessment and is in the capital delivery programme for prioritisation. If redevelopment occurs, a given location identified in the Water Quality Opportunities Assessment could be delivered through this pathway.

### **Morningside Drive - 580 New North Road network extension**

This project will enable growth and reduce flooding at 580 New North Road, the rail corridor and 33 Rossmay Terrace. It is intended to be a collaborative project with Auckland Transport and KiwiRail, though is subject to land owner approvals from Kiwirail and private land owners. The project will also separate the combined systems and reduce overflows.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

The Eastern Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme is in planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme. A number of opportunities in this programme are now projects in their own right, and more will result as the programme progresses.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Urban Ark Manawa Taiao was allocated \$34,560 towards coordinator costs and pest control planning. The funding will support the coordinating role that is essential for connecting at a landscape scale from Maunga to Moana. They also received \$5325 worth of pest control tools and resources (in addition to local board funding), and \$500 towards collateral printing for their outreach work.
- Maungakiekie Songbird was allocated \$10,000 towards supporting the community in pest control and native plantings in the Maungakiekie halo.
- Community groups received \$2000 worth of plants for the winter 2024 planting season.
- Volunteer weeders received \$1000 worth of weed control tools.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land

- We engage, fund and support communities, landowners and mana whenua to undertake actions to protect and restore priority sites for regionally threatened species and ecosystems where these occur on private land.
- **In your area**, Urban Ark - Manawa Taiao received \$32,000 in funding to implement Year 3 of the Protecting Maungawhau Rock Forests project to enhance the biodiversity and resilience of the critically threatened puriri forest/rock forest ecosystem.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.
- **In your area**, an ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the Chamberlain Park Golf Club.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action. 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga.
- This year, Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of

catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.

- **In your area**, 21 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Five schools **in your area** grew and planted trees on sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

### **Parks Connect to Nature**

- NETR contributes to a range of local parks programmes to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports two schools **in your area** including Auckland Normal Intermediate (Windmill Park) and Auckland Grammar School (Windmill Park) involving 45 students.



### **Enabling tools**

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### **Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau**

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### **Biodiversity Focus Areas**

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### **Threatened species prioritisation**

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### **Plant pathogens**

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded **16km of tracks** in regional parks, along with **5.1km of tracks** in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.
- **In your area**, we completed track upgrades to protect kauri in Ferndale Park and Gribblehirst Park.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks.
- **In your area**, we carried out survey and control on 273 properties bordering reserves associated with Te Auaunga Oakley Creek. This project is largely funded by the Albert-Eden, Puketāpapa and Whau local boards, with some NETR contribution.

### Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at eight active sites and monitored five sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.



- **In your area**, we monitored tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus in Roy Clements Treeway. The tradescantia shows signs of fungal infection and leaf beetle damage, though biocontrol agents take time to establish and further monitoring is needed.
- We carried out engagement with iwi about biocontrol in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

#### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited two pet stores and five nurseries.



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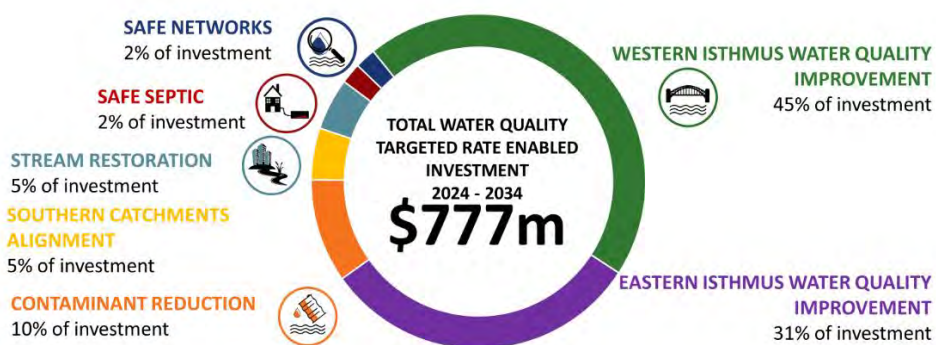


Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Tryphena

Water quality sampling at Pah Beach confirmed presence of Ruminant faecal contamination. Wai Ora Partnerships have been working with landowners to educate and facilitate stock fencing.

### Motairehe

Water quality sampling from stormwater outlets is planned for the coming year to determine if there are any contamination issues at discharge points to Oruawharo Bay. This work is in collaboration with Ngati Wai and Ngati Rehua.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

### Safe Septic – Great Barrier Engagement

A bespoke communications campaign was launched targeting residents and owners of property on Aotea Great Barrier. This included print, radio, social media, and poster advertising on all local platforms. The objective is to raise awareness of the impact of poorly maintained private septic systems on the local water quality, advertise the purpose of septic tank maintenance and promote a discount for septic tank servicing.

### Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

181 onsite wastewater systems in Aotea Great Barrier were serviced. Of these, 140 were compliant, 27 had minor issues, and 14 had critical failures.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their



communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.

### **Regional Waterways Protection Fund**

The Regional Waterway Protection Fund offers 50/50 co-funding for waterway protection fencing and planting of private rural land. This funding is open to property owners across Franklin, Papakura, Aotea (Great Barrier Island), and Rodney. Of the 25 applications, 17 property owners accepted funding to a value of \$335,224.14, to be paid on completion of the projects. The land owners have up to 30 months to deliver the projects. Of this money, \$68,375.00 was awarded to two landowners on Aotea Great Barrier Island. These projects will deliver 1.12km of fencing, protect 12.8ha of wetlands, 3km of waterways and plant approximately 8000 plants in the protected riparian areas. The landowners have been given two years to complete the work.

Auditing of landowner projects from previous rounds of funding continues with the fundees on the island being supported by the RWPF funding team and land advisors.

Keeping stock out of waterways by fencing instantly improves water quality, and planting riparian margins and wetlands is transforming these areas to deliver biodiversity, water quality and habitat improvements.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust was provided \$111,760 of operational budget to continue managing the Windy Hill Sanctuary. They were also provided \$10,000 towards the purchasing of bait to support the management of pest animal pressures on the natural heritage covenant at 429 Rosalie Bay Road, and received \$1705 towards GBI Southern pest animal surveillance and \$5000 towards potting mix for the Aotea Community Nursery.
- Tū Mai Taonga was provided \$90,000 of operational budget to deliver pest control and allocated an additional \$10,000 towards practical training to support the extensive trapping network in place. The Trust's goal is to restore taonga species to the island by eradicating pests through the continued employment of whanau and wider community members. They also received an \$8,545 grant towards first aid, 4WD and herbicide use training.
- Glenfern Sanctuary was provided \$50,000 of operational budget to continue to manage pests within the Glenfern Sanctuary.
- Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust received \$11,460 towards the Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision (OME) coordinator costs, umbrella admin fees and mana whenua engagement and \$37,500 for fieldworker costs to expand the OME pest management area. The Trust also received \$29,241 for tools and resources for OME and the Aotea Trap Library, \$3,400 worth of biodiversity advocacy and outreach support, and \$925 towards an OME weed amnesty event.
- Motu Kaikoura Trust Board was allocated \$7,996 towards a dog survey of taiko (petrels) and purchase of acoustic attractant equipment from DOC.
- The Okiwi Community Ecology Project received \$500 towards pest control tools, plants and boots for the Asian paddle crab trapping project and \$583 worth of biodiversity advocacy and outreach support.
- The Aotea Ecology Vision program received \$3418 towards pest control tools and plants for the Awana Community Project and materials for a dotterel hutch for bird rescue.
- Great Barrier Veterinary Services were funded \$5000 from our pest control operational budget to provide free desexing of cats to improve outcomes for both cat welfare and wildlife.

### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.

### **Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land**

- We engage, fund and support communities, landowners and mana whenua to undertake actions to protect and restore priority sites for regionally threatened species and ecosystems where these occur on private land.
- **In your area**, Kotuku Peninsula Charitable Trust were awarded \$35,000 to support comprehensive pest animal management on private and public land behind the Kotuku Peninsula Wildlife Sanctuary predator proof to protect ecological values both within and outside the sanctuary.

### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- **In your area**, the Aotea / Great Barrier Island 'Ecology Festival' (Festival event) took place in November at the Claris Conference Centre, with 11 community conservation stalls and a school display followed by inspiring speakers and a panel discussion. A total of 120 people attended the event, including representatives Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.

- **In your area**, an ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the Great Barrier Golf Club.

### Partnering with mana whenua

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.
- We have a partnership agreement with Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea for their Tū Mai Taonga project and are working to partner with them on a range of other work, including seabird, lizard and threatened plant monitoring and caulerpa management.

### Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, three schools are participating in Enviroschools: Kaitoke, Mulberry Grove and Okiwi Schools.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work



together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

#### Ecosystem and species survey

- We made 500 new observations of regionally threatened native plants through survey activity across the region. We found six target species across 10 key sites resulting in three of these sites being prioritised for targeted management.
- **In your area**, Te Paparahi was identified as a priority site to manage for the threatened plant *Carex forsteri*.
- We completed the first year of the Te Paparahi lizard and frog survey with full support and involvement from Ngāti Rehua Ngāti Wai ki Aotea and Tū Mai Taonga to ensure wāhi tapu sites were not damaged. While total numbers of lizards were low, we recorded a number of different lizard species as well as Hochstetter's Frog.

#### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

#### Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauturu-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

#### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- **In your area**, we established seabird monitoring for the first time on the Broken and Grey Islands with the collaboration and support of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea and Tū Mai Taonga, showing great potential for seabird population recovery on these islands.

- We completed tākoketai / black petrel monitoring in Glenfern and Medlands for the breeding season and a seabird detector dog survey in Glenfern, Medlands and Windy Hill into black and Cook's petrels. The detector dog identified a substantial number of new burrows of both petrel species in Glenfern and black petrel burrows in Medlands, which will all be monitored from now on to assess population dynamics and trends in the future.
- We also explored the feasibility of tītī /Cook's petrel monitoring on Hirakimata / Mount Hobson to evaluate possible population recovery after the new rat trapping lines were established by DOC for the protection of the local black petrel colony. Insights will come from repeated surveys and regular monitoring.
- We continued with population monitoring of tākoketai /black petrel on Te Hauturu-o-toi / Little Barrier Island. This year, we found higher nest occupancy and breeding success than previous surveys.



### **Plant pathogens**

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### **Kauri dieback infrastructure**

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.
- **In your area**, track upgrades to protect kauri have been identified and planned at Glenfern Regional Park.

### **Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance**

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are

aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

### **Freshwater pest control**

- We collected eDNA samples in Aotea streams to check for pest fish, with initial results being clear.



### **Islands**

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites and around another 30 specifically on Aotea / Great Barrier Island.
- Across Aotea, 196 sites are currently active and controlled for low incidence pest plants. We monitored 58 sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and there are 12 sites where eradication has been confirmed. We grid searched a total of 235ha of potential habitat for climbing asparagus across two active infestations, with 23 seedlings and one mature plant found, enabling early intervention to control the species. Motairehe Ltd have carried out grid searching for kahili ginger, bushy asparagus and moth plant within the Motairehe Weed Control Area with minimal sites found.

### **Site-led weed control**

- We continued to remove invasive pest plants from threatened ecosystems in areas including Motu Taiko / Broken Islands, Motairehe, Whangapaoua, Awana, Claris-Kaitoke and Medlands. This included 172ha of wilding pine control, which was controlled at 12 priority sites.
- We also supported Windy Hill Trust to continue controlling pest plants within the Windy Hill Sanctuary. We've reduced pest plant abundance in significant ecological areas, making them more manageable with ongoing follow-up.
- We controlled species like Sydney golden wattle to low levels at some sites, including Claris. We also managed casuarina and pampas around wetland margins in the Whangapaoua Biodiversity Focus Area.

### **Pest animal control**

- Pest animal control on Aotea aims to reduce animal pests to levels that will ensure the long-term protection of native species and ecosystems. We achieve this through improving responsible cat ownership and controlling rabbits, rats and unowned cats.
- We carried out feral cat control over 10,000ha, capturing 60 feral cats.
- We carried out rabbit control over 800ha. Spotlight counts along our four transects show that rabbit numbers are still low.
- We maintained seven of the eight Grey Group Islands as ship rat-free. Trapping on Motu Taiko has kept rat levels low.
- We continued supporting the Windy Hill Sanctuary Biodiversity Focus area through a funding agreement, which allowed the trust to control animal and pest plant numbers to low levels.
- Auckland Council contractors are familiarising Tū Mai Taonga staff with the location of rodent control stations on the Grey Group Islands and Motu Taiko and supporting them with their mahi on the cat eradication programme.

### Pest ant eradication

- We completed monitoring of managed sites for Argentine and Darwin's ants. We found small, contained populations of ants at several sites in Claris, Medlands and Tryphena. An Argentine ant detector dog surveyed 190 hectares without finding any new Argentine or Darwin's ants.

### Other islands projects

- We continued our work across the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. This included:
  - Pest plant surveillance and control on Waiheke, Rakino, and The Noises.
  - Focusing stoat eradication efforts on the last remaining animals on Waiheke, while rat eradication trials continued with local partners.
  - Conducting Argentine ant surveillance and control on Kawau Island, aiming for eradication, and planning operations for the removal of browsing pests (wallabies and possums).



### Marine and pathways

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

#### Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

#### Marine biosecurity

- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands.
- **In your area**, an Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by MPI but delivered by NETR-funded staff, included suction dredging, an Aotea Caulerpa Response Team and the Aotea Perimeter Management programme which includes suction dredging in Port Fitzroy. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke.
- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- **In your area**, we inspected hulls at Aotea moorings (92 inspections) and issued five Notices of Direction, which have all been complied with.



- We undertook advocacy and education throughout the region via biosecurity champions, collateral and stakeholder engagement. Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.
- **In your area**, we supported Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust to secure additional funding from the Māori Outcomes Fund for caulerpa kaitiaki ambassadors and for coordination of boaties around the Controlled Area Notice (CAN). Water-based caulerpa ambassadors covered 131 days, approaching 185 vessels anchored in the no-anchor area of the CAN, and 253 vessels in total. Land-based kaitiaki ambassadors covered 277 shifts over 131 days, split across four wharves, and approached a total of 2616 wharf visitors to provide advice and education to people that were unaware of the Aotea CAN.
- We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.



2023/2024

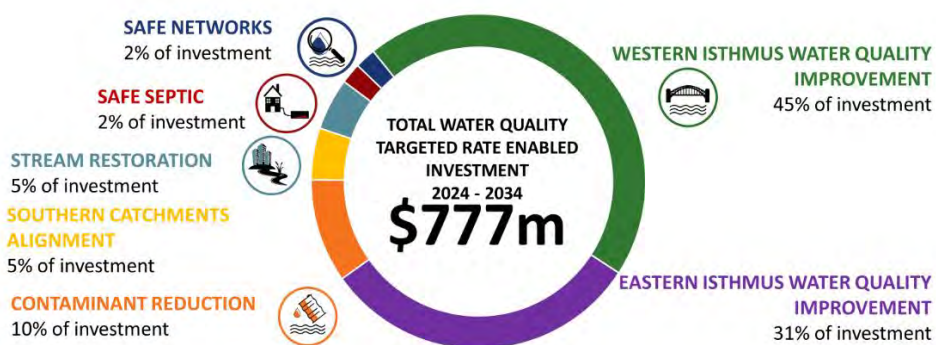


Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Wairau Outlet

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations progressing to public and private drainage investigations.

### Takapuna Beach

Post resolution sampling at the stormwater outlets discharging to Takapuna Beach is underway as well as network screening of key locations to find and resolve any residual wastewater contamination issues.

### Castor Bay

Post resolution sampling at the stormwater outlets discharging to Castor Bay to confirm that public and private investigations were successful.

### Narrow Neck

Water quality sampling from stormwater outlets is planned for the coming year to determine if there are any contamination issues at discharge points to Narrow Neck Beach



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

Two onsite wastewater systems in Devonport-Takapuna were serviced. Both were compliant.



## Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

## 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers



employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Anzac St Precinct SW Extension, Flood Mitigation and Environ Improvement**

This project will install new stormwater infrastructure along Kowahi Street, Killarney Street, Lomond Street, Lake Pupuke Drive, Greydene Place and Patuone Reserve to allow for future growth, resolve flooding, and improve the water quality to Upper Shoal Bay estuary by installing water quality treatment in Patuone Reserve. The project has completed detailed design and will be made shelf-ready by June 2024, after which it will be programmed for construction in line with available budget.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 417 of these were in Devonport-Takapuna with a 71 per cent pass rate (meaning 71 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Wairau Catchment Water Quality Improvements**

We have identified opportunities to install a sequence of gross pollutant traps across the Wairau Valley catchment to maximise the capture of contaminants. These locations are located at the bottom of Wairau Valley catchment and have been proposed to capture the additional contaminant loads coming off Milford Town Centre. The project is undergoing options assessment currently to determine the best sites for treatment to be installed which delivers the most cost-effective benefits. Once completed, the project will commence design of these sites.

### **Stanley Bay Reserve Stormwater Outlet Renewal**

The works will reduce seawater flooding and reduce odour from the open channel by improving the water flow in the existing network. The detailed design has been approved and the project is awaiting resource consent. Tender documents are being reviewed and finalised. This project will be made shelf-ready and programmed for construction in line with budget availability.

### **Becroft Drive Culvert Renewal**

The Becroft drive upgrade will install 380m of new stormwater network and upgrade the existing culvert to reduce flooding and erosion issues, which are causing poor water quality. This project is being divided into stages due to its complexity. Stage 1 will be focused on relining of existing critical pipes and addressing the erosion issues at the inlet and outlet. The priority is to restore structural integrity of the existing pipe.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## **Natural environment projects**



### **Enhanced support for community groups**

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### **Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives**

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### **In your area:**

- Restoring Takarunga Hauraki Charitable Trust was allocated \$23,040 for a coordinator and to assist with strategic planning costs, along with \$4000 for pest control tools, and \$500 worth of biodiversity advocacy and outreach support, complemented by local board funding.
- The Pupuke Birdsong Project was allocated \$18,584 for an ecological advisor to support the community to continue implementing the Pest Free 2050 goal in backyards, as well as support for an Asian Community Liaison. They were also allocated \$4000 for pest control tools, complemented by local board funding, and \$500 towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy.

#### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.

- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- Eight community groups from across the region were provided with group advisory coaching this past year strengthening their leadership and organisational capabilities to enable them to be more effective and grow their conservation activities, including Takarunga Hauraki, who took up the opportunity to have additional coaching after being involved last year.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year,

Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.

- **In your area**, 13 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- One school **in your area** grew and planted trees on sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

### Parks Connect to Nature

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports three schools **in your area** including Sunnynook Primary, Lyford Bush Age School, Northcroft Reserve and Carmel College, Quarry Lake Reserve involving 95 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



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occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### **Marine ecology**

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### **Kauri Dieback Infrastructure**

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

### **Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance**

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- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Local parks ecological restoration**

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 60 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.
- **In your area** pest plant and animal control were undertaken at Sylvan Park and Kitchener Park.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area** we controlled low incidence pest plants at one active site and monitored two sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
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### **Freshwater pest control**

- We collected eDNA samples at Lake Pupuke and Quarry Lake as part of freshwater gold clam surveillance.

### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and three cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area** trade inspectors visited one pet store and six nurseries.



### **Islands**

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

### **Islands projects**

- We continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



### **Marine and pathways**

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### **Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention**

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.

- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

### **Marine biosecurity**

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- **In your area** we issued four abatement notices at Bayswater Marina.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by MPI, included suction dredging at Aotea and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino.
- Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.
- **In your area**, champions carried out engagement work at Bayswater Marina and Takapuna Beach boat ramp.
- We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.



