

# RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT (RIMU)

## Capability Statement

2017



Photo by Ann Jones

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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 (RMA) and the Local Government Acts (LGA) 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)**

## 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) Resource Economics  
 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.

### Eva McLaren (MA Sociology) Team Manager

Dr Carina Mearns (PhD) Senior Social Researcher  
 Alison Reid (MA) Senior Social Researcher  
 Dr Jesse Allpress (PhD) Social Researcher  
 Dr Esther Rootham (PhD) Social Researcher  
 Dr Jacob Otter (PhD) Social Researcher  
 Alexandra Clark (MA Hons) Social Researcher  
 Penelope Tuatagaloa (MSc) Senior Research Economist  
 Mehrnaz Rohani (MA) Research Economist  
 Ting Huang (MA) Research Economist  
 Brian Osborne (MSc) Statistical Information Analyst  
 Ross Wilson (MA) 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 (Acting)

Dr Shanju Xie (PhD) Air Quality Scientist  
 Dr Nick Talbot (PhD) Air Quality Scientist  
 Dr Laura Buckthought (PhD) Freshwater Scientist  
 Matt Hope (Dip. Hydrology) Principal Freshwater Hydrologist  
 Nick Holwerda (BSc, Dip. Hydrology) Freshwater Hydrologist  
 Angela Perks (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
 Kristy Alley (PG Dip Env) Freshwater Hydrologist  
 Clive Coleman Freshwater Hydrologist  
 Kristi Holland (MSc) Freshwater Ecologist