

# RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT (RIMU)

## Capability Statement

2018



Photo taken by Ann Jones

Updated: March 2018

Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) undertakes the evidence gathering functions, including research, monitoring, evaluation and reporting to ensure that the council's decision-making is based on robust evidence in the context of growth and change.

RIMU's work underpins and informs the council's core function, which includes planning for growth and meeting legislative requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Acts in relation to social, economic, land use and environmental issues.

RIMU is a multi-disciplinary hub that brings together highly skilled professionals to deliver these requirements. By linking research, policy and implementation, RIMU is uniquely placed to foster innovative and collaborative approaches to the complex issues Auckland faces now and in the future.

Monitoring and reporting on the state and trends of Auckland's environment, RIMU provides an essential node in New Zealand's national monitoring programme. A core responsibility of the council is to manage and develop Auckland in a context of sustained growth, so it is critical that decision-makers have a clear understanding of the implications of this growth and development in the region.

RIMU also provides in-house support for evaluation and quality assurance across Auckland Council. The teams are responsive to the demands of decision-makers throughout the organisation and translate primary and secondary evidence for a variety of end-users and audiences beyond Auckland Council. RIMU supports robust practices and provides the justification and transparency in the council's decision-making that ultimately shapes Auckland and the environment in which we live.

**For further help and information go to our website:**

**[www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz](http://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz)**

**or email: [rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)**

## RIMU TEAMS

**Eva McLaren** (MA Sociology) Manager Research and Evaluation (Acting)

### LAND USE, INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAM

The team analyses critical issues confronting Auckland in relation to housing, land use, planning capacity and infrastructure. The team also oversees the provision of growth information for services and asset planning.

**Regan Solomon** (MSc Geography) Team Manager

**Dr Nancy Golubiewski** (PhD) Senior Researcher  
**Kyle Balderston** (BSc Hons) Principal Growth Analyst  
**Dr Jennifer Joynt** (PhD) Researcher Planning  
**Craig Fredrickson** (BSc, PGDipPlan) Researcher  
**Dr Mario Fernandez** (PhD) Research Economist  
**Tony Edhouse** (BSc, Dip. Libr) Researcher  
**Chad Hu** (MPlan, BSc) Growth Analyst  
**Grant Lawrence** (MSc) GIS Scientist

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAM

The team provides evidence in relation to population growth and change, diversity, social trends and issues, and spatial, macro- and micro-economic analysis, including housing, retail and business land use.

**Alison Reid** (MA) Team Manager (Acting)

**Dr Carina Meares** (PhD) Senior Social Researcher  
**Alison Reid** (MA) Senior Social Researcher  
**Dr Jesse Allpress** (PhD) Senior Social Researcher  
**Dr Esther Rootham** (PhD) Social Researcher  
**Dr Jacob Otter** (PhD) Social Researcher  
**Penelope Tuatagaloa** (MSc) Senior Research Economist  
**Mehrnaz Rohani** (MSc) Research Economist  
**Ting Huang** (MA) Research Economist  
**Brian Osborne** (MSc) Statistical Information Analyst  
**Ross Wilson** (MCom) Analyst  
**Ta'ala Shane Ta'ala** Senior Advisor Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori Responsiveness

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAMS

The environmental teams carry out the physical monitoring of Auckland's environment: the rivers, sea, land and air - as required by law. In addition, they focus on understanding human generated impacts on the natural environment, report on environmental quality, and develop indicators to represent and communicate current and future environmental states.

#### AIR AND FRESHWATER

**Matt Hope** (Dip. Hydrology) Team Manager

**Dr Shanju Xie** (PhD) Air Quality Scientist  
**Dr Nick Talbot** (PhD) Air Quality Scientist  
**Dr Laura Buckthought** (PhD) Freshwater Scientist  
**Anna Kleinmans** (MSc) Freshwater Specialist  
**Courtney Foster** (MSc) Freshwater Specialist  
**Nick Holwerda** (BSc, Dip. Hydrology) Senior Hydrologist  
**Clive Coleman** Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Hamish Allen** (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Stacey Fraser** (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Hana Cumming** (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Shane Sullivan** (BSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Vanitha Pradeep** (MSc) Environmental Data Specialist

#### LAND AND MARINE

**Jacqueline Anthony** (BSc Hons) Team Manager

**Dr Todd Landers** (PhD) Terrestrial Biodiversity Scientist  
**Dr Craig Bishop** (PhD) Senior Biodiversity Scientist  
**Dr Fiona Curran-Cournane** (PhD) Land and Soil Scientist  
**Jade Khin** (MSc) Terrestrial Ecologist  
**Dr Megan Carbines** (PhD) Senior Marine Scientist  
**Dr Melissa Foley** (PhD) Senior Marine Scientist  
**Jamie Boyle** (MSc) Coastal Specialist  
**Pete Del Ferro** (BSc) Senior Marine Scientist  
**Melanie Vaughan** (MSc) Marine Scientist  
**Ebrahim Hussain** (MSc) Freshwater Scientist  
**Luke Stanley** (BSc) Marine Ecologist  
**Fin Townsend** (BSc) Hydrologist

## CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

RIMU provides a range of products and services including:

- high-quality evidence to assist with strategy and policy development, implementation and evaluation
- advice on research / monitoring priorities and assistance with research design
- scenario modelling (e.g. Capacity for Growth)
- analysis and interpretation of data using statistical techniques
- State of the Environment monitoring and reporting
- monitoring of national and international trends, events and government policy developments
- producing reports, articles, technical publications and research papers tailored to a broad range of audiences
- promoting and disseminating Auckland data and reports to the community
- providing 24/7 environmental monitoring services
- peer review of technical publications
- managing the council's Human Participants Ethics Committee
- developing and maintaining websites for easy access to data and reports (see Knowledge Auckland)

## KNOWLEDGE AUCKLAND



The Knowledge Auckland website is managed by RIMU. It provides research, information, analysis and data about Auckland's communities, economy and environment.

Please also visit RIMU's special websites for expert data and research information:

- **Auckland counts** – for Auckland's census data: [www.censusauckland.co.nz](http://www.censusauckland.co.nz)
- **Auckland economic profile** – for information about Auckland's economy: <http://ecoprofile.infometrics.co.nz/auckland>
- **Environmental data** – Please send requests for environmental data (for example, rainfall data, water quality figures, air quality information) to: [environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Auckland Council technical publications are also published on the council's website: [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)