2023/2024

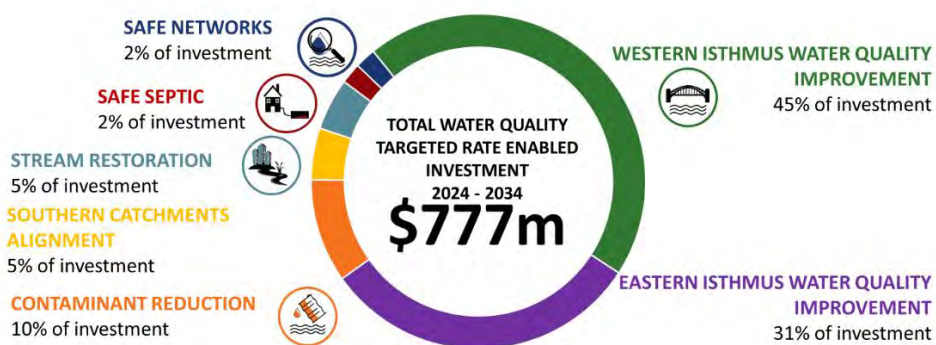


Franklin Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown





# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Orere Point

To confirm the sources of faecal contamination in this rural catchment, water quality sampling is underway as well as Safe Septic compliance inspections of onsite wastewater system performance. Once complete, a review will be completed to decide if further investigation is required.

### Sunkist Bay

Water quality sampling is underway at stormwater outlets that discharge to the beach at Sunkist Bay.

### Waitangi Falls

Water quality sampling of Waitangi stream and all its tributaries is underway to characterize contamination sources impacting water quality at Waitangi Falls.

### Glenbrook Beach

Water quality sampling has been completed at Glenbrook Beach. No contamination issues were identified. Safeswim will continue to sample in the receiving environment to validate the Safeswim model.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

2308 onsite wastewater systems in Franklin were serviced. Of these, 1700 were compliant, 574 had minor issues, and 34 had critical failures.



## Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

## Water Quality Fish Passage Improvement - Private structures

This was the first year of this programme, which was started in recognition of the length of waterways and on private property. The programme has completed the remediation of one barrier to fish passage to date, which has unlocked 3.7km of upstream habitat to now be accessed by native fish species in the Whangapouri Creek catchment.

## **2 in a Ute**

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 34 ponds, 367 raingardens and five disposal fields in the Franklin area.

## **Regional Waterways Protection Fund**

The Regional Waterway Protection Fund offers 50/50 co-funding for waterway protection fencing and planting of private rural land. This funding is open to property owners across Franklin, Papakura, Aotea (Great Barrier Island), and Rodney. Of the 25 applications, 17 property owners accepted funding to a value of \$335,224.14, to be paid on completion of the projects. The land owners have up to 30 months to deliver the projects. Of this money, \$231,463.69 was awarded to fourteen landowners across Franklin. These projects will deliver 5.5km of fencing, protect 20+ha of riparian area including 1.6ha of wetland, 6.3km of waterways and plant approximately 54,000 plants in the protected riparian areas. The landowners have been given two years to complete the work.

Auditing of landowner projects from previous rounds of funding continues with the fundees being supported by the RWPF funding team and land advisors.

Keeping stock out of waterways by fencing instantly improves water quality, and planting riparian margins and wetlands is transforming these areas to deliver biodiversity, water quality and habitat improvements.



## **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

## **Fonterra & Auckland Council Wetland Restoration Project**

Fonterra and Auckland Council Wetland Restoration Project is a co-funded program between Auckland Council and Fonterra to revert land back to wetland, by fencing and planting natives in naturally wet areas. The purpose of the fund is to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering our waterways from Fonterra farmers in the Manukau Harbour and Wairoa River catchments. Round one of funding will result in 3.8 km of fencing and 63,225 native plants being established. A second round of funding will be finalised in the 2024/2025 financial year, which is estimated to include an additional 3.5 km of fencing and 71,500 native plants to be completed. Overall, this program will provide a modelled reduction of over 3,000 kg of nitrogen per year to the Manukau Harbour and Wairoa River. Once the projects are complete, accurate modelled numbers will be available.

## **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a

total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 1177 of these were in Franklin with an 83 per cent pass rate (meaning 83 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Outfalls - Cockle Bay, Māngere Inlet, Slippery Creek and Whangapouri Creek**

Upgrades will be made to a collection of inlets and outlets that currently restrict flows or cause blockages during flood events. The upgrades will reduce the stormwater velocity and reduce erosion. The programme will progress when design of all outfalls has been completed so the construction can be packaged.

### **Lions Stormwater Pond Improvements**

The Pond Renewal programme renews stormwater ponds around the region to extend the life of the asset and restore water quality treatment functionality. This project is to undertake works to improve pond performance and reduce issues associated with sediment accumulation, erosion, bad odour and seawater inundation. A Project Manager has now be assigned, allowing design to continue.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. A catchment scale Water Quality Options Assessment for Papakura Stream will be initiated over 2024/2025. This assessment aims to identify possible locations for treatment device retrofits for the wider catchment. A broad spectrum of devices will be considered including, wetlands, bioinfiltration devices, filtration and Gross Pollutant Traps.

### **Paerata Road Culvert Upgrade**

Paerata Road culvert upgrade project started construction in April 2024 and is expected to continue until October 2025. Construction was originally forecast to commence in January 2024 but was postponed following tendering to amend the design to reduce overall construction costs. The project will reduce flood risk to the local community, enable population growth, and reduce contamination of waterways with stormwater contaminants to improve water quality.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Aawhitu Peninsula Landcare were provided \$200,000 to continue possum control for two years across the peninsula (FY23 and FY24). They received \$23,040 grant to support the retention of their pest plant community coordinator to continue their work against weeds in their area, a \$27,110 grant towards pest animal control, and received \$10,700 for pest control and planting tools and resources.
- Pou Tangata Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki Community Development Trust was allocated a \$38,500 grant towards project manager, community engagement manager and administration roles, and for coordination costs to support wananga/training of rangatahi to combine mātauranga Māori traditional environmental methodologies with western ecological best practice. They also received grants totaling \$40,000 towards project management and kaimahi costs for the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Motu Kaitiakitanga project.
- Te Ara Hīkoi Trust received a \$23,040 grant towards the Western and Eastern Pest Coordinators, which support their work in Biodiversity Focus Areas. They also received \$42,255 which covered control tools and resources for weed control at cultural sites, pest control resources for projects and community days and tools and resources for pest animal control including traps, lures, bait and tree rings to protect bat roosts. A further \$3552 of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support was provided to the group alongside \$570 of pest control tools.
- EcoQuest Centre for Indigeneity, Ecology and Creativity was awarded \$30,000, in addition to Local Board funding, to coordinate surveys under the Te rapu nga pekapeka o Franklin: Finding Franklin Bats initiative, in conjunction with Auckland Council, Te Ara Hīkoi (Predator Free Franklin), landowners and iwi (Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua). They were also allocated \$13,955 towards equipment and other costs for bat monitoring.
- CREST, on the Southern Manukau received \$11,000 of tools and resources, as an instalment of a multi-year grant, and \$350 of funding towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy, in addition to Local Board funding.
- Te Korowai o Papatuaanuku received \$4000 towards tools and resources for weed control and planting, including herbicide, planting stakes, spades and gloves.

- Motukaraka Restoration received \$1816 of tools and resources. Predator Free Franklin received \$570 of pest control tools.
- Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū received a small number of tools and resources funding for weed control.
- Pou Tangata Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki Community Development Trust received tools and resources funding for GPS units.
- The Auckland NZ Dotterel Minders Network received a small amount of funding towards signage.
- We also funded \$3486 worth of thermal cameras, batteries and chargers for multiple community groups across Franklin.

#### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

#### **Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land**

- We engage, fund and support communities, landowners and mana whenua to undertake actions to protect and restore priority sites for regionally threatened species and ecosystems where these occur on private land.

#### **In your area:**

- In partnership with Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū, we fenced and planted a coastal buffer zone adjacent to an area of high value estuarine ecosystems on iwi-owned land at Rangiriri, Aawhitu. The fence will exclude livestock and feral deer, preventing them from damaging the ecological and cultural values of the site.
- Aawhitu Peninsula Landcare were awarded \$7000 for small mammal pest control at Rangiriri to protect threatened shell barrier ecosystem and wading birds.
- Arylies Garden & Wetlands Charitable Trust were also awarded \$4470 in grant funding for native revegetation to support the ecological values of their wetlands.
- Te Ara Hiko Trust were awarded \$2000 for pest animal control at long-tailed bat roosting sites across Franklin to help protect this threatened species.

#### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. Two coordinator networking events led by council were held in south and attended by 17 group leaders at each event representing 12 and 13 groups respectively.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

#### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**



- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.
- We created a video on 'Finding Franklin Bats,' which featured Whakaupoko Landcare, Naati Te Ata Waiohū, EcoQuest Centre for Indigeneity, Ecology and Creativity and council staff. It shows the team tracking and catching these endangered taonga and attaching small radio transmitters that help the team track individual bats, enabling a greater understanding of the populations in Franklin's rural landscape so they can be better protected to thrive. The video was shared via council's YouTube channel, and an associated online story was published on The Spinoff titled 'We're going on a bat hunt' (Dec 2023).
- We also completed a video titled 'Te Korowai o Papatūānuku: A journey to regenerate the land'. The video highlights the Āwhitu Peninsula project, One Billion Trees for Ministry for Primary Industries and council funded community conservation initiative working in partnership with Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū and Aawhitu Landcare.
- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.

### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.
- **In your area**, we developed an ecological enhancement plan for the Waiuku Golf Club and Clarks Beach Golf Clubs. They join the Windross Farm Golf Course, for which a plan was developed last year.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action. 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.

- This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 31 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- 42 schools **in your area** grew and planted trees across multiple sites including 30 sites in Franklin. Aawhitu School grew cabbage trees and sedges for riparian planting alongside a local creek, planting 930 plants over a short time. Glenbrook School did a planting day in a gully, where students could see the growth over three years of planting already done and planted 868 new trees.

### Parks Connect to Nature

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports five schools **in your area** including Valley School (Rooseville Reserve), Pukekohe Christian School (Rooseville Reserve), Tamaoho School (Princes St Reserve), Orere Point School (Orere Point Beach Reserve) and Waiuku School (Awaroa Reserve) involving 255 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and

species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction. We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.

### Ecosystem and species survey

- We completed annual bird monitoring in the Kōkako Management Area of the Hūnua Ranges and conducted bat surveys across Franklin, capturing 56 long-tailed bats and radio-tracking seven. This helped us identify roosting sites and study their habitat use.



### Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauturu-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- **In your area**, we established a new collaboration with the South Auckland branch of BirdsNZ to gather more data on colonies and populations.



### Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of **tracks** in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.
- **In your area** we completed track upgrades at Waharau Regional Park. We also installed a new bike hygiene station at the Hūnua Traverse which has seen good compliance.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- **In your area** Biosecurity Champions were stationed at the Bike Skills station along the Hūnua Traverse bike trail. Two champions, one of which was from iwi local to

Hūnua, engaged with visitors to inform and raise awareness about kauri protection and the cultural value of kauri in an effort to increase compliance at these hygiene stations.

- We supported Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua to help ensure kauri safe work procedures were followed for pest control work being carried out on their land. Boot cleaning stations and other kauri hygiene equipment was purchased to support this mahi. We also supported Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua to be kaitiaki of kauri on the Aawhitu Peninsula supported by NETR and Tiakina Kauri. Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua conducted health surveys and phosphite treatment of over 100 kauri on the Aawhitu Peninsula, and have plans to continue treating up to 1000 kauri in total.
- We strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.

### **Kauri dieback surveillance and research**

- We delivered a large-scale survey to confirm there is no kauri dieback disease in the Hūnua Ranges Regional Park and some adjacent properties. This survey comprised over 500 sampled trees, soil and waterways testing, and cultural health monitoring. This work was a jointly run operation between Auckland Council, DOC and ngā iwi mana whenua o Te Ngāherehere o Kohukohunui (Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Whanaunga, and Ngāti Tamaterā) and represents the new 'gold standard' for kauri surveys nationally.
- For what we believe is the first time at such a scale, we also repatriated soils used in this survey back to the forest. This is an important part of tikanga as soil is sacred, but typically is not done because of concerns over legality and risk. We worked through these risks and ensured that only samples negative for kauri dieback disease and sterilised for additional safety were returned to the forest.

### **Myrtle ora - maintaining and increasing the mauri of myrtles in Tāmaki Makaurau**

- We are developing monitoring tools for myrtle species, to assist mana whenua and community groups. We have also earmarked funding for Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua kaitiaki to train kaitiaki in monitoring and spraying the native myrtle species rohutu, plant rohutu seedlings on Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua whenua and test chemicals versus non-chemical fungicides at several sites.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Targeted management for threatened species and ecosystems**

- We have identified priority sites with threatened species or ecosystems across Tāmaki Makaurau and work in a targeted way to protect and enhance the specific biodiversity values at each of these important sites.
- **In your area** we carried out or supported the following work:
  - Control of pest plants at Whakatiwai Regional Park to support critically endangered stonefield ecosystem.
  - Removal of mangroves from the coastal marine area near Rangiriri to protect threatened shellbarrier ecosystem and habitat for threatened wading birds.
  - In partnership with Healthy Waters, we part-funded livestock exclusion fencing and native revegetation activities to protect and support the ecological values of Whatihua Lake.

### **Local parks ecological restoration**

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 60 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.
- **In your area**, pest animal and plant control has been carried out at Karioitahi Reserve.

### **Regional parks integrated site management**

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year.

### **We delivered over \$850,000 of the following pest plant and/or animal control in your area:**

- **Hūnua Ranges Regional Park:** rabbits, mustelids, rats, pigs (70 pigs removed from the park this year); pest plants.
- **Waharau:** Rabbits, possums, mustelids, rats, pest plants
- **Whakatiwai:** Rabbits, pest plants, Kōkako Management Area - mustelids, rats, possums, unowned cats
- **Waitawa Regional Park:** Rabbits, pest plants
- **Tāpapakanga Regional Park:** Pest plants
- **Duder Regional Park:** Rabbits, mustelids, pest plants
- **Omana Regional Park:** Rabbits, pest plants
- **Aawhitu Regional Park:** Mustelids, rats, possums. rabbits, pest plants.

### **Project Hūnua**

- A kōkako was sighted in the Hūnua Falls/Cossey Dam area in early 2024 and is the first confirmed sighting so far west of the Kōkako Management Area (KMA). The KMA also celebrated its 30 year anniversary with a celebration of past and present volunteers.

### **Pest plant control on land buffering parks**

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks.
- **In your area** we controlled climbing asparagus and periwinkle on private properties around Waitawa Regional Park. We also carried out surveillance and control of climbing and bushy asparagus across 100ha of the buffer around Aawhitu Regional Park. Aawhitu Peninsula Landcare are engaging with and supporting landowners regarding their pest plant control obligations.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.



- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at 13 active sites and monitored five sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### **Ground based possum control**

- We control possums across many high priority ecosystems. During the last year, we carried out ground-based possum control across 22,000 ha of rural land in Auckland, to complement the good work being undertaken in many areas by the community.
- **In your area**, this included contractor delivered possum control in Kawakawa Bay (5000ha). Aawhiti Peninsula Landcare were also funded to control possums across the Aawhiti Peninsula (22,000ha) and the community groups such as Te Ara Hiko Trust are supporting possum control in other parts of Franklin.

### **Regional deer and goat control**

- We continued large-scale aerial survey works for feral deer and goats as an efficient and effective tool for detecting these pests at a landscape level. Region wide, we detected a total of 116 feral deer in the region using a combination of ground, thermal drone, and aerial surveillance, and removed 55 deer overall, including 41 **in your area**.
- **In Franklin**, we conducted aerial surveillance for deer and goats within the Hūnua Ranges Regional Park and the surrounding buffer, in over 2000ha area in Whitford and in 3000ha in Paparata. We developed the Hūnua Deer Management Strategy to bring feral deer back to zero density within the park and work is underway to remove all animals detected in the private property buffer. We also worked with experienced contractors to respond to a deer incursion in the Hūnua Ranges, using camera surveillance and ground searches.
- We removed 51 feral goats from Kawakawa Bay and detected no goats in the Hūnua Ranges Regional Park during aerial surveillance.

### **Regional wallaby exclusion**

- We continued to maintain incursion response systems to ensure any wallabies that are reported are prevented from establishing in the region, with continuing work on proactive surveillance of 'high risk areas'. The main wallaby threats are from natural spread or deliberate, human-mediated movement from other regions.
- **In your area**, we responded to one suspected sighting of a wallaby at Cossey Dam in the Hūnua Ranges and no wallaby presence was detected.

### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations began and 43 cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

## Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited 23 nurseries and 1 pet store.



## Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

## Islands projects

- We continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



## Marine and pathways

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

## Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

## Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- **In your area**, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Pine Harbour Marina (178 inspections).
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by Ministry for Primary Industries, included suction dredging at Aotea and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino.
- Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These

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champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.

- **In your area**, these champions carried out engagement work at Pine Harbour Marina, Kawakawa Bay and Maraetai.
  - We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.
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2023/2024

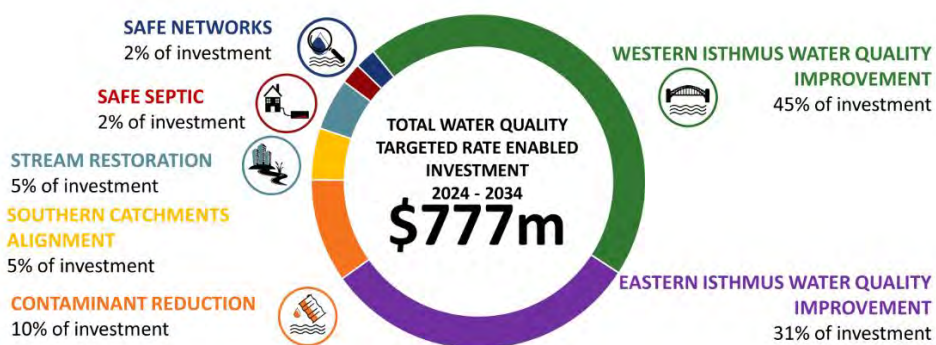


Henderson-Massey Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Henderson Creek, Taipari Strand and Chapman Strand

Water quality sampling is taking place from outlets, streams and stormwater manholes in sub-catchments across Henderson Creek, Taipari Strand and Chapman Strand to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations progressing to public and private drainage investigations.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

### Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

Ten onsite wastewater systems in Henderson-Massey were serviced. Of these, nine were compliant and one had minor issues.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 53 ponds in the Henderson area.

### Waitaro Stream, Corban Reserve Culvert Upgrade

Corban Reserve stormwater upgrade project was completed in February 2024. We installed a new stormwater pipeline from Imperial Place to Border Road, Esplanade Reserve in Henderson to prevent flooding, improve water quality in Opanuku Stream, improve the environment, and improve health and safety for pipeline maintenance



workers by decommissioning a dangerous stormwater pipe under a landfill. Stage two is in planning and is forecast to commence in January 2026.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

#### **Epping wetland, Henderson water quality improvement retrofits**

The Henderson Industrial/Commercial Centre, on Central Park Drive, is a major source of contaminants entering into Epping Wetland and Henderson Creek, causing poor water quality. Opportunities have been identified to provide water quality treatment by retrofitting two existing assets with gross pollutant traps, which will capture contaminants before entering the receiving environment. This is a new project and is in early design.

#### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 1584 of these were in Henderson-Massey with a 70 per cent pass rate (meaning 70 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

#### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

#### **Taipari Strand Closed Landfill Stormwater Outfalls Remedial Works**

This project seeks to minimise the release of leachate from the closed landfill into the coastal marine area. It is currently in detailed design and expected to be made shelf-ready by March 2025. Construction will be programmed when the project has been made shelf-ready.

#### **Mihini Rd Wetland Pond Renewal and Upgrade**

This project will renew and expand the wetland and install gross-pollutant traps to replace the existing forebay's function. The forebay is intended to provide initial settling of sediments before water enters the wetland to reduce the need for large scale maintenance of the wetland area. However, Mihini Wetland's forebay is undersized and does not perform its intended function. The project has experienced delays due a need to focus on storm recovery activities throughout much of the financial year.

#### **Waimoko Stream Gross Pollutant Traps**

This project has resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme, through which opportunities have been identified to install multiple gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to improve stormwater

quality before discharging into Waimoko Stream. This project will improve stream ecological health, reduce blockage risk to improve frequent flooding risk and improve water quality. Concept sketches have been completed and we have conducted high-level hydraulic checks on existing networks to confirm the viability of a solution. This work will inform the business case, after which design will commence.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. An options assessment for a water quality device has been carried out at The Concourse which evaluated a broad spectrum of water quality treatment devices, specifically underground Gross Pollutant Traps for its suitability in being retrofitted to the existing stormwater pipe servicing approximately 7ha of catchment area. This area is largely characterised by heavy industrial activity and generally considered to generate high contaminant loads. A preferred option has been selected and designed for and we are in the process of pricing up the cost of delivery. The next steps will be to commence construction once the design is finalised.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## **Natural environment projects**



### **Enhanced support for community groups**

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### **Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives**

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

### **In your area:**

- The Clover Drive project received \$2112 of pest control tools and resources for rat control.

- Pest Free Te Atatū received \$1480 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Community groups in your area received \$2000 worth of plants for the winter 2024 planting season.

Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. In the north-west a 'Rewild the West' hui was held with 8 attendees representing 5 groups.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.
- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.
- Four bespoke cultural inductions for community conservation groups run by Ngāti Manuhiri and Te Kawerau ā Maki were delivered to 48 attendees. This included two 'Stage 1' or introductory cultural inductions developed and delivered by each iwi. There were 33 attendees at the two Te Kawerau ā Maki cultural inductions and 15 at the Ngāti Manuhiri cultural inductions. Ngāti Manuhiri also provided a free

community cultural introduction at a local event hosted by Restore Rodney East that had over 50 attendees.

### Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 20 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- One school **in your area** grew and planted trees on sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

### Parks Connect to Nature

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports two schools **in your area** including Royal Road School (Morie Park) and Lincoln Heights School (Zita Maria Park) involving 100 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



## Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



## Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



## Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at three active sites and monitored three sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is



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also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.

- **In your area**, we released two separate batches of over 100 moth plant beetles at the Waitākere Refuse with a representative from Te Kawerau ā Maki iwi present at the second release.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

#### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and at priority threatened species locations across the region, and 78 cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

#### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited four pet stores and nine nurseries.

2023/2024



Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Waiake Bay, Little Manly and Browns Bay

Water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Waiake Bay, Little Manly and Browns Bay are currently underway.

### Red Beach

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments in Red Beach to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations progressing to public and private drainage investigations.

### Murrays Bay

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater outlets and streams that discharge to Murrays Bay to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues.

### Orewa, Long Bay and Stanmore Bay

Water quality sampling from stormwater outlets is planned for the coming year to determine if there are any contamination issues at discharge points to Orewa, Long Bay and Stanmore Bay.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

265 onsite wastewater systems in Hibiscus and Bays were serviced. Of these, 243 were compliant, 20 had minor issues, and two had critical failures.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers

employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 37 ponds, 45 raingardens and two disposal fields in the Hibiscus and Bays area.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 1820 of these were in Hibiscus and Bays with a 77 per cent pass rate (meaning 77 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Roberta Pond Renewal**

The Pond Renewal programme renews stormwater ponds around the region to extend the life of the asset and restore water quality treatment functionality. The project will improve water quality, protect a native species and achieve other environmental outcomes. It is currently in preliminary design.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.



# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Restore Hibiscus & Bays was awarded \$60,000 towards restoration advisors and communications programmes to continue their strong stakeholder engagement and landscape scale pest control, \$3746 worth of pest control tools and resources, and \$600 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy collateral.
- Pest Free Hibiscus Coast (Forest and Bird) were allocated a \$23,040 grant to support the roll out of a youth engagement scheme, support Te Ao Māori and predator control with mana whenua, target community engagement for the backyard trapping network, and pest animal monitoring set up. They were provided a further \$25,920 towards a project manager role, \$19,210 for pest control work and workshops for rangatahi, \$6177 worth of pest control tools and resources to complement local board funding, and \$1300 towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy activities.
- Hihi Conservation Charitable Trust received \$27,500 grant towards hihi recovery work, including a breeding season contractor.
- Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust were awarded \$2000, in addition to Local Board funding, to support the delivery of cultural inductions.
- Manly Dotterel Minders received \$670 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land



- We engage, fund and support communities, landowners and mana whenua to undertake actions to protect and restore priority sites for regionally threatened species and ecosystems where these occur on private land.  
**In your area**, Pest Free Hibiscus Coast received \$26,806.73 for the installation and operation of a predator control and monitoring network within endangered gumland and wetland ecosystems on privately-owned properties around Scott Road and Wade River Road, Whangaparaoa.
- Restore Hibiscus and Bays received \$33,525 for environmental pest plant control to restore critically endangered gumland and forest ecosystems across various privately-owned properties along Hibiscus Coast Highway, Orewa.

### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- Seven representatives from six groups community groups across the region were provided with individual mentoring this past year strengthening their leadership and organisational capabilities to lift the quality and effectiveness of the management of their groups and their conservation activities, including Restore Hibiscus and Bays.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.
- **In your area**, ecological enhancement plans have been developed for the Gulf Harbour Country Club, Pupuke Golf Club and Whangaparaoa Golf Club.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical

planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- Natural Environment Targeted Rate helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.  
**In your area**, 21 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Three schools **in your area** grew and planted trees on sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

### **Parks Connect with Nature**

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports four schools **in your area** including Orewa College (Orewa Estuary), Northcross Int (Northcross Reserve), Red Beach School (Karaka Cove) and Whangaparoa College (Stanmore Bay Park) involving 180 students.



### **Enabling tools**

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### **Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau**

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool

to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### **Biodiversity Focus Areas**

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

#### **Threatened species prioritisation**

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.

#### **Ecosystem Monitoring**

- We are developing ways to monitor managed sites to see how management of pressures is improving the health of ecosystems. These monitoring methods are tailored to each site based on its size and the types of ecosystems present.  
**In your area**, we conducted annual monitoring of vegetation, geckos, skinks, and birds at Shakespear Open Sanctuary. This data helps us detect potential pest animal incursions and evaluate the long-term impact of our management strategies on forest ecosystem health within the sanctuary



### **Marine ecology**

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

#### **Marine habitat protection**

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauturu-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

#### **Seabird protection**

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.



### **Plant pathogens**

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

#### **Kauri dieback infrastructure**

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.  
**In your area**, we installed hygiene stations at Alice Eaves Reserve.

### **Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance**

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field. We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Local parks ecological restoration**

- Natural Environment Targeted Rate funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 60 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.
- **In your area**, work to control unowned cats has been carried out at Dacre Historic and Esplanade Reserve and pest plant control was undertaken at Torbay Heights and Waiwera Hill Scenic Reserve.

### **Regional parks integrated site management**

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year.
- **In your area** we controlled Mustelids, rats, pest plants within Shakespear Open Sanctuary.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at six active sites and monitored three sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.

- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### **Responsible Pet Ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and at priority threatened species locations across the region, and 106 cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited three pet stores and 10 plant nurseries.



### **Islands**

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

### **Islands projects**

- We continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



### **Marine and pathways**

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### **Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention**

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

### **Marine biosecurity**

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.



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**In your area**, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Gulf Harbour Marina (261 inspections) and issues two abatement notices.

- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by MPI, included suction dredging at Aotea and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino.
- Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.

**In your area**, these champions carried out engagement work at Gulf Harbour Marina.

- We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.
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2023/2024



Howick Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Big Bucklands Beach

Public and private drainage inspections have been completed. A majority of the public and private drainage issues identified during the investigation have been resolved this year and post resolution sampling is underway to confirm the works were successful.

### Howick

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater outlets and streams that discharge to Howick Beach to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues.

### East Tāmaki

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater outlets and streams to isolate sub-catchments with recurrent industrial pollution discharges.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

108 onsite wastewater systems in Howick were serviced. Of these, 97 were compliant, six had minor issues, and five had critical failures.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme

maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 37 ponds and 328 raingardens in the Howick area.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

#### **Angelo Stream: Angelo Avenue Culvert Upgrade**

This project seeks to remediate stream bank erosion and upsize stormwater culverts that are restricting flow and causing sediment to be discharged to the receiving environment. It is being divided into three stages due to the size and complexity of the works. The upgrade of the 900mm diameter pipe will be Stage 1. This project has been declared as Urgent Works so this project is proceeding straight to preliminary design. Topographical surveys and geotechnical investigations are underway as part of the design phase.

#### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 1680 of these were in Howick with a 68 per cent pass rate (meaning 68 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

#### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

#### **Outfalls - Cockle Bay, Māngere Inlet, Slippery Creek and Whangapouri Creek**

Upgrades will be made to a collection of inlets and outlets that currently restrict flows or cause blockages during flood events. The upgrades will reduce the stormwater velocity and reduce erosion. The programme will progress when design of all outfalls has been completed so the construction can be packaged.

#### **Macleans Park Stream Protection**

This project seeks to remediate erosion occurring in the channel that is causing increased volume of sediment to enter the receiving environment. The erosion is likely due to upstream land use change and significant stormwater diversion from the nearby development. The project is currently in design.

#### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. A catchment scale Water Quality Options Assessment for Pakuranga Creek will be initiated over 2024/2025. This assessment aims to identify possible locations for treatment device retrofits for the wider catchment. A broad spectrum of devices will be



considered including, wetlands, bioinfiltration devices, filtration and Gross Pollutant Traps.

### **Gross Pollutant Traps with Eastern Busway Alliance**

Aging pipes are being replaced and upsized and water treatment devices installed as part of the Eastern Busway project. We are taking the opportunity to improve the stormwater network while this work is happening to minimise costs and prevent future disruption. Eastern Busway is required to treat stormwater runoffs from the new road before they discharge into the receiving environment as part of their consenting requirement. By working closely with the Eastern Busway Alliance, we can combine forces to install treatment devices that both satisfy their resource consent conditions and have the greatest benefit to the wider catchment.

### **Argo Drive 29 & 41 stormwater upgrade**

The project will increase the pipe network capacity to reduce flooding and provide stormwater treatment before final discharge into the marina. Physical works commenced in October 2024 and are forecast to be completed by July 2025.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## **Natural environment projects**



### **Enhanced support for community groups**

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### **Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives**

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### **In your area:**

- Pest Free Howick Ward received \$19,200 to support the Pest Free Howick Project Manager role, to oversee this transition and continue to expand their range of conservation projects.



- Flat Bush Community Coordination was allocated \$7000 towards coordinator costs.
- Pest Free Howick also received \$2168 worth of pest control tools and resources including rat traps, weed control tools and native plants for restoration, to complement local board funding, and \$695 towards outreach and advocacy.
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki received \$1000 worth of tools and resources for pest animal and weed control at Te Naupata / Musick Point, a site of cultural significance.
- The Eastern Mustelid Defence project received \$3156 worth of pest control tools and resources including traps and lures.
- We also provided \$3278 worth of resources for the Howick Schools Moth Plant Competition.

#### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

#### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- Eight community groups from across the region were provided with group advisory coaching this past year growing their group governance and leadership capabilities to enable them to be more effective and grow their conservation activities, including Pest Free Howick. Representatives from Pest Free Howick also took part in the individual mentoring programme focused on aimed at strengthening their personal leadership and organisational capabilities to lift the quality and effectiveness of the management of their group and activities.
- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. Two coordinator networking events led by council were held in south and attended by 17 group leaders at each event representing 12 and 13 groups respectively.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

#### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives

and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
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- **In your area**, 32 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- Thirty-four families from the Howick, Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Ōrākei local board areas collectively gathered over 120,000 moth plant seed pods and plants in their Local Board moth plant pod competition. The Kindergartens collaborated with neighbouring residents, landlords and schools to remove and destroy this pest plant.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

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Heights Junior College (Norwood Bush, Tane Forest), Pakuranga Baptist Kindy (Freemantle Esplanade), Wakaaranga Primary (Wakaaranga Creek Reserve), Howick Primary School (William Green Domain), Macleans Primary (Murvale Reserve), Elim Christon School (Cascade walkway No 3), Ormiston Primary School (Salford Park), Ormiston Senior College (Salford Park) and Edgewater College (Raewyn Place Reserve) involving 355 students.



### **Enabling tools**

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### **Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau**

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



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exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.

- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



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- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at five active sites and monitored two sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

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### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited four pet stores and six nurseries.



2023/2024



Kaipātiki Local Board

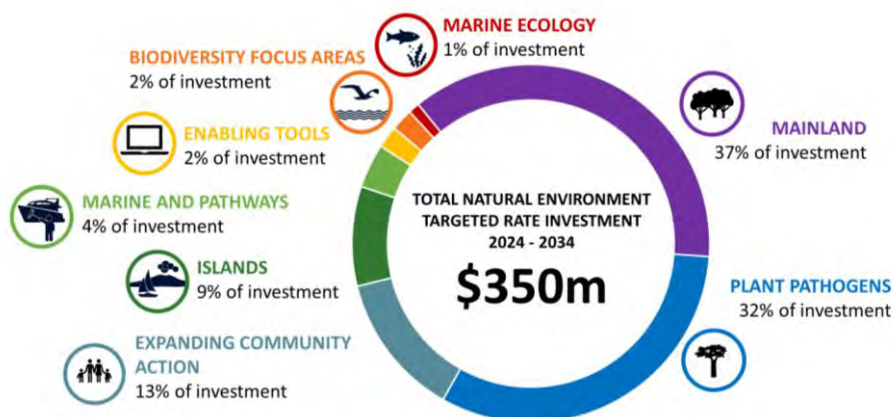
## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown





# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Beach Haven

Water quality sampling from stormwater outlets is planned for the coming year to determine if there are any contamination issues at discharge points at Beach Haven.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

Four onsite wastewater systems in Kaipātiki were serviced. All of these were compliant.



## Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

## 23 Gladys Ave, Glenfield - Outfall Stabilisation

This project will stabilise the outfall and stream banks, renew the piped network and restore the stream to minimise the volume of sediment flowing into the receiving environment. The project was accelerated due to the Auckland Anniversary storm events significantly damaging the area and was declared as an Emergency in June 2024. Construction began in August 2024 and is due to be completed in January 2025.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.

## Hillcrest Creek waterfall and stream channel erosion management

This project will stabilise the waterfall face and the stream channel above the waterfall to reduce the risk of significant erosion, stream bed destabilisation and increased sedimentation causing poor water quality. It is in early design phase.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Nutrients control plan in Chelsea ponds**

Phoslock treatment was applied to Chelsea Ponds in financial year 2022/2023 to control and reduce phosphorus levels in water bodies. Excess phosphorus often leads to eutrophication, which causes harmful algal blooms (HABs), poor water quality, and oxygen depletion. Healthy Waters is continuing to carry out ongoing pond inspections to monitor and assess the condition of the ponds.

### **Akoranga Stormwater Pond Renewal**

The Pond Renewal programme renews stormwater ponds around the region to extend the life of the asset and restore water quality treatment functionality. Akoranga Stormwater Pond Renewal Stage 1 project started in March 2024 and was completed in September 2024. It has renewed the upper section of the pond, the forebay and replaced a gross-pollutant trap (GPT) water treatment device that was severely damaged in the 2023 storm events. A second stage project is planned to renew the lower section of pond, which will require more complex works due to the mangroves in this section.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 542 of these were in Kaipātiki with a 77 per cent pass rate (meaning 77 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Wairau Catchment Water Quality Improvements**

We have identified opportunities to install a sequence of gross pollutant traps across the Wairau Valley catchment to maximise the capture of contaminants. These locations are located at the bottom of Wairau Valley catchment and have been proposed to capture the additional contaminant loads coming off Milford Town Centre. The project is undergoing options assessment currently to determine the best sites for treatment to be installed which delivers the most cost-effective benefits. Once completed, the project will commence design of these sites.

### **Downing Street water quality improvement**

This project has resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme through which opportunities to install water treatment devices have been identified. The lower Downing Street Reserve adjacent to Westfield Glenfield has been identified as a potential location to install treatment devices to improve water quality and increase the amenity value of the area. The project has now been assigned a project manager, having experienced delays due a need to focus on storm recovery activities throughout much of the financial year. A business case is being prepared to allow design to commence.

### **95D Hinemoa Street Stormwater Outfall Renewal**

This project will prevent further erosion to the stream banks and improve bank stability to improve water quality and reduce surface flooding to nearby properties. Physical works commenced in November 2024 and are forecast to be completed in March 2025.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## **Natural environment projects**



### **Enhanced support for community groups**

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### **Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives**

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

### **In your area:**

- Pest Free Kaipātiki was allocated \$34,560 to support a financial manager to ensure that the organisation's ecologists and restoration advisors were able to focus on ecological outcomes, community engagement and empowerment, \$34,150 for their Pest Plant Activation programme, \$15,360 for a Te Taiao activator to work with the wider community, \$6,100 for pest control tools, in addition to local board funding, and \$500 towards community engagement costs.

- The Kaipātiki Project received \$4000 worth of pest control tools and resources and \$500 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- Community groups in your area received \$2000 worth of plants for the winter 2024 planting season.
- We also funded \$3,486 worth of thermal cameras, batteries and chargers for multiple community groups across Kaipātiki.

Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### **Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land**

- We engage, fund and support communities, landowners and mana whenua to undertake actions to protect and restore priority sites for regionally threatened species and ecosystems where these occur on private land.
- **In your area**, Pest Free Kaipātiki was awarded \$47000 for the implementation of Year 3 of a project to enhance the biodiversity and resilience of threatened forest and wetland ecosystems at Soldiers Bay. This will extend existing community and landowner engagement, pest plant and animal survey and control work.

### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- Eight community groups from across the region were provided with group advisory coaching this past year growing their group governance and leadership capabilities to enable them to be more effective and grow their conservation activities, including Pest Free Kaipātiki, who took up the opportunity to have additional coaching after being involved last year.
- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives

and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 24 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Two schools **in your area** grew and planted trees on sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

### **Parks Connect to Nature**

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports three schools **in your area** including Westlake Girls (Smiths Bush), Marlborough Primary (Woodcote Scenic Reserve) and Northcote Intermediate (Te Ara Awataha Greenway) involving 80 students.

### **Enabling tools**





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We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

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### **Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau**

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### **Biodiversity Focus Areas**

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

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### **Threatened species prioritisation**

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.

### **Ecosystem Monitoring**

- We are developing ways to monitor managed sites to see how management of pressures is improving the health of ecosystems. These monitoring methods are tailored to each site based on its size and the types of ecosystems present.
- **In your area** we completed annual bird monitoring at Smiths Bush. The results will help us measure the long-term outcomes of council and community-led pest control on bird communities within the reserve.



### **Marine ecology**

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

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### **Seabird protection**

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.



### **Plant pathogens**

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

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### **Kauri Dieback Infrastructure**

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.
  - **In your area**, we completed and opened a new treetop walkway at Kauri Glen, completed track upgrades and installed hygiene station at Chatswood Reserve and
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Le Roys Bush, and completed track upgrades at Birkenhead War Memorial Park. Soldiers Bay is at stage one of track upgrades.

### **Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance**

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.

### **Myrtle ora - maintaining and increasing the mauri of myrtles in Tāmaki Makaurau**

- We are working with Pest Free Kaipātiki on a pilot project on myrtle rust awareness and education.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Local parks ecological restoration**

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 60 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.
- **In your area**, pest plant control and animal control was undertaken at Birkenhead War Memorial Park, City View Reserve, Odin Place Reserve, Kauri Glen Reserve. pest animal control was undertaken at Fred Anderson Reserve, and pest plant control was undertaken at Kauri Point Reserve.

### **Pest plant control on land buffering parks**

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks.
- **In your area**, pest plant buffer project is carried out by Pest Free Kaipātiki (PFK) under a funding agreement. This involves community engagement and following up with previous buffer properties. PFK are engaging with properties being around Chelsea Estate Heritage Park, Chatswood Reserve, Le Roys Bush Reserve, Kauri Glen Reserve, Birkenhead War Memorial Park.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.

- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at eight active sites.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited two pet stores and five nurseries.



### **Marine and pathways**

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### **Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention**

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.





2023/2024

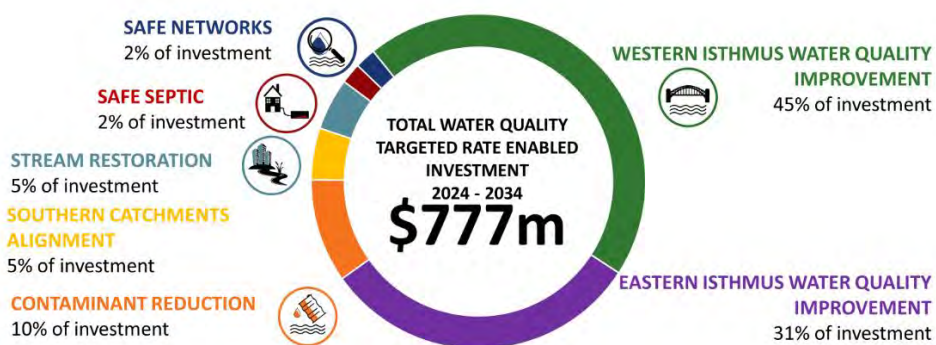


Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown





# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Te Ara-Rata Stream

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments discharging to Te Ara-Rata Stream to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations are progressing to public and private drainage investigations.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 24 ponds and one disposal field in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu area.



### Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and

not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 367 of these were in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu with an 85 per cent pass rate (meaning 85 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Outfalls - Cockle Bay, Māngere Inlet, Slippery Creek and Whangapouri Creek**

Upgrades will be made to a collection of inlets and outlets that currently restrict flows or cause blockages during flood events. The upgrades will reduce the stormwater velocity and reduce erosion. The programme will progress when design of all outfalls has been completed so the construction can be packaged.

### **Gross Pollutant Trap installation in Huia Road, Ōtāhuhu**

This project recently resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme through which opportunities to install water treatment devices have been identified. The project will remove gross pollutants and coarse sediments from Great South Rd, Ōtāhuhu before discharging into Manukau Harbor. The project will soon be assigned a project manager and a business case developed to allow design to progress.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. A number of locations have been identified for water quality improvement retrofits across the Māngere catchment. These opportunities are at the early phases of planning and will be further assessed for feasibility over 2024/2025.

### **Oruarangi (Airport Oaks) Stormwater Treatment Wetland**

A wetland is being constructed to treat stormwater before it is discharged to Oruarangi Awa. The detailed design and associated technical reports are currently in review, in preparation to lodge resource consent. The project is subject to AT approval due to the flood level on Montgomery Road, with extensive modelling being provided to inform on their review.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## Natural environment projects



### Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
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- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Makaurau Marae received \$13,000 worth of tools and resources, including materials to grow native plants in their nursery for restoration projects. Makaurau Marae Nursery provides eco-sourced plants to various projects, as well as education and employment opportunities for whanau.
- Māngere East Family Services was allocated \$20,736 to support their Taiao Regeneration Assistant, enabling the expansion of pest animal and weed control activities.
- Pest Free South Auckland was awarded \$10,200 towards project costs, including a trap library, and \$7000 worth of pest control tools and resources. Their project focuses on trapping and baiting in the urban environment in South Auckland.
- \$1197 worth of native plants, purchased from Makuarau Marae Nursery, were provided to support the local board funded restoration planting project on Pūkaki Māori Marae Committee land at Pūkaki crater.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to

connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. Two coordinator networking events led by council were held in south and attended by 17 group leaders at each event representing 12 and 13 groups respectively.

- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 10 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association

with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Optimising community and kaupapa Māori nursery management**

- We support Te Aka Kōtuia / Kaitiaki & Community Nurseries, an iwi, hapū & community nursery network facilitated by Kaipātiki Project in partnership with Uru Whakaaroo, to share Māori-led native plant nursery best practice for biosecurity and biodiversity outcomes. This has included supporting the design of nursery business plans in collaboration between iwi and community, seed banking, a review of current practices, biosecurity measures, and general plant health.
- **In your area**, we worked with Te Ākitai Waiohū at Makaurau Marae and a collective of South Auckland mana whenua nursery practitioners.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.

### **Parks Connect to Nature**

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports Nga Iwi School (Ashgrove Reserve) involving 30 students.



### **Enabling tools**

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### **Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau**

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### **Biodiversity Focus Areas**

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### **Threatened species prioritisation**

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### **Plant pathogens**



We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### **Kauri Dieback Infrastructure**

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

### **Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance**

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Targeted management for threatened species and ecosystems**

- We have identified priority sites with threatened species or ecosystems across Tāmaki Makaurau and work in a targeted way to protect and enhance the specific biodiversity values at each of these important sites.
- **In your area**, we carried out pest plant control to benefit threatened plants and ecosystems at Puketutu overflow ponds.

### **Regional parks integrated site management**

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year.
- **In your area** we controlled rabbit and pest plants at Te Motu a Hiaroa (Puketutu Island) and rabbits, unowned cats, mustelids and pest plants at Ambury Regional Park.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training

session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

#### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations which included all of Māngere and Māngere Bridge. This compliments funding the local board contribute towards cat desexing and microchipping. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

#### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited one nursery.

2023/2024

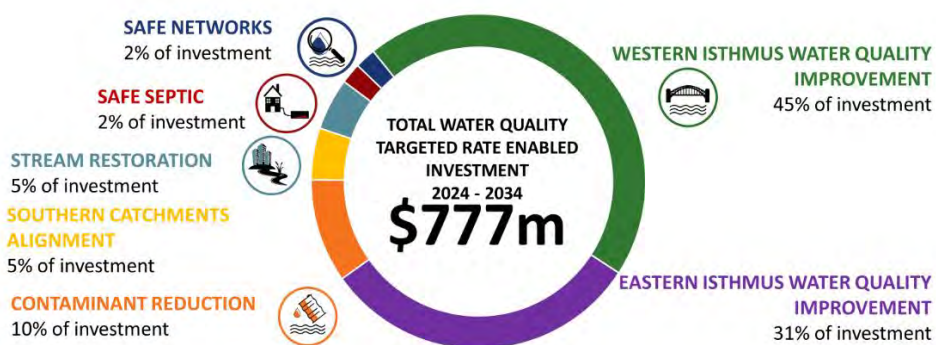


Manurewa Local Board

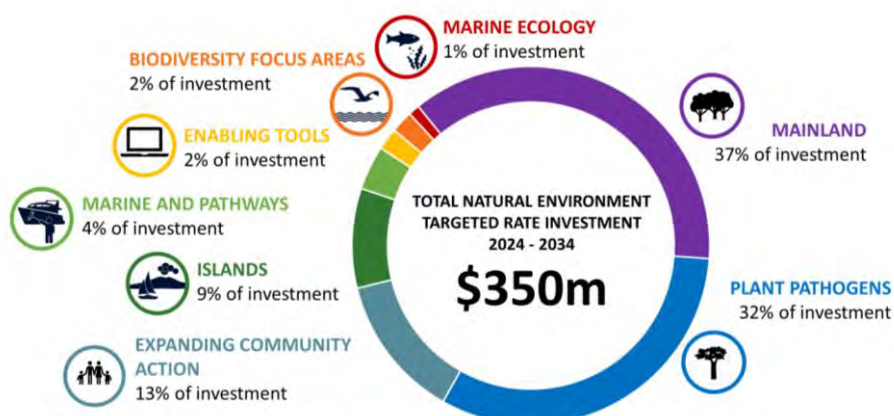
## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Weymouth

Water quality sampling is underway from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations progressing to public and private drainage investigations.

### Glenveagh Stream

Water quality sampling is underway from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments that discharge to Glenveagh Stream to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations progressing to public and private drainage investigations



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

41 onsite wastewater systems in Manurewa were serviced. Of these, 32 were compliant, six had minor issues, and three had critical failures.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### Blackgate Reserve

Blackgate Reserve project was started in September 2023 and construction was completed in September 2024. The project increases the ecological and amenity value of the reserve and is predominantly funded by developers with a consent requirement to provide ecological offset or mitigation, with the remaining funded provided by the water quality targeted rate. The scope of the project was extended to install a gross pollutant trap at the stream, utilising the existing construction contract.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers



employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 24 ponds and one disposal field in the Manurewa area.

### **Te Aka Raataa (Te Whakaoratanga i te Puhinui: Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora/DHB Stream Restoration)**

This project seeks to restore the awa and improve stormwater through the Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora sites in collaboration with Eke Panuku, who are delivering a shared cycle and pedestrian path alongside the restored stream. A funding agreement is in place for Eke Panuku to lead the delivery of this project. Resource consent on stage 1 has been lodged and Preliminary Design is now under way.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Wattle Farm Stormwater Pond (Tington Wetlands) Improvements**

The Wattle Farm Stormwater Pond (Tington Wetlands) Improvements project has completed detailed design and has achieved 'shelf ready' status. The project will improve water quality by renewing the pond, which has deteriorated due to sea water intrusion, siltation and bank erosion. The project is to be prioritised for construction in line with budget availability.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 467 of these were in Manurewa with a 76 per cent pass rate (meaning 76 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Industrial Trade Activity Proactive Programme**

The Industrial Trade Activity Proactive Programme aims to reduce the number of non-compliant Industrial and Trade Activity (ITA) sites across Tāmaki Makaurau, with targeted proactive compliance in the Manukau Central area of the Puhinui catchment. When the project first started, compliance rates were low at around 10 per cent. As of the end of 2023/2024, we have seen an increase in businesses that were compliant at the first site visit, and over the 2023/2024, 36 per cent of businesses visited did not require any follow up action. A number of these were given some suggested areas for improvement but were overall found to meet the minimum requirements. In terms of non-compliance, 48 per



cent of all businesses visited required physical works to be undertaken as well as implementing Spill Response Plans and/or Environmental Management Plans. There has been an increase in businesses that undertake vehicle washing or have a wash bay without the appropriate controls in place. Storage of liquids were also a common reason for non-compliance. Abatement notices that have been issued primarily relate to the discharge of contaminants from sites. The final 16 per cent were businesses that had appropriate controls and measures on site but did not have the supporting paperwork or plans.

Despite the positive reception on site, the time taken to achieve compliance has been slow, currently sitting around 55 per cent. This is being addressed, with tighter compliance timeframes being put in place. There will be a future focus on finishing all the site visits within the Puhinui Catchment and then identifying a future catchment to work on. Water sampling within the Puhinui catchment will be undertaken more regularly to better understand the changes in the water quality. There will also be a focus on Automotive Dismantlers across the Auckland region due to the high risk posed to both the environment and public health and safety.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Water Quality Options Assessment identified a broad range of locations for water quality improvement retrofits across the Puhinui Catchment. The assessment shortlisted a number of locations based on high level estimates of potential annual contaminant load removed. These will be submitted through a Strategic Assessment for prioritisation in the capital delivery programme.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

## **Natural environment projects**



### **Enhanced support for community groups**

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### **Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives**

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.

- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### **In your area:**

- Pest Free South Auckland was awarded \$10,200 towards project costs, including a trap library, and \$7000 worth of pest control tools and resources. Their project focuses on trapping and baiting rats in the urban environment in South Auckland.
- Te Pu-a-Nga Maara received \$1145 worth of pest animal control tools.

#### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

#### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. Two coordinator networking events led by council were held in south and attended by 17 group leaders at each event representing 12 and 13 groups respectively.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

#### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

#### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future

collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 14 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Two schools **in your area** grew and planted trees on various sites in Tāmaki Makaurau.

### Parks Connect to Nature

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports five schools **in your area** including The Gardens School (Tōtara Park), South Auckland Middle School (Sykes Foreshore), Reremoana School (St Annes Foreshore), Everglade School (Aronia Way Reserve) and Manurewa Intermediate (Puhunui Reserve) involving 155 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



## Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field. We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 60 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.
- **In your area**, pest plant and animal control were undertaken at Everglade Drive No. 3 and No. 5.

### Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23

sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.

- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at two active sites.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.



2023/2024

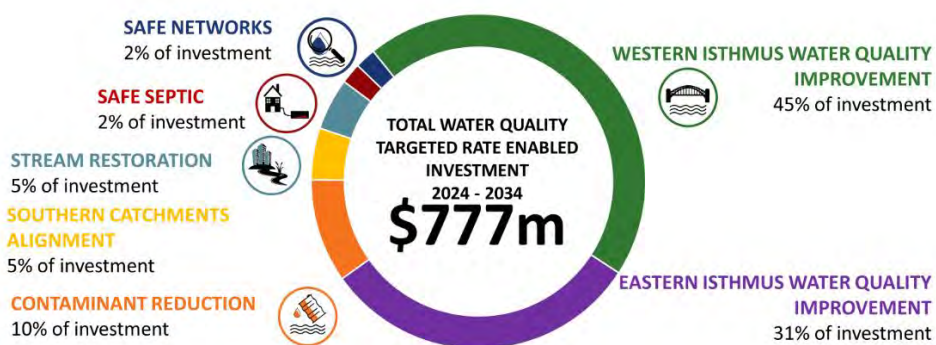


Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

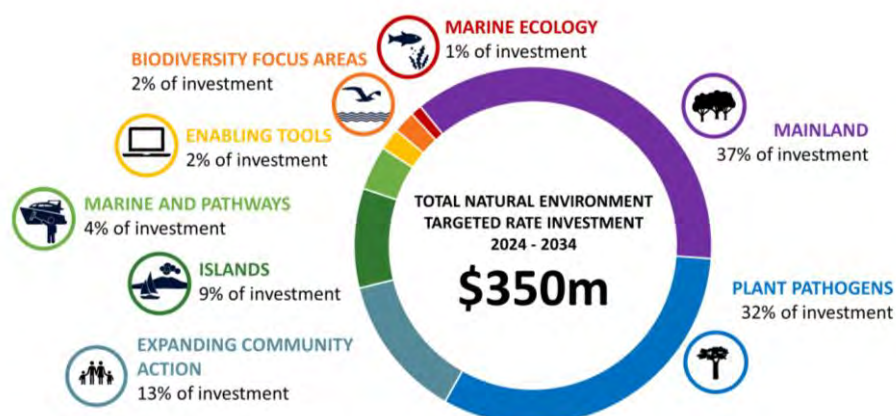
## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Wai-o-Taiki Bay

Resolution of public drainage issues is currently underway. Post resolution sampling will take place when this work is completed to confirm the works were successful.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.



### Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a

total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 342 of these were in Maungakiekie-Tāmaki with a 90 per cent pass rate (meaning 90 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Point England Reserve Online Stormwater Pond Renewal**

This project seeks to renew the stormwater pond to restore water quality treatment functions and create a improved amenity wetland. Resource Consent has been lodged and is expected to be granted shortly.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. Catchment level water quality improvement assessments for One Tree Hill and Onehunga are currently being carried out. These assessments identify opportunities for potential retrofits of stormwater treatment devices in to the current stormwater network. It is expected to be completed this in the 2024/2025 financial year.

A catchment scale Water Quality Options Assessment for Tāmaki North and Mount Wellington stormwater catchments will be also initiated in 2024/2025. Similarly, this assessment aims to identify possible locations for treatment device retrofits for the wider catchment. A broad spectrum of devices will be considered including, wetlands, bioinfiltration devices, filtration and Gross Pollutant Traps.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

The Eastern Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme is in planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme. A number of opportunities in this programme are now projects in their own right, and more will result as the programme progresses.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.



# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Maungakiekie Songbird was allocated \$10,000 towards supporting the community around Maungakiekie in pest animal control and improving native biodiversity, \$2000 for pest control tools to complement local board funding and received \$500 towards collateral to support their outreach and advocacy work.
- The Onehunga People's Garden received \$600 worth of pest control tools and resources. This group is working to manage weeds, plant native species, remove rubbish and restore the waterways at a natural area in Onehunga, to repair the habitat of native birds and other fauna.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

## Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

## Partnering with mana whenua

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

## Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, eight schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

## Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Six schools **in your area** grew and planted trees on various sites in Tāmaki Makaurau.





## Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



## Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



## Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- **In your area**, we established a new collaboration with the South Auckland branch of BirdsNZ to gather more data on colonies and populations.



## Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.

- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year.

### Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at one active site and monitored two sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- **In your area**, we monitored Waiatarua Reserve (Mt Wellington) and Waiotai Nature Reserve (Glen Innes) for alligator weed beetle, with the beetles observed at both sites along with visible damage to the weeds. The Waiatarua Reserve site was also visited as part of iwi biocontrol training, to demonstrate the impact of biocontrol agents in the field.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited five pet stores and seven nurseries.



### Marine and pathways

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention

- 
- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
  - Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
  - To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.
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2023/2024

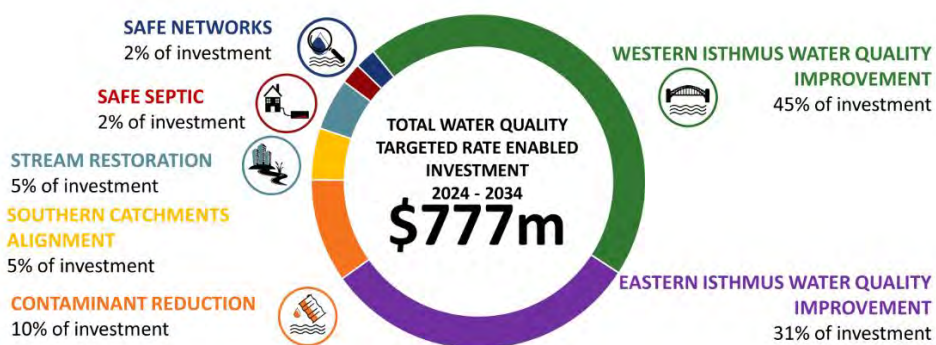


Ōrākei Local Board

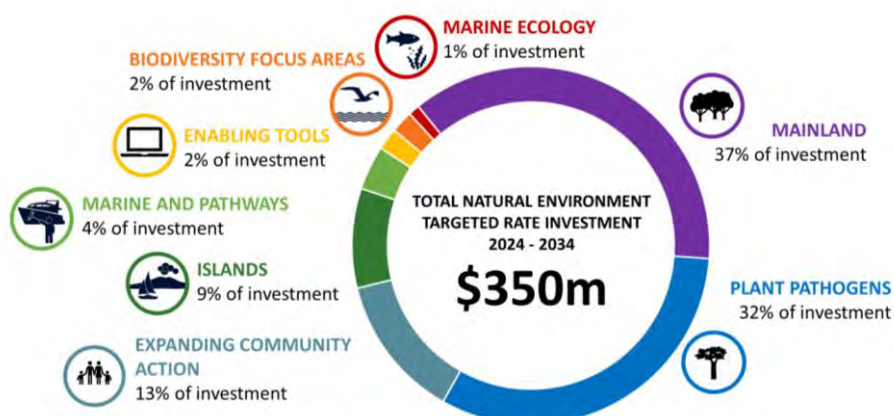
## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown





# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Pourewa Creek

Water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Pourewa Creek has been completed. Isolated issue locations progressing to public and private drainage investigations.

### St Heliers, Mission Bay, Kohimarama

Public and private drainage investigations have been completed and post resolution sampling is taking place in all catchments following resolution of any drainage issues identified to make sure the works were successful.

### Hobson Bay & Ōrākei Creek catchments

Water quality investigations are underway across five sub-catchments that discharge into Hobson Bay. Investigations across the stormwater network will continue alongside targeted public and private drainage inspections with a focus on improving dry weather water quality in the streams that discharge into Hobson Bay. Water quality sampling will be progressed in sub-catchments of Ōrākei Creek in the coming months.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

Three onsite wastewater systems in Ōrākei were serviced. Of these, two were compliant and one had minor issues.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their



communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 457 of these were in Ōrākei with an 82 per cent pass rate (meaning 82 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Howard Hunter Tributary Erosion management**

This project seeks to resolve stream bank erosion and stabilise existing stream banks, improving water quality by reducing sediment loads from entering the receiving environment. The final design is underway and landowner approval submitted. The project is bundled with the Hapua Stream Enhancements project.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

The Eastern Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme is in planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme. A number of opportunities in this programme are now projects in their own right, and more will result as the programme progresses.

### **Ōkahu Bay Outfall Diversion**

Ōkahu Bay Outfall Diversion was completed in November 2023. The project resolved the health and safety issues associated with a buried stormwater outfall in Ōkahu Bay, reported by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. Previously, following heavy rain, a hole of approximately 1m deep formed at the outlet in the inter-tidal zone in the central section of the beach. The project has improved public safety to beach users and improved network performance by renewing the existing outfall and relocating it to an area away from beach users where erosion will be significantly less.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## Natural environment projects



### Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

### In your area:

- Ngā Kaitiaki Hāpori o Pourewa / The Community Guardians of Pourewa (Recreation Solutions) received a \$18,860 grant, which will support the coordinator position to implement the Pourewa Valley Restoration plan, carry out monitoring, and engage volunteers. They also received \$40,000 towards pest plant control and restoration.
- Ngāti Whatua Ōrākei received \$4,764 worth of resources for Pourewa Nursery, including a māra kai and revegetation nursery for the whānau of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.
- Eastern Bays Songbird Project was allocated \$14,360 to contribute to costs for a pest-free coordinator who engages the community to help reduce the number of pest plants and pest animals in the project area. They also received \$6000 worth of pest control tools in addition to local board funding, and \$500 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.

### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 18 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association

with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Optimising community and kaupapa Māori nursery management

- We support Te Aka Kōtuia / Kaitiaki & Community Nurseries, an iwi, hapū & community nursery network facilitated by Kaipātiki Project in partnership with Uru Whakaaroo, to share Māori-led native plant nursery best practice for biosecurity and biodiversity outcomes. This has included supporting the design of nursery business plans in collaboration between iwi and community, seed banking, a review of current practices, biosecurity measures, and general plant health.
- **In your area**, we have worked with Ngāti Whatua Ōrākei at Pourewa Nursery.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- **In your area**, students from Stonefields School participated in a day of planting on a sheep farm within the Wairoa River catchment, a very important catchment to help look after the water that we drink. Over time, planting will join up the forest remnants in the area.

### Parks Connect to Nature

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports three schools **in your area** including Churchill Park School (Churchill Parks), Baradene College (Martyn Wilson Park) and Stonefields School (Maungarei Springs Wetland Park) involving 90 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or

occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### **Marine ecology**

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### **Marine habitat protection**

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauturu-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

### **Seabird protection**

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.



### **Plant pathogens**

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### **Kauri Dieback Infrastructure**

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.
- **In your area**, we completed track upgrades to protect kauri at Dingle Dell Reserve.

### **Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance**

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Targeted management for threatened species and ecosystems**

- We have identified priority sites with threatened species or ecosystems across Tāmaki Makaurau and work in a targeted way to protect and enhance the specific biodiversity values at each of these important sites.
- **In your area**, we carried out the removal of mangroves from the coastal marine area near Tahuna Torea to protect threatened shell barrier ecosystem and habitat for threatened wading birds.



### Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. Sixty parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.
- **In your area**, pest plant and animal control was undertaken at Martyn Wilson Fields & Sonia Reserve.

### Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at five active sites and monitored two sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited one pet store and six nurseries.



### Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

### Islands projects

- We continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



### Marine and pathways

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status

of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.

- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

### **Marine biosecurity**

- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by MPI, included suction dredging at Aotea and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino.
- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- **In your area**, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Ōrākei Marina (156 inspections). Nine infringement notices were issued at Hobson Bay moorings and one at Whakatakataka Bay moorings.
- Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.
- **In your area**, these champions carried out engagement work at Ōrākei Marina and the Splash Planet event at Ōrākei to raise awareness.
- We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.



2023/2024

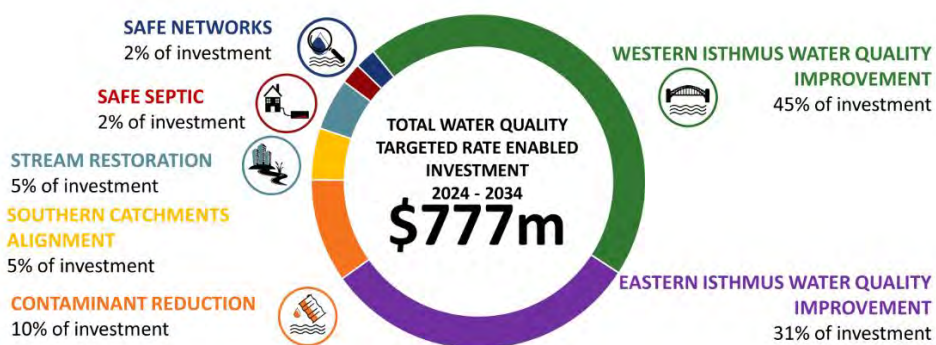


Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

We took water samples in more than 40 stormwater catchments and visited 8,180 properties across Auckland to inspect private drainage connections as part of investigations into the causes of poor water quality. We have resolved many of the private drainage issues discovered and are working to resolve the rest. Our post-resolution sampling is important to ensure remediation is effective, monitor for other issues, and to provide updates to the accuracy of the SafeSwim tool.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

## 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains seven ponds and one disposal field in the Ōtara-Papatoetoe area.

## Te Aka Raataa (Te Whakaoratanga i te Puhinui: Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora/DHB Stream Restoration)

This project seeks to restore the awa and improve stormwater through the Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora sites in collaboration with Eke Panuku, who are delivering a shared cycle and pedestrian path alongside the restored stream. A funding agreement is in place for Eke Panuku to lead the delivery of this project. Resource consent on stage 1 has been lodged and Preliminary Design is now under way.





## **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 487 of these were in Ōtara-Papatoetoe with an 80 per cent pass rate (meaning 80 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. Through the Puhinui Water Quality Improvement Opportunities Assessment, several locations were identified for potential retrofits of stormwater treatment devices in the southern end of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board where it overlaps with the Puhinui stormwater catchment boundary. The assessment shortlisted a number of locations based on high level estimates of potential annual contaminant load removed. These include a few sites within this local board. A Strategic Assessment will be prepared for prioritisation in the capital delivery programme.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust - Pest Free South Auckland was awarded \$10,200 towards project costs, including a trap library, and \$7000 worth of pest control tools and resources. Their project focuses on trapping and baiting in the urban environment in South Auckland.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. Two coordinator networking events led by council were held in south and attended by 17 group leaders at each event representing 12 and 13 groups respectively.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.
- **In your area**, an ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the Royal Auckland and Grange Golf Club.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 23 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- Thirty-four families from the Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Howick and Ōrākei local board areas collectively gathered over 120,000 moth plant seed pods and plants in their Local Board moth plant pod competition. The Kindergartens collaborated with neighbouring residents, landlords and schools to remove and destroy this pest plant.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars,

safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- **In your area**, Aorere College has continued to plant at Selfs Park this year and 105 students took part in a planting day with kindergarten learners, demonstrating a tuakana-teina relationship.

### Parks Connect to Nature

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports six schools **in your area** including Papatoetoe West School (Kohuora Park), Tangaroa College (Rongomai Park), Aorere College (Selfs Park), Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate (Ngati Ōtara Park), Bairds Mainfreight School (Ōtara Creek Reserve) and East Tāmaki School (Peston Rd Reserve) involving 330 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.

We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

## Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

## Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



## Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

## Targeted management for threatened species and ecosystems

- We have identified priority sites with threatened species or ecosystems across Tāmaki Makaurau and work in a targeted way to protect and enhance the specific biodiversity values at each of these important sites.
- **In your area**, we carried out pest animal control at Puhinui Reserve to support the spawning of inanga, a threatened native fish species.

## Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at one active site.

## Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

## Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.





2023/2024



Papakura Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Otuwairoa

Water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Otuwairoa is underway in support of Healthy Waters RMA team to work with Ngāti Tamaoho.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

90 onsite wastewater systems in Papakura were serviced. Of these, 64 were compliant, 24 had minor issues, and two had critical failures.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 29 ponds and 106 rain gardens in the Papakura area.

### Regional Waterways Protection Fund

The Regional Waterway Protection Fund offers 50/50 co-funding for waterway protection fencing and planting of private rural land. This funding is open to property owners across Franklin, Papakura, Aotea (Great Barrier Island), and Rodney. Of the 25 applications, 17 property owners accepted funding to a value of \$335,224.14, to be paid on completion of the projects. The land owners have up to 30 months to deliver the projects. Of this money, \$12,000 was awarded to one landowner in the Papakura rural area. This project is

part of the Papakura Stream Catchment Restoration project. The landowners have been given two years to complete the work.

Auditing of landowner projects from previous rounds of funding continues with the fundees being supported by the RWPF funding team and land advisors.

Keeping stock out of waterways by fencing instantly improves water quality, and planting riparian margins and wetlands is transforming these areas to deliver biodiversity, water quality and habitat improvements.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 889 of these were in Papakura with an 89 per cent pass rate (meaning 89 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.



# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Pest Free South Auckland was awarded a \$10,200 grant towards project costs including a trap library and \$7000 worth of pest control tools and resources. Their project focuses on trapping and baiting rats in the urban environment in South Auckland.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. Two coordinator networking events led by council were held in south and attended by 17 group leaders at each event representing 12 and 13 groups respectively.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders



- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 14 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- One school **in your area** grew and planted trees across sites in Franklin.

### **Parks Connect to Nature**

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to

connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports two schools **in your area** including Hingaia Peninsula School (Hingaia Park) and Papakura Central School (Ray Small Park / Otaawhati) involving 130 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- **In your area**, we established a new collaboration with the South Auckland branch of BirdsNZ to gather more data on colonies and populations.



### Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible

exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.

- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at one active site.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and at priority threatened species locations across the region, and five cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited one pet store and two nurseries.



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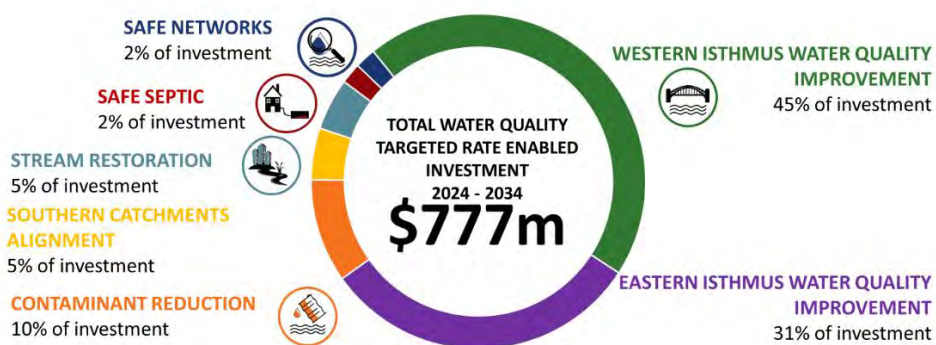


Puketāpapa Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown





# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Lynfield Cove

Water quality sampling is underway from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments discharging to Lynfield Cove to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations are progressing to public and private drainage investigations.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

Four onsite wastewater systems in Puketāpapa were serviced. All of these were compliant.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

## Wesley Memorial Park Wetland

The catchment scale stormwater quality study in Oakley has identified an opportunity to improve the water quality improvement in Te Auaunga Oakley Creek. The Wesley Memorial Park Wetland project is in an early phase of design and seeks to improve the water quality in Te Auaunga Oakley Creek, support development by Kāinga Ora, mitigate the effects from the Ministry of Education new special school and other expansion of impervious surfaces, support provide flood attenuation, and provide amenity value in the park.

### 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work

on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 331 of these were in Puketāpapa with a 79 per cent pass rate (meaning 79 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Urban Contaminant Reduction Programme**

The Urban Contaminant Reduction programme provides catchment wide solutions to improve water quality across Auckland, identifies the leading causes of contaminants causing poor water quality and investigates opportunities to install stormwater treatment solutions. The Te Auaunga Water Quality Opportunities Assessment shortlisted 20 locations for further assessment to determine high level estimates of annual contaminant load that could be potentially removed. These have been submitted through a Strategic Assessment and is in the capital delivery programme for prioritisation. If redevelopment occurs, a given location identified in the Water Quality Opportunities Assessment could be delivered through this pathway.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

The Eastern Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme is in planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme. A number of opportunities in this programme are now projects in their own right, and more will result as the programme progresses.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives

and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.
- **In your area**, ecological enhancement plans have been developed for the Akarana and Maungakiekie golf clubs.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the EnviroSchools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, EnviroSchools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, six schools are participating in EnviroSchools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the EnviroSchools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support EnviroSchools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Three schools **in your area** grew and planted trees on sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

### **Parks Connect to Nature**

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports two schools **in your area** including May Road School (Freeland Reserve) and Wesley Primary (Te Auaunga Awa - Oakley Creek - Walmsley Park and Underwood Park) involving 100 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- **In your area**, we established a new collaboration with the South Auckland branch of BirdsNZ to gather more data on colonies and populations.



### Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.



## Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



## Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

## Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks.
- **In your area**, we completed work in the Oakley Creek buffer, with 273 properties surveyed and controlled for the targeted plants. This project is largely funded by the Albert-Eden, Puketāpapa and Whau local boards, with some natural environment targeted rate contribution. Work was also completed in the Waikōwhai buffer zone, with 180 private properties around coastal parks engaged with, surveyed and controlled for climbing and bushy asparagus to protect the parks on the Waikōwhai coast.

## Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at one active site and monitored two sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

## Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

## Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited two pet stores and two nurseries.

2023/2024

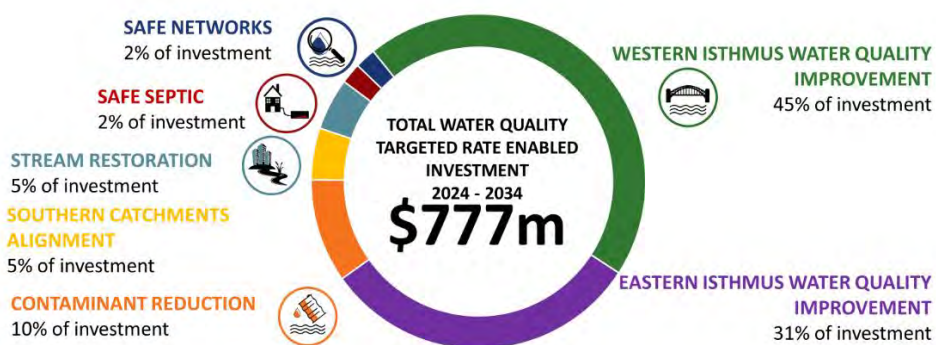


Rodney Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Matakana River and Glen Eden Stream

Water quality sampling has been completed in the Matakana River and Glen Eden stream catchments. No significant issues were identified.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

### Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

3132 onsite wastewater systems in Rodney were serviced. Of these, 2934 were compliant, 181 had minor issues, and 17 had critical failures.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### Fish Passage Improvement at Te Arai Point Road

This is a jointly Waka Kotahi, Auckland Transport and Auckland Council funded project to replace the Te Arai Point Road culvert (Coulters No.2 culvert) with a large capacity box culvert with a countersunk floor. This will stimulate upstream flow and stream channel conditions and prevent future scour. The current culvert prevents several diadromous fish species (migrate between fresh and saltwater) from reaching Lakes Spectacle and Slipper, of Te Ārai Dune lakes (Tomarata). New Zealand's rarest endemic bird, the tara-iti (fairy tern), forage for fish in the Te Ārai Dune lakes. With only 36 individuals remaining, reinstating this foraging resource for tara-iti is critical. Auckland Transport have now completed the design for the culvert. The physical works are planned for Autumn 2025 but are subject to Auckland Transport's construction programme.

### Te Muri Regional Park Stream Enhancement

This project aims to improve stream management by reducing the risk of stream bank collapse through severe bank erosion. The project will also improve water quality, habitat and biodiversity on a stretch of Te Muri Stream in Te Muri Regional Park. 60 per cent of the funding for this project is being contributed by the Mahurangi East Land Restoration



Programme (MELRP), a co-governance programme between Auckland Council and Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, and the remaining funding provided by the water quality targeted rate. In 2023/2024 we completed the physical works of the project, completing the works under budget and well within the timeframes. Council staff and local primary students planted trees along the stream over a number of community planting days.

## **2 in a Ute**

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains eight ponds in the Rodney area.

## **Kaipara Moana remediation programme**

Kaipara Moana Remediation is the largest harbour restoration programme in Aotearoa, helping to restore and protect the mauri of Kaipara Moana. In the 2023/2024 financial year, Kaipara Moana Remediation had over 340 landowners commit to new plans or returned to commit to additional grant funded work. This includes over 450km of fencing completed or committed to, over 800,000 plants planted or committed to be planted in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas, and over 300 ha of afforestation, space planting or biodiversity planting not in riparian, lake, or wetlands margins completed or contracted. This brings the total to over 630 landowners who have committed to or have plans currently being developed over the life of the programme.



## **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

## **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 1189 of these were in Rodney with a 91 per cent pass rate (meaning 91 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

## **Hoteo Sediment Reduction**

The Hoteo Sediment Reduction programme's Geomorphically Effective Management Solutions (GEMS) are targeted interventions to help mitigate and prevent streambank erosion, a major rural source of sediment and contaminants entering Auckland's harbours. After close to five years of planning and landowner, mana whenua and community engagement, construction on the four GEMS sites is complete and the sites planted and fencing installed. The plants are eco-sourced from the Kaipara catchment. They are grown from an iwi-owned and run nursery, with the planting team being all Mana Whenua representatives.

The Hoteo Sediment Reduction programme's Cultural Monitoring programme project partners with Te Uri o Hau, Ngā Maunga Whakahī and Ngāti Manuhiri. We are currently planning a ten year programme to build from the Hōteho Project to resource our iwi



partners to undertake monitoring of the wider Hōteio catchment using the training, drones and wider framework developed within the project.

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Warkworth retrofit Gross Pollutant Traps**

This project has resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme. A business case is being developed to fund the installation of multiple gross pollutant traps in high-risk contaminant yielding catchments that are discharging into the Mahurangi River. Once this has been completed, the project will enter the design phase.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## **Natural environment projects**



### **Enhanced support for community groups**

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### **Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives**

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

**In your area:**

- The Forest Bridge Trust was allocated \$16,280 towards ongoing management and operational costs of their remotely monitored trapping network, and \$34,560 for a Trap Check Frequency project aftercare coordinator. They also received \$12,000 for remote pest control tools to assist pest control in the Tāwharanui Buffer Zone.
- Tāpora Land and Coast Care was funded \$50,000 to employ a contractor and purchase tools and bait to control possums on the Okahukura Peninsula. This work contributes to Auckland Council's possum control targets for the region and is funded through the regional possum control programme. Possum numbers within the control area are monitored by an independent contractor. They also received a further \$4,550 worth of pest control tools and resources, including cat cages and possum traps.
- Project 700 received a \$39,937 grant for Project 700 trainee time and mileage. Trainees will gain practical skills in community engagement and pest control planning and implementation. The group also received \$4602 for pest animal traps and \$3,790 towards surveillance tools.
- Restore Rodney East - Mahurangi East Pest Free received \$21,600 to support coordinated community conservation activity in the Mahurangi East area and will also benefit nearby Kawau Island. They also received \$8700 worth of pest control tools and resources and a small grant towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy.
- Pest Free Coatesville received \$23,040 towards coordinator costs, to enable the group to continue making progress, including towards Māori outcomes. They also received \$16,500 for pest control and habitat protection in the Northwest Wildlink and a small amount of funding towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy.
- Takatu LandCare Group Inc received \$23,040 towards coordinator costs to continue delivering strategic conservation support and outcomes to directly enhance the Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary. They also received \$4,266 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Mahurangi West Pest received \$17,377 towards coordinator costs, which will enable this relatively new group to become more embedded within the local community and to grow support and to access other funding. They also received \$4112 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara received \$17,823 worth of pest control tools and resources for pest animal control.
- Kawau Community Conservation Trust received \$15,000 worth of tools for pest control.
- The Tamahunga Trappers received \$10,520 to support the coordinator costs and will go a long way at a critical time in their journey towards the next kiwi release.
- Muriwai Environment Action Community Trust was allocated \$15,360 towards coordinator / administration costs and website hosting, \$1612 worth of pest control tools and resources and \$1000 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- We provided \$8100 worth of resources towards the Muriwai Weed Amnesty.
- Pest Free Leigh received \$6110 for baits, lures, bait stations and monitoring tools for their Rural Expansion Project, a small amount of tools and resources funding for pest animal control and some funding towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy.
- Muriwai-Waimauku backyard baiters received \$2,638 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Leigh Harbour Valley Society received \$1966 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- South Kaipara Landcare received \$1766 worth of pest control tools and resources and \$500 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.

- Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative received \$850 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- Predator Free Dairy Flat received \$644 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Mahurangi Residents & Ratepayers received \$574 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Shorebirds Trust received \$564 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Muriwai Weed Walkers received a small amount of funding towards pest control tools and resources.
- Rodney West Coordinators received a small amount of funding for pest control tools and resources.
- Snells Shoreline Conservation Community received a small amount of funding for pest control tools and resources and biodiversity outreach and advocacy.
- Kaukapakapa Community Pest Control received a small amount of funding for pest control tools and resources.
- Community groups in your area received \$2000 worth of plants for the winter 2024 planting season.

#### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

#### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- Eight community groups from across the region were provided with group advisory coaching this past year growing their group governance and leadership capabilities to enable them to be more effective and grow their conservation activities, including Pest Free Coatesville, who took up the opportunity to have additional coaching after being involved last year. Representatives from the Forest Bridge Trust, Restore Rodney East and Te Kohuroa Matheson Bay Rewilding project also took part in the individual mentoring programme aimed at strengthening their personal leadership and organisational capabilities to lift the quality and effectiveness of the management of their groups and activities.
- The Forest Bridge Trust, an umbrella / landscape scale group, was supported with \$15,000 targeted funding for critical 'foundational' work needed to enable them to deliver greater impact across the work and groups they serve. This pilot initiative, with The Akina Foundation, supported an impact assessment and exploring possible partnership and alternative funding models. This work has significant potential value for Forest Bridge Trust and other groups coming to the end of their Jobs for Nature funding in 2025.
- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. In the north-west a 'Rewild the West' hui was held with eight attendees representing five groups. And for the first time, there was a local coordinator networking event held in the far north area of the region – the 'Northern Te Taiao Networking Event' which was attended by 15 leaders representing 19 groups.

- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events.
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### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.

**In your area**, we developed an ecological enhancement plan for the Muriwai Golf Club. This joins the Huapai Golf Club, who received funding last year to implement its ecological enhancement plan and develop connections with Pest Free Coatesville and the local community to support pest and weed control and restoration efforts at the golf club and extend these into nearby neighbourhoods.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.
- Four bespoke cultural inductions for conservation groups were run by Ngāti Manuhiri and Te Kawerau ā Maki were delivered to 48 attendees. This included two 'Stage 1' or introductory cultural inductions developed and delivered by each iwi. There were 33 attendees at the two Te Kawerau ā Maki cultural inductions and 15 at the Ngāti Manuhiri cultural inductions. Ngāti Manuhiri also provided a free community cultural introduction at a local event hosted by Restore Rodney East that attracted over 50 attendees.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- Natural Environment Targeted Rate helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.

- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 18 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Thirty-two schools **in your area** grew and planted trees across sites in Rodney. Twenty-seven sites in Rodney were planted by schools from Rodney and other areas. Tāpora School undertook a planting day on a local Kaipara dairy farm, planting 1206 plants. The day was attended by the owner and his whanau, who dedicated the planting area to their parents, the former owners of the farm.

### Parks Connect to Nature

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports six schools **in your area** including Kaipara College (Rautawhiri Park), Leigh School (Matheson Bay), Warkworth School (Kowhai Park), Helensville School (Rautawhiri Park), Wellsford School (Carrys Bush) and Coatesville School (Coatesville Reserve) involving 235 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Ecosystem and species survey



- We made 500 new observations of regionally threatened native plants through survey activity across the region. We found six target species across 10 key sites resulting in three of these sites being prioritised for targeted management.
- **In your area**, Mt Tamahunga was identified as a priority site to manage for the threatened plant *Libertia flaccidifolia* and Riverhead was identified as a priority site to manage for threatened plant *Nertera villosa*.
- We assessed 13 ha of stream for Hochstetter's frog habitat quality across the region, which included three sites **in your area** - Tamahunga, Moirs Hill and Tōtara Peak Scenic reserve.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.

### Ecosystem Monitoring

- We are developing ways to monitor managed sites to see how management of pressures is improving the health of ecosystems. These monitoring methods are tailored to each site based on its size and the types of ecosystems present.
- **In your area**, we completed annual bird monitoring within Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary and Dunn's Bush. The results will help us to measure the long-term outcomes of council and community-led pest management strategies on bird communities.
- We also established 11 forest outcome monitoring plots on Kawau Island to track ecosystem level changes as a result of the planned wallaby and possum eradication.

### Marine ecology



We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauru-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.



## Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.  
**In your area**, we installed hygiene stations at Matheson Bay, completed track upgrades done at Parry Kauri Park and have works identified and planned at Tāwharanui Regional Park.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.

### Myrtle ora - maintaining and increasing the mauri of myrtles in Tāmaki Makaurau

- We surveyed native myrtle species, rohutu, at Ecological Reserve at Woodhill and updated Nga Maunga o Whakahii about the population and its health. This is the largest population of rohutu found in Tāmaki Makaurau so far.



## Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### Targeted management for threatened species and ecosystems

- We have identified priority sites with threatened species or ecosystems across Tāmaki Makaurau and work in a targeted way to protect and enhance the specific biodiversity values at each of these important sites.  
**In your area** we carried out the following work:
  - Construction of livestock fencing at Te Muri Regional Park to protect threatened coastal estuarine and wetland ecosystems
  - Installed new 'slow for bittern' signage at Te Arai and a replacement sign at South Head to help protect this critically threatened wetland bird species

### Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year.

#### We delivered the following pest plant and/or animal control in your area:

- **Pakiri Regional Park:** mustelids, rabbits, pest plants
- **Atiu Creek Regional Park:** mustelids, rabbits, pigs, pest plants
- **Te Arai Regional Park:** mustelids, rabbits, pigs, pest plants
- **Wenderholm Regional Park:** rats, pest plants
- **Te Muri Regional Park:** mustelids, rats, pest plants
- **Mahurangi East Regional Park:** mustelids, pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land)

- **Mahurangi West Regional Park:** pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land)
- **Tāwharanui Regional Park:** mustelids, rats, rabbits, cats, pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land), low incidence pest plants
- **Scandrett Regional Park:** pest plants
- **Scotts Landing:** pest plants.
- **Te Rau Puriri Regional Park:** Pest Plant, mustelid and rat control

### **Pest plant control on land buffering parks**

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks.
- **In your area,** approximately 350ha was searched and controlled for climbing asparagus. We controlled pest plants on land around Tāwharanui Regional Park, including control of climbing asparagus on a large property directly abutting the regional park. This will help to protect the ecological values on park by reducing pest plant reinvasion. Climbing asparagus was also controlled on private land in the Mahurangi West buffer, with engagement work undertaken by Mahurangi West Pest on this project, and around Te Muri Regional Park.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.  
**In your area,** we controlled low incidence pest plants at 14 active sites and monitored 14 sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas. **In your area,** we released the moth plant beetle.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

### **Ground based possum control**

- We control possums across many high priority ecosystems. During the last year, we carried out ground-based possum control across 22,000 hectares of rural land in Auckland, to complement the good work being undertaken in many areas by the community.
- **In your area,** this included Pakiri (4,967ha) and Tamahunga (6,200ha). Tāpora Land and Coast Care was funded to control possums on the Tāpora Peninsula

(10,000ha) and control work in Mahurangi East was supported by the community group Restore Rodney East.

### **Regional deer and goat control**

- We continued large-scale aerial survey works for feral deer and goats as an efficient and effective tool for detecting these pests at a landscape level. This approach provided extensive data on population distribution and density, offering insights and efficiencies that traditional ground methods cannot match. We detected a total of 116 feral deer in the region using ground, thermal drone, and aerial surveillance, removing 55 deer overall, including 6 **in your area** near the southern boundary.

### **Freshwater pest control**

- We controlled pest fish control at Lake Tomoarata, removing 415 rudd and 67 tench, and completed environmental monitoring to track how removal of these fish affected the lake's health. We also completed eDNA autumn surveillance for the unwanted organism freshwater gold clam, with none detected.
- We began a kākahi / freshwater mussel conservation project at Lake Rototoa, using exclosures, fenced off areas with nets, to protect kākahi from pest fish and enable the population to recover.
- We also controlled Hornwort in Lake Rototoa to 10.5 hectares and began monitoring of the site.

### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and at priority threatened species locations across the region, and 38 cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.  
**In your area**, trade inspectors visited one pet store and 27 nurseries.



### **Islands**

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

### **Kawau Multi Species Predator Eradication**

- We are working towards eradicating wallabies, possums and rats from Kawau island in partnership with Manuhiri Kaitiaki Charitable Trust and the Department of Conservation and in collaboration with members the Kawau Island community. We published a feasibility assessment and feedback summary based on community engagement. After extensive engagement with the Kawau Island community, we have started operational planning for the removal of wallabies and possums in the first instance, while the proposal for rodent eradication will be revisited at a later date.

### **Pest ant eradication**

- We carried out surveillance using two certified Argentine ant detection dogs and their handlers at eight high risk sites on the east coast of Kawau Island. We

detected a large population of Argentine ants at School House Bay and had a number of spot detections at Little Vivian Bay. Further work is underway to address these populations.

### Other islands projects

- We continued our work across the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. This included:
  - Pest plant surveillance and control on Waiheke, Rakino, and The Noises.
  - Rabbit, feral cat, and rat control on Aotea.
  - Planting 3,500 plants in high-value wetlands on Aotea and Waiheke.
  - Working with Ngāti Rehua Trust on a variety of environmental projects on Aotea and supporting Tū Mai Taonga with pest control and surveillance of threatened plants, lizards, and frogs



### Marine and pathways

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

#### Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

#### Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.  
**In your area**, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Leigh Harbour (27 inspections), Sandspit moorings (51 inspections), Whangateau Harbour moorings (47 inspections) and Bon Accord Harbour moorings on Kawau Island (30 inspections).
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by MPI, included suction dredging at Aotea and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino.



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- We supported mana whenua interests at various sites, including funding Manuhiri Kaitiaki Charitable Trust for exotic caulerpa advocacy and education for the Iris Shoal incursion near Kawau.
  - Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.
  - We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.
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2023/2024



Upper Harbour Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

**Whenuapai** Safe Septic compliance inspections of onsite wastewater systems has been completed, post resolution sampling is underway to ensure there has been an improvement or decide if further investigation is required.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

350 onsite wastewater systems in Upper Harbour were serviced. Of these, 325 were compliant, 20 had minor issues, and five had critical failures.



## Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

## 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.



## Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

## Hugh Green 95 Pond Renewal

The Hugh Green pond is designed to provide flood attenuation and water quality treatment to the surrounding residential area and is due for renewal to extend the life of the asset and ensure it continues to function as intended. Close to this pond is Rosedale Closed Landfill Pond, which is due to be upgraded by the Closed Landfills Team to

address functionality and health and safety issues. An opportunity has been identified to work collaboratively to renew Hugh Green pond and improve Rosedale Closed Landfill Pond simultaneously, which will provide cost savings, optimising functionality between the two interconnected pond systems, and improved water quality outcomes from both the upstream urban catchment and the landfill site. The project is in an early design phase.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 823 of these were in Upper Harbour with an 86 per cent pass rate (meaning 86 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Rosedale East Pond Upgrade**

This project aims to fully restore water quality treatment and attenuation functionality while increasing the life of the pond and associated assets. It will also install improved access for pond maintenance. Concept design for improvements work is in progress to assess preferred option. It is anticipated to be completed and approved by quarter two of 2024/2025.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.



# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Upper Waitematā Ecology Network Incorporated was allocated \$34,560 to support the roles of workplan coordinator, network manager and pest coordinator. They also received \$6300 for their Upper Harbour Monitoring Project and a small amount of funding towards outreach and advocacy.
- Greenhithe Community Trust received \$19,160 to support facilitation costs to continue protecting the second and third largest Biodiversity Focus Areas in the area. They also received \$7900 for tools for their Possum Free Greenhithe project.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- Seven representatives from six community groups across the region were provided with individual mentoring this past year aimed at strengthening their personal leadership and organisational capabilities to lift the quality and effectiveness of the management of their groups and activities, including the Upper Waitematā Ecology Network (UWEN).
- The Upper Waitematā Ecology Network also received \$5,515 in targeted funding, for critical 'foundational' work needed to enable them to deliver greater impact across the work and groups they serve as an umbrella / landscape scale group. This support will enable them to engage Inspiring Communities to co-design and deliver a workshop and coaching session to broaden their community engagement approach, draw on a suite of resources, tools, and ideas and enable each network group to take away action points. UWEN intends to use learnings to increase



community engagement and apply this to the delivery of the Upper Pest Management Strategy and increase the number of volunteers participating in conservation across Upper Harbour.

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.  
**In your area**, 14 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.

- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Eleven schools **in your area** grew and planted trees across sites in Upper Harbour and Rodney. Five sites in Upper Harbour were planted.

### **Parks Connect to Nature**

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The Adopt-a-Park programme supports four schools **in your area** including Kristin School (Rosedale Park), Albany Senior High School (The Landing Reserve), Upper Harbour Primary (William Gamble Park) and Rangitoto College (Centorian Reserve) involving 175 students.



### **Enabling tools**

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### **Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau**

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### **Biodiversity Focus Areas**

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### **Threatened species prioritisation**

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### **Marine ecology**

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

## Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.



## Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

## Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.  
**In your area**, we completed track upgrades to protect kauri at Paremoremo Scenic Reserve.

## Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



## Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

## Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 60 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.

**In your area**, pest plant control was carried out in Paremoremo Scenic Reserve.

## Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.  
**In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at five active sites and monitored two sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

## Pest plant biocontrol

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also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.

- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

**In your area**, we released one batch of over 100 moth plant beetles at a commercial property in Hobsonville and recent monitoring found several beetles present.

### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and at priority threatened species locations across the region, and 19 cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited three pet stores and 12 nurseries.



### **Marine and pathways**

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### **Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention**

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
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- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

### **Marine biosecurity**

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- In your area**, we issued three abatement notices at Hobsonville Marina.

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- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea Great Barrier in 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by MPI, included suction dredging at Aotea, and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology such as UV-C light at Rakino.
  - Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves, marinas and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.  
**In your area**, these champions carried out engagement work at West Harbour Marina.
  - We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.
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2023/2024



Waiheke Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Surfdale Beach

Water quality sampling has been completed in the Surfdale catchment. Isolated issue locations are progressing to the Safe Septics programme.

### Onetangi Stream

Water quality sampling has been completed in Onetangi stream catchments. Isolated issue locations are progressing to the Safe Septic programme.

### Matiatia Bay

Water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge to Matiatia Bay has been completed. No contamination issues were identified. Safeswim will continue to sample in the receiving environment to validate the Safeswim model.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

1176 onsite wastewater systems in Waiheke were serviced. Of these, 1142 were compliant, 33 had minor issues, and one had critical failures.



## Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

## 2 in a Ute

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.

## **Waiheke Algae Removal**

In December 2023, a cyanobacteria algae (Okeania spp.) was found to have returned to Blackpool and Surfdale beaches in Waiheke, having first been found in March 2023. This algae leaches toxins to the receiving environment which the Auckland Regional Public Health Service advises could lead to skin, eye, neurological and respiratory irritations and difficulties. We responded by removing and disposing of the close to 600m<sup>3</sup> of algae and are exploring options for disposal on the island in the event it returns in the future.



## **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

## **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 104 of these were in Waiheke with a 94 per cent pass rate (meaning 94 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

## **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

## **Wilma Road**

The Wilma Road, Waiheke Island flooding project was completed in April 2024. This project was to reduce runoff that is impacting the local community and currently flows to wastewater disposal fields, causing wastewater to enter the receiving environment. The project has alleviated the flooding, health and safety issues and poor water quality caused by stormwater run-off.



## **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



## **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.



# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Waiheke Collective received \$34,560 towards coordinator costs. The coordinator supports the Collective in its role as a strategic network / umbrella for Waiheke, creating neutrality between the groups and facilitating communication.
- Motutapu Restoration Trust received a \$31,000 contribution towards weed control contractor costs.
- Love Our Wetlands received \$1,938 towards pest control tools and resources.
- Dotterel minders received a small amount of funding for fencing.
- Waiheke Ratbusters received a small amount of funding towards advertising costs.
- Multiple community groups on Waiheke received a total of \$5,546 of tools and resources for pest control and planting projects around the island.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.

### Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land

- We engage, fund and support communities, landowners and mana whenua to undertake actions to protect and restore priority sites for regionally threatened species and ecosystems where these occur on private land.
- **In your area**, South Ponui Limited were awarded \$150,000 for livestock exclusion fencing and pest plant control to protect and support the ecological values of various sites on Ponui Island.

### Optimising community and kaupapa Māori nursery management

- We support Te Aka Kōtuia / Kaitiaki & Community Nurseries, an iwi, hapū & community nursery network facilitated by Kaipātiki Project in partnership with Uru Whakaaroo, to share Māori-led native plant nursery best practice for biosecurity and biodiversity outcomes. This has included supporting the design of nursery



business plans in collaboration between iwi and community, seed banking, a review of current practices, biosecurity measures, and general plant health.

- **In your area**, we worked with Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki at Te Tauroa nursery on Motutapu Island.

### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- Eight community groups from across the region were provided with group advisory coaching this past year growing their group governance and leadership capabilities to enable them to be more effective and grow their conservation activities, including Motutapu Restoration Trust.
- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included

professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.

- **In your area**, four schools and early childhood education providers are participating in Enviroschools: Waiheke High School, Waiheke Primary School, Waiheke Island Kindergarten and Te Huruhi School.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.



### **Enabling tools**

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### **Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau**

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### **Biodiversity Focus Areas**

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### **Threatened species prioritisation**

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### **Marine ecology**

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### **Marine habitat protection**

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features

of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauraki-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- **In your area**, we continued our population and breeding monitoring of takahikare-moana / white-faced storm petrels on Ruapuke / Maria Island; and of ōi /grey-faced petrel, kororā /little penguin and pakahā /fluttering shearwaters on Ōtata. While ōi and takahikare-moana showed slightly higher numbers than previous years, this was a catastrophic year for kororā, with almost no birds breeding. Here, we also set temperature recorders to monitor the effects of temperature fluctuations inside the burrow in the long-term on breeding success.
- We continued the population monitoring and tracking the movements of kawau tikitiki /spotted shag on Tarahiki / Shag Island with the aim to understand the threats they face and the factors affecting their population. Kawau tikitiki is one of our most regionally threatened seabird species.
- We established new collaborations with the NZ Penguin Initiative and community groups to start kororā / little penguin surveys on Waiheke and Motuihe.



### Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.
- **In your area**, we completed track upgrades in Alison Park, Fisher Road, Mckenzie Reserve, Onetangi Sports Park, Te Makutu Walkway and Te Aroha Accessway.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



### Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 60 parks across the region have

been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements.

- **In your area**, pest plant control has been carried out at Onetangi Sports Park (Rangihoua).

### **Regional parks integrated site management**

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year.
- **In your area we delivered the following pest plant and/or animal control:**
  - **Whakanewha Regional Park:** Rabbits, unowned cats, mustelids, pest plants.
  - **Motukōrea / Browns Island:** Pest plants. Monitoring on Motukorea / Browns Island shows that pest plant levels are at their lowest in five years, demonstrating the positive impacts of the programme on this important island's ecosystem.

### **Pest plant control on land buffering parks**

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks.
- **In your area**, we surveyed over 80ha, controlled for climbing asparagus around Whakanewha Regional Park and controlled climbing asparagus on five large properties abutting the park. We carried out compliance visits with six properties in the buffer where control work was completed last year, covering 38ha. This is the first year we carried out compliance for this project. These visits are to provide information to the landowner about their ongoing obligations for pest plant control.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated. **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at five active sites and monitored five sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

## **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.



## **Islands**

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

### **Site led pest plants on the Inner Hauraki Gulf Islands**

- Over the last year, we delivered pest plant control in Awaawaroa wetland, Omaru Bay and Park Point on Waiheke, as well as control across Rakino and The Noises. This includes mile-a-minute weed controlled across the whole of Ruapuke / Maria Island before seabirds breeding season.

### **Moth plant compliance inner Hauraki Gulf Islands**

- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) requires landowners on Waiheke and Rakino to remove all moth plants from their properties. To help them comply with this rule, we sent 1233 letters to properties on both islands where moth plants are or have been present. The letters informed them of their obligation to control the moth plants and notified them of an upcoming inspection. We also included a brochure with instructions on how to manage moth plants.
- We conduct property inspections in buffer zones around high-value site areas (Biodiversity Focus Areas) to assess infestation levels. Over the last year, we visited 193 priority properties, completed inspections on 78 properties and partially completed inspections on 82. We also sent six Notices of Direction to properties not meeting their obligations and are following up with these properties.

### **Predator Free Waiheke**

- Te Korowai o Waiheke, in a partnership with Auckland council and other funders, are aiming to eradicate stoats and trial rat eradication on Waiheke Island. They continue to monitor over 1700 traps across Waiheke. Over the course of the programme, over 14,700 pests have been eliminated, 201 of these being stoats. Data shows stoat numbers are declining and efforts will intensify to achieve stoat eradication. Te Korowai o Waiheke have begun their third a rat control trial at Surfdale.
- The results of this year's 5-minute bird counts were positive with a 52 per cent increase in the count of endemic and native birds (combined). Every native species experienced an increase, with highlights being a 300 per cent increase in kaka calls recorded on Waiheke and a 180 per cent increase in piwakawaka counted.

### **Waiheke Pig Eradication**

- After more than six years of management, and two years of active surveillance, Waiheke Islands 9200 ha are still considered to be free of feral pigs. Recent pig reports are assumed to be related to intentional releases, and we will continue to follow up to prevent feral pigs from damaging Waiheke's natural environment and agricultural production.

### **Other islands projects**

- We continued our work across the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. This included:



- Pest plant surveillance and control on Rakino, and The Noises.
- Conducting Argentine ant surveillance and control on Kawau Island, aiming for eradication, and planning operations for the removal of browsing pests (wallabies and possums).
- Rabbit, feral cat, and rat control on Aotea.
- Planting 3,500 plants in high-value wetlands on Aotea and Waiheke.
- Working with Ngāti Rehua Trust on a variety of environmental projects on Aotea and supporting Tū Mai Taonga with pest control and surveillance of threatened plants, lizards, and frogs.



## Marine and pathways

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention

- We are trialling innovative solar-powered AI cameras that monitor traps for predators on Motukorea/ Browns Island and Rakino Island. These cameras capture real-time images, which are quickly analysed by specialised AI software. Pest detection dog surveillance of the islands has confirmed there are no pests present.
- We supported Rotoroa and Pakatoa island with pest prevention, including responding to a suspected mouse incursion on Rotoroa island, alongside DOC.
- We completed a Waiheke Biosecurity Management Plan with input from Te Korowai o Waiheke. This is an operational plan and living document to keep pests off Waiheke Island.
- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

### Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- **In your area**, a Notice of Direction was issued for a vessel in Islington Bay, Rangitoto which has been complied with.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa

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Response, funded by MPI, included suction dredging at Aotea and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino.

- **In your area** we supported the Waiheke Marine Project in conjunction with Ngāti Paoa, with survey and advocacy work.
  - Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.
  - We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.
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2023/2024

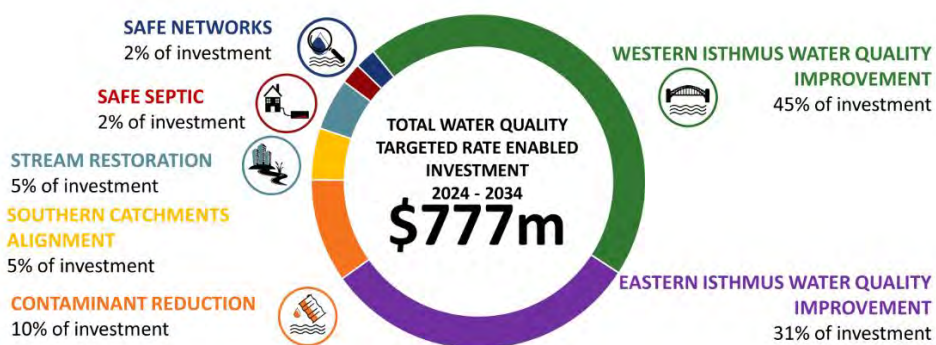


Waitākere Ranges Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Projects in your local board area:



### Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### Armour Bay

Water quality sampling of stream inputs upstream of Armour Bay is underway.

### Fosters Bay

Safe Septic compliance inspections of onsite wastewater systems is underway. Once this has been completed, post resolution sampling will be undertaken to ensure there has been an improvement or to decide if further investigation is required.

### Titirangi

Green Bay, Wood Bay and French Bay have all had private drainage investigations completed with a majority of the public and private drainage issues identified during the investigation being resolved this year. Post resolution sampling is underway to confirm the works were successful.



### Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

742 onsite wastewater systems in Waitākere Ranges were serviced. Of these, 669 were compliant, 66 had minor issues, and seven had critical failures.



### Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### Piha Wetland Improvements

An opportunity to improve water quality in Piha has been identified and is in an early design phase. This proposed Piha Wetland Improvements project will provide a solution to the issues arising from the wetland not functioning or providing storage. This will support biodiversity, reduce maintenance costs, and improve water quality.

### 2 in a Ute



We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains 15 ponds and 18 disposal fields in the Waitākere Ranges area.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 379 of these were in Waitākere Ranges with a 73 per cent pass rate (meaning 73 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Great North Road & Cartwright Road Pipe Renewal**

The project will upgrade the existing stormwater network and work to mitigate stream bank erosion and land instability by enhancing the stream bed. Resource consent has been granted and the project is finalising design. Construction will be programmed when the project has been made shelf-ready.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance (PFWRA) was allocated \$23,71 to support a data management role, with a small contribution to the PFWRA coordinator role. They also received \$4000 worth of pest control tools and resources and a small amount of funding towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy.
- Karekare Landcare received \$22,040 to support the group coordinator for a further year, helping to increase their effectiveness and ability to prioritise and expand some areas of their existing work and operational area. They also received a \$14,000 grant towards tools for their pest control and restoration work and \$2704 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- South Titirangi Neighbourhood Network was awarded a \$19,000 grant towards engagement costs for their Neighbourhood Restoration and Urban Sanctuary Project, \$5000 of funding to support a strategic plan review, health and safety and ICT costs, and \$4000 worth of pest control tools and resources and a small amount of funding towards signage.
- Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc received a \$24,100 grant towards costs of their Kōkako Census project, including specialist time and tools.
- Protect Piha Heritage Society received a \$17,500 grant towards their Pest Free Piha project and operations manager hours, \$4,379 worth of pest control tools and resources and a small amount of funding towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy.
- Birdsong Opanuku received \$9,300 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Forest and Bird Matuku Reserve received \$4,000 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Karekare Landcare received \$2000 worth of pest animal and plant control supplies.
- Huia Trapping Group received \$2,000 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Kauwahaia Trust received \$490 worth of pest control tools and resources.
- Friends of Anawhata received a small amount of funding towards pest control tools and resources.

- Matuku Link received \$4000 towards pest control tools and resources and a small amount towards biodiversity outreach and advocacy.
- The West Coast and Te Henga Dotterel Minders groups both received a small amount of funding to support their biodiversity outreach and advocacy work.
- Pest Free Waitākere / Swanson received \$3929 worth of funding for pest control tools and resources.

#### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.

#### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- Eight community groups from across the region were provided with group advisory coaching this past year growing their group governance and leadership capabilities to enable them to be more effective and grow their conservation activities, including Matuku Link, Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance and Karekare Landcare **in your area**. Representatives from the Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance also took part in the individual mentoring programme aimed at strengthening their personal leadership and organisational capabilities to lift the quality and effectiveness of the management of their group and activities.
- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity. In the north-west a 'Rewild the West' hui was held with 8 attendees representing 5 groups.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

#### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- In May 2024 we conducted a trial with Matuku Link, supporting them to increase their visibility and broaden their Facebook audience. The trial was highly successful, significantly increasing their Facebook reach and number of visits. Videos 'boosted' through the trial were viewed over 5000 times. The trial has shown good potential, so will be broadened next financial year to support a further six groups.
- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

## Partnering with mana whenua

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.
- Four bespoke cultural inductions for conservation groups were run by Ngāti Manuhiri and Te Kawerau ā Maki were delivered to 48 attendees. This included two ‘Stage 1’ or introductory cultural inductions developed and delivered by each iwi. There were 33 attendees at the two Te Kawerau ā Maki cultural inductions and 15 at the Ngāti Manuhiri cultural inductions.

## Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, 14 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

## Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.



## Enabling tools

We’re improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

## Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work

together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### **Biodiversity Focus Areas**

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

#### **Ecosystem Monitoring**

- We are developing ways to monitor managed sites to see how management of pressures is improving the health of ecosystems. These monitoring methods are tailored to each site based on its size and the types of ecosystems present.
- **In your area**, we completed annual bird monitoring in Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. The results will help us measure the long-term outcomes of active pest management across the park.

#### **Threatened species prioritisation**

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.

We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### **Marine ecology**

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

#### **Marine habitat protection**

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauturu-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

#### **Seabird protection**

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- **In your area**, we continued community monitoring of tākapu / Australasian gannets at Muriwai during the whole breeding season.
- Data collection for a PhD project on ōi / grey-faced petrel, pest animal monitoring and attitudes of Waitākere residents about native bird restoration was completed in collaboration with the University of Auckland. Data will now be analysed and reported, including management recommendations for pest control for mainland seabird colonies.





## Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

### Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks, and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.
- **In your area**, all kauri tracks within the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park have passed their latest review. We carried out this work in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki with the tracks measured against the required standard and tikanga and mauri indicators. We opened the Marawhara and White Tracks following significant damage from Cyclone Gabrielle. We also carried out storm damage repair on Comans, Omanawanui and Karamatura Tracks, Karamatura Loop Walk, Spragg Bush Walk and Arataki Nature Trail. Temporary access works were carried out for Kitekite Track and Mercer Bay Loop Walk was resurfaced.
- **In your local parks**, we completed track upgrades at Henderson Valley Scenic Reserve, Titirangi War Memorial Park and Rahui Kahika Reserve.

### Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.

### Kauri dieback surveillance and research

- We supported Kauri Rescue and Te Kawerau ā Maki to undertake phosphite treatment research. This project seeks to facilitate Māori to exercise kaitiakitanga through seeking input from Māori on project design and implementation and to develop and implement tools to protect kauri.
- We are also continuing to work in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki to give effect to kauri ora in Te Wao Nui o Tiriwa / Waitākere Ranges. Te Kawerau ā Maki have employed two rangatahi to help deliver the programme which involves the health monitoring and phosphite treatment of select kauri. The rangatahi are also involved in co-delivery of track quality auditing as part of our broader kauri programme.



## Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### Targeted management for threatened species and ecosystems

- We have identified priority sites with threatened species or ecosystems across Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland and work in a targeted way to protect and enhance the specific biodiversity values at each of these important sites.
- **In your area we carried out or supported the following work:**
  - Contribution of part-funding (\$15,000) towards a dog bylaw monitoring officer to help protect shorebirds at the West Coast beaches from dogs
  - The release of approximately 1000 juvenile shortjaw kokopu (*Galaxias postvectis*) into five streams within Te Wao Nui o Tiriwa / Waitākere

Ranges. The objective is to establish new populations in streams previously inaccessible to this threatened native fish species. This undertaking was a collaborative effort between Auckland Council Environmental Services, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Manāki Whitebait, NIWA and Watercare.

### **Regional parks integrated site management**

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year.
- **We delivered \$1.436 million of the following pest plant and/or animal control in the Waitākere Ranges:**
  - **Entire park:** feral pigs, feral deer survey (none found)
  - **North:** rabbits, possums, pest plants
  - **West:** rabbits, mustelids, rats, pest plants
  - **South (includes Huia and Whatipū):** mustelids, unowned cats, rats, rabbits, pest plants
  - **Central:** possums
  - **Ark in the Park:** mustelids, unowned cats, rats, rabbits, pest plants.
  - We also delivered rabbit and pest plant control in Muriwai Regional Park.

### **Pest plant control on land buffering parks**

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks.
- **In your area**, work on private properties was jointly funded by NETR and the local board. We targeted climbing asparagus, bushy asparagus, wild ginger, woolly nightshade, moth plant, rhamnus, and madeira vine.
- We completed work for Piha and Anawhata. This included compliance checks on 30 properties in Anawhata with this being the first year we carried out compliance for this project. No major issues were found.
- We completed control work for Huia, Cornwallis, Laingholm, Waiatarua, and inland and coastal Karekare, where we are supporting the Karekare Landcare group. In total, we searched approximately 250ha of land and controlled for climbing asparagus, bushy asparagus, ginger, moth plant, woolly nightshade and rhamnus.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at 11 active sites and monitored eight sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

### **Pest plant biocontrol**

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is

also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.

- **In your area**, we released tradescantia leaf beetle at two properties in Huia and one property along the Steam Hauler Track adjacent to Waitoru Reserve last year. We also released tradescantia yellow spot fungus at a private property in Waiaatarua to help with a large tradescantia infestation. The leaf beetle was also present at this site, so the yellow spot fungus will add to managing this pest plant on the property.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

#### **Ground based possum control**

- We control possums across many high priority ecosystems. During the last year, we carried out ground-based possum control across 22,000 hectares of rural land in Auckland, to complement the good work being undertaken in many areas by the community.
- **In your area**, we carried out work buffering the entire Waitākere Ranges Regional Parkland to the north and east (6300 ha), which was supported by Te Kawerau ā Maki, and the community groups Opanuku Birdsong and Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance.

#### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and at priority threatened species locations across the region, and 11 cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.

#### **Regional deer and goat control**

- We continued large-scale aerial survey works for feral deer and goats as an efficient and effective tool for detecting these pests at a landscape level. Region-wide we detected a total of 116 feral deer using a combination of ground, thermal drone, and aerial surveillance, and removed 55 deer overall.
- **In your area**, we carried out both ground-based and drone surveillance to detect deer and goats over 8000ha north of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. We removed 46 feral goats and 7 feral deer north of the Waitākere Regional Parkland, including from the Bethells area. The Waitākere Ranges Regional Park remains free of feral deer.

#### **Pest plants and animals banned from sale**

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, we inspected one nursery trading via Trade Me, one local nursery and one pest store.

2023/2024

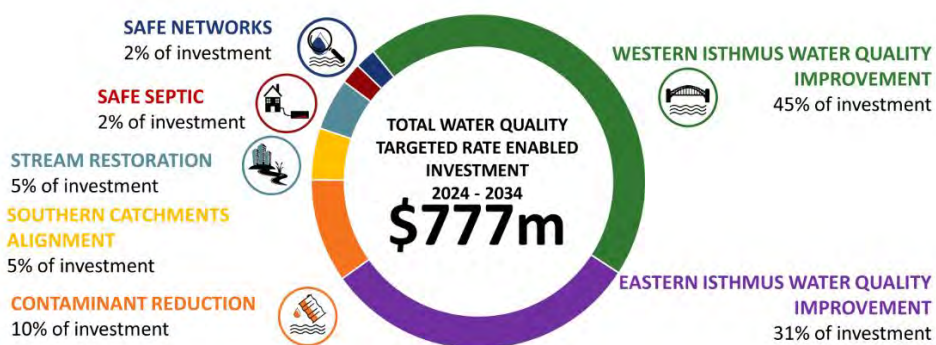


Waitematā Local Board

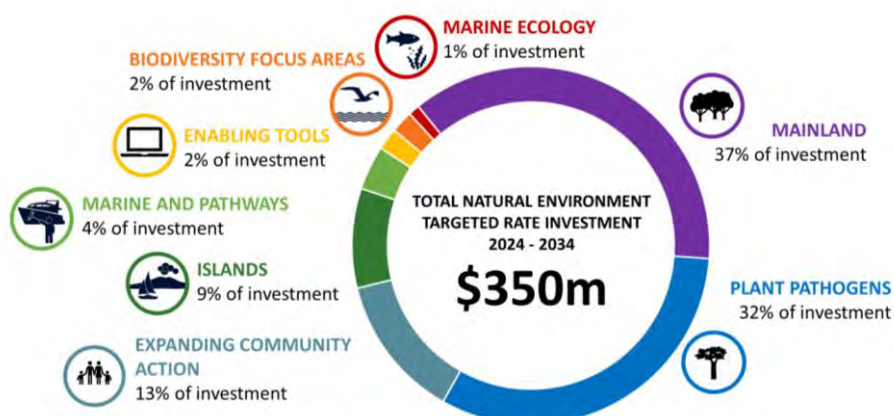
## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown





# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Lower Khyber Separation

Lower Khyber Pass separation project is a major project in the Eastern Isthmus in the Waitematā Harbour Water Quality Improvement Programme's (WHWQIP) and will provide separation of the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour and Gulf Harbour, along with other flooding and growth benefits. Construction was planned to begin in Autumn 2024 but was postponed in favour of amending the design to better accommodate the limited space available on site. The amended design will reduce cost, simplify construction and reduce the carbon footprint in the long run. The project will begin construction in February 2025.

## Kingdon Street, Newmarket. Renewal & Separation

Kingdon St separation project is being constructed as part of the Lower Khyber Separation project to reduce costs and will commence after completion of new stormwater network at the University of Auckland. It will provide separation of 18 properties the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour and Gulf Harbour.

## Grey Lynn Cox's Bay Targeted Stormwater Separation

Cox's Bay separation project will provide separation of 96 properties from the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour. The project is in early design.

## Westmere Separation

Westmere separation project will provide separation of 397 properties from the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour. The work to separate the stormwater and wastewater networks in the Westmere area will take many years to be completed and the programme has been divided into several packages of work. The project is in an early design phase.

## Water quality improvement projects – Minor cross connection projects

This programme aims to deliver minor capital works to remove wastewater to stormwater cross-connections, which will improve water quality in their receiving areas. Projects on Karangahape Road and London St, St Marys Bay have been completed.

## Central Interceptor Extension - Point Erin Tunnel

The project is a contribution to Watercare to fund the design of the Pt Erin Tunnel into the Central Interceptor. Funding of design and enabling works has been delivered, and a new funding agreement for the construction works is being finalised. The extension will reduce engineered-overflows to a target of no more than two spills per year, improve water quality to 90 per cent or greater (SafeSwim LTP measure), address cultural value effects, and protect the inner harbour marine ecosystems.

## Safe Networks





We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

### **Masefield Beach**

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments discharging to Masefield to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations are progressing to public and private drainage investigations.

### **CBD**

Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. Isolated issue locations are progressing to public and private drainage investigations.



### **Safe Septic**

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

### **Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme**

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.



### **Urban and rural stream rehabilitation**

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

### **2 in a Ute**

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 74 of these were in Waitematā with a 91 per cent pass rate (meaning 91 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines,

and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Stanmore Road to Fife Street Stormwater Upgrade**

The Stanmore Road stormwater upgrade project between Stanmore Road and Francis Reserve has been completed. A new stormwater pipe has being installed for flood mitigation and to allow for future separation of the combined wastewater and stormwater system.

### **Potatau Street, 199 Great North Road Stormwater Extension and 339-359 Great North Road (Northland St to Commercial Road)**

Water quality improvement projects 339-359 Great North Road Upgrade and Potatau Street Upgrade were completed in February 2024. The projects were delivered in alignment with AT's Great North Road Improvement projects to minimize disruption. We were able to install new stormwater to facilitate growth and environmental benefits by removing stormwater from the combined network.

### **108-152 Fanshawe St Stormwater Upgrade, Lighter Quay Basin outfall**

The project aims to mitigate existing and potential future flooding in Fanshawe Street and reduce the health and safety risk posed by two significant combined network overflows that are connected to the existed pipeline. During high rainfall events, these overflows cause contaminated stormwater to flood and enter the receiving environment. The project has been granted resource consent and will soon complete detailed design. It will be made shelf ready, after which it will be programmed for construction in line with budget availability.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

The Eastern Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme is in planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme. A number of opportunities in this programme are now projects in their own right, and more will result as the programme progresses.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

# Natural environment projects



## Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### In your area:

- Urban Ark Manawa Taiao received \$1500 for strategic plan implementation, \$5325 worth of pest control tools and resources, and \$500 worth of biodiversity advocacy and outreach support, complemented by local board funding.
- Volunteer weeders received \$1000 worth of weed control tools.

#### Crossing multiple local boards:

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.
- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### Developing community conservation leadership

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups.

### Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the

region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events

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### **Partnering with mana whenua**

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### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

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- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

### **Trees for Survival**

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. 112 schools are now involved in the programme, planting approximately 90,000 native trees this past year.
- Eleven schools **in your area** grew and planted trees on sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

### **Parks Connect to Nature**

- The Natural Environment Targeted Rate contributes to a range of local parks programmes that aim to inspire schools, groups and the wider community to connect with nature, learn new skills and to get involved in conservation. The

Adopt-a-Park programme supports two schools **in your area** including Freemans Bay Primary (Western Park) and Ponsonby Primary (Pt Erin Park) involving 55 students.



### Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

### Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website had 141,000 unique users this year, a 25 per cent increase. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau presents a key tool to support iwi and those engaged in conservation to access information and work together. This past year we have been working with mana whenua to make enhancements to the site.



### Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're protecting a range of species and ecosystems.

### Threatened species prioritisation

- We completed the first regional conservation status assessment for freshwater fish in Tāmaki Makaurau. This aids us in identifying and prioritising species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery. A total of 31 freshwater fish species were identified as present in the region. Thirteen were determined to be native species that are threatened or at risk of regional extinction.
- We also completed the first regional conservation status assessment for birds in Tāmaki Makaurau. A total of 230 bird species were identified as present or occasionally present in the region. Of these 54 of the bird species were assessed as native and threatened or at risk of regional extinction.



### Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

### Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and this year focused on the Hauraki Gulf. Last year we completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait, Kawau Bay, and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf inside Te Hauturu-o-Toi and Aotea, substantially increasing our coverage. This year we carried out verification surveys to confirm the presence and condition of marine habitats out around Whangaparaoa Peninsula, East Coast Bays and Tāmaki Strait using towed underwater video camera.

### Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. Fourteen seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.



### Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.



## Kauri Dieback Infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 16km of tracks in regional parks, along with 5.1km of tracks in local parks and installed 23 new hygiene stations across the track network.

## Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines, with a total of 314 hours of engagement in the field.
- We also strengthened our collaboration with schools near key kauri reserves and introduced new engagement tools. These include Virtual Reality headsets and a dedicated trailer to deliver the kauri Virtual Reality experience which shares important messages on how to protect kauri.



## Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

## Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region across 654 sites. This year, 23 sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.
- **In your area**, we controlled low incidence pest plants at three active sites and monitored four sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

## Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

## Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited two pet stores and four nurseries.



## Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

## Islands projects

- We continued to deliver work across the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. In 2023/2024, this included:
  - Pest plant control on sites across Waiheke, Rakino and The Noises.
  - Stoat eradication and rat eradication trials delivered on Waiheke with local partners.
  - Rabbit, feral cat and rat control on Aotea Great Barrier.
  - Working with Ngāti Rehua trust on a variety of environmental projects on Aotea and supporting Tū Mai Taonga with pest control and surveillance of threatened plants, lizards and frogs.
  - 3500 plants planted in high value wetlands Aotea and Waiheke



## Marine and pathways

We're managing and educating about pest pathways and preventing pest spread.

### Hauraki Gulf Islands Pest Prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected 782 commercial vehicle and passenger ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 443 sailings to Waiheke, 266 to Aotea, and 61 to Rakino. They identified 297 risk goods. They also inspected 30 houses set for relocation and recorded 27 pest indications on goods and vehicles, both prior to transportation to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The team now also assesses biosecurity risks from reported shipwrecks, including a recent inspection near the Noises with DOC support.
- **In your area**, our dog handler did inspections at the Wynyard Quarter Ferry Terminal and the Westhaven Marina. We also had a stand at the Hutchwilco Boat Show with 693 quality engagements recorded.
- We provided feedback on the Ports of Auckland dredging project Biosecurity Management Plan and will have ongoing involvement as biosecurity advisors and vessel/ risk load inspectors.
- To date, a total of 142 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 62 became warranted this year.

### Marine biosecurity

- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and there are now six sites in the region, including near Waiheke, Kawau, in Leigh Harbour, and at Mokohinau and Rakino Islands. An Accelerated Caulerpa Response, funded by MPI, included suction dredging at Aotea and improved surveillance technology at Waiheke. We also supported trials of new technology including UV-C light at Rakino.
- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements intended to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1362 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 62 per cent found to be compliant with the rules (low hull biofouling and marine pest free). The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm and clubbed tunicate. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.

- **In your area**, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Westhaven Marina (310 inspections), and issued two abatement notices, one infringement notice and one Notice of Direction, which has been complied with.
- Marine biosecurity champions engaged with more than 4500 people over summer to educate about caulerpa, biofouling, hull cleaning and marine pests. These champions were located at key wharves and boat ramps, speaking to boaties, island residents and visitors.
- **In your area**, these champions carried out engagement work at Westhaven Marina, the Outboard Boating Club in Parnell and the Hutchwilco Boat Show.
- We developed a marine biosecurity educational resource for school children in collaboration with partner agencies. This is a national freely available resource designed for years 5-8 in classrooms or at home.

### **Te Wharekura**

- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland Council have undertaken an innovative mana-based partnership approach to deliver Te Wharekura. Te Wharekura stands to celebrate the cultural richness of Tāmaki and Waitematā Kupenga Rau, aiming to inspire public awareness and appreciation of these taonga. The cultural and marine education space is centrally located in a 108-year-old heritage kiosk next to the downtown ferry terminal and is open four days a week with between 50 - 80 visitors a day.
- With kaitiakitanga for Te Wharekura being held by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei as ahi-kā and tangata whenua for the central city and isthmus, in future, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei will apply their tikanga to provide opportunities for other iwi to share their mātauranga in this space. The space will deliver a rich display of environmental values, and mātauranga Māori that share the historical relationships and stories fundamental to the past, present and future of te Waitematā and Tāmaki.

2023/2024

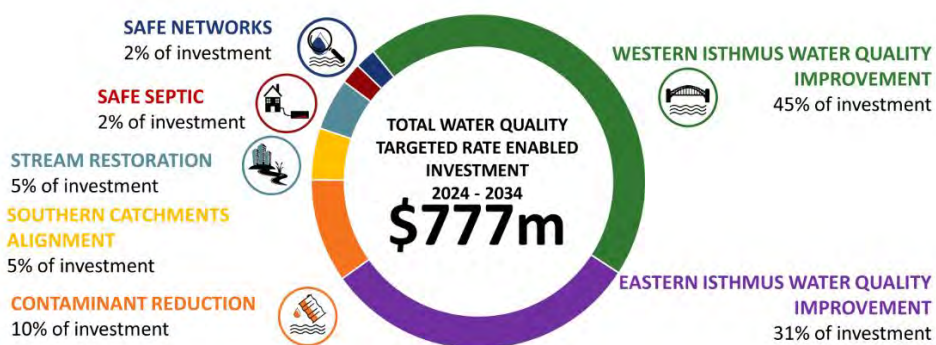


Whau Local Board

## Water quality and natural environment targeted rates

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment targeted rate to invest in projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems, and the water quality targeted rate, which enables investment into cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the sixth year of the targeted rates.

### Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



### Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown





# Water quality projects

## Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce overflows into the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.667 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$890 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

## Oakley Bollard Methuen Stormwater Separation

Oakley Bollard Avenue separation project will provide separation of 51 properties from the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour, along with other flooding and growth benefits. The project is due to begin construction in January 2025 until March 2026.

## Blockhouse Bay Separation

Blockhouse Bay separation project will provide separation of 27 properties from the existing combined stormwater and wastewater network to improve water quality in the Waitematā Harbour, along with other flooding and growth benefits. The project is forecast to start construction in March 2025.



## Safe Networks

We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate issues with our water networks and identify solutions to make popular Safeswim sites safe for swimming and recreation.

## Whau River

Water quality sampling is planned for the coming year for stormwater manholes in sub-catchments discharging to Whau River to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues.

## Flounder Bay

Public and private drainage investigations have been completed to address wet weather contamination issues. Once this has been completed, post resolution sampling will be undertaken to ensure there has been an improvement or to decide if further investigation is required.



## Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

## Safe Septic Onsite Wastewater system development programme

We have built a database of private systems to enable us to carry out compliance checks and monitor that private wastewater systems with issues are resolved. We received over 12,600 maintenance records, confirming that that each system was inspected by a qualified professional and any identified issues were resolved. Private wastewater systems are a major source of wastewater contamination into Auckland's harbours, causing poor water quality.

Six onsite wastewater systems in Whau were serviced. Of these, five were compliant and one had minor issues.



## Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.



## **2 in a Ute**

We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. In total, the programme maintains over 1,100 assets across Auckland. Our team maintains two ponds and two wetlands in the Whau area.



### **Contaminant reduction projects**

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

### **Sediment Project - Closing the Gap**

The Close the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry, building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 14,100 site visits across Auckland, 549 of these were in Whau with a 78 per cent pass rate (meaning 78 per cent of site had appropriate sediment controls in place).

### **Sea Cleaners Trust**

The volume of litter recovered from Waitematā Harbour, Manukau Harbour and Southern Kaipara Harbour was 284,350 litres. This was achieved with the help of 2,121 volunteer hours. Sea Cleaners spent a total of 1,204 hours removing rubbish from the shorelines, and preparing for and attending community events, vessel management and general day to day duties. Since clean-up inception during December 2002, Sea Cleaners have recovered and removed over 17,745,012 litres of rubbish and have co-ordinated over 179,389 hours of volunteer support for the operation. This is the enough collected marine litter to fill over 592 shipping containers.

### **Great North Road & Cartwright Road Pipe Renewal**

The project will upgrade the existing stormwater network and work to mitigate stream bank erosion and land instability by enhancing the stream bed. Resource consent has been granted and the project is finalising design. Construction will be programmed when the project has been made shelf-ready.

### **Avondale retrofit Gross Pollutant Traps**

This project has resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme, where opportunities have been identified to install multiple gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices around Avondale's industrial and commercial areas. This will reduce contaminants from entering the Whau River Estuary and the Waitematā Harbour, such as coarse sediment, gross pollutants, and hydrocarbons. The concept design has been completed and work to determine estimate cost is underway, which will inform on the business case. Once this has been completed, the project will enter design phase.

### **57A Godley Road Stream Bank Stabilisation**

This a new project to support and protect the stream bank at Godley Road, which is causing increased sedimentation and poor water quality. The project has experienced delays due a need to focus on storm recovery activities throughout much of financial year

2023/2024 but has now commenced preliminary design. Once it is completed, the Resource Consent application will be lodged.

### **Stream Restoration 203 and 211 Richardson Rd**

The re-alignment of the stream at 203-211 Richardson Rd will improve ecosystem health, public amenity, and water quality. It is predominantly funded by the Healthy Waters Biodiversity Offset Bank, through which construction projects that have consent requirements to provide ecological offset or mitigation are able purchase offset credits. The remaining funded is provided by the water quality targeted rate. Detailed design was completed in March 2024 and the project is being made shelf-ready, after which it will be programmed for construction in line with budget availability.



### **Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme**

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.



### **Southern catchments alignment**

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

This programme is in an early planning phase.

## **Natural environment projects**



### **Enhanced support for community groups**

We're investing to support community-led conservation initiatives, partner with Māori and engage businesses to protect and restore the natural environment.

### **Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives**

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, and are also of regional significance.
- This year, a total of \$575,924 was awarded to 28 applicants through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund (RENH) for on-the-ground activities to protect, restore or enhance Auckland's natural heritage.
- A total of \$704,829 was awarded to 33 applicants through the Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) to increase group leadership capacity and collaboration to better enable catchment or landscape scale restoration and conservation projects.
- A further \$515,000 was allocated to local community groups for the provision of tools and resources, such as traps and bait, that enable groups to carry out conservation activities.

#### **In your area:**

- Community groups in your area received \$2000 worth of plants for the winter 2024 planting season.

#### **Crossing multiple local boards:**

- \$10,000 worth of tools and resources was provided to local schools' tool libraries, to assist with pest control and planting, including eDNA stream testing kits, spades, binoculars and saws.

- The Compost Collective received \$5000 towards pest control tools for their work that spans multiple local boards.
- The Community Cat Coalition was allocated \$2700 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes.

### **Developing community conservation leadership**

- We hosted five Local Coordinator Network events in the north, north-west and south of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, involving 90 community leaders in total. These provided opportunities for community conservation group leaders to connect, learn, be acknowledged for their work, plan and create a joint approach for their local areas outside of their day-to-day group activity.
- We continue to reach out to a wide range of local community groups through the Regional Coordinator Network Newsletter which currently reaches 243 subscribers. Through this we share information about funding available, training opportunities, important news, relevant research, behaviour change insights and approaches, and features on the work of various conservation groups..

### **Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders**

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. We supported eight local Festival events across the region this past year with funding and staff time, including the first event run by iwi mana whenua. A total of 1220 people attended these events
- Region-wide, we run initiatives to raise conservation awareness, share information and celebrate achievements. Over May and June 2024, we ran the 'Save Our Backyard Birdsong' campaign across 13 radio stations to help listeners to identify native birds through their songs and encourage them to pull weeds, plant natives and place traps. We also produced and shared a video titled 'Myrtle rust: what you need to know to stop the spread'.

### **Engaging the private sector**

- The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 21 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans.
- **In your area**, ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the Titirangi Golf Club.

### **Partnering with mana whenua**

- In partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council co-created Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau, released in November 2023. This important guide provides practical planting advice, alongside the expertise and aspirations of mana whenua for te taiao, including advice on how to engage. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Auckland Council.

### **Growing conservation capability and knowledge**

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, which focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.

- Te Aho Tū Roa supported nine Māori Medium Schools, 70 collaborations/partnerships and held 56 events workshops and projects involving 1099 participants in the kaupapa, 477 of whom were rangatahi.
- 234 schools and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa, representing 143,200 ākonga. This year, Enviroschools engaged in 27 events and cluster workshops with a focus on the natural environment, attended by over 1570 people. Activities included professional development on planting for biodiversity success, whole of catchment/landscape scale restoration at Te Puhinui and Te Whau, water quality assessment, and engagement with local community restoration planting.
- **In your area**, nine schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board area can be found on the Enviroschools website.
- We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland.

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### Enabling tools

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### **Protecting green spaces**

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

### **Pest plant control on land buffering parks**

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by landowners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 900ha of land, across 914 properties, to protect 45 regional and local parks. Control work is mostly of climbing and bushy asparagus across buffer land to meet council's RPMP obligations.
- **In your area**, work was completed out in the Oakley Creek buffer, with 273 properties surveyed and controlled for the targeted plants. This project is largely funded by the Albert-Eden, Puketāpapa and Whau local boards, with some NETR contribution, and focuses on their priorities for pest plant management. A large number of pest plant species are targeted, including the RPMP buffer species.

### **Low incidence pest plant control**

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sites moved from active control of adult plants to monitoring control success, and four sites that were being monitored are now classified as eradicated.

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- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, used to suppress widespread pest plant species and reduce the reliance on herbicide. We released three separate batches of moth plant beetle agents at Mt Wellington, Henderson and Hobsonville this year. Yellow leaf spot fungus for tradescantia is also successfully establishing across the region with many reports of it infecting tradescantia across several local board areas.
- **In your area**, we released and monitored tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus in New Windsor. Monitoring showed early signs of infection.
- Engagement with iwi about biocontrol has been carried out in a way that respects the tikanga, time and capacity of each iwi. This year we held a two-day training session on biocontrol for seven representatives from five different iwi, alongside Manaaki Whenua.

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- We made over 250 inspections and educational visits to nurseries, garden centres, markets, pet stores, breeders and companies selling online to ensure sellers are aware of and compliant with rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- **In your area**, trade inspectors visited one pet store and three nurseries.

### **Responsible pet ownership**

- We funded cat desexing and microchipping (snip and chip) at priority threatened species locations across the region, and at priority threatened species locations across the region, and 78 cats from your area were desexed, microchipped and registered on the companion animal register. We also worked with the community on responsible pet ownership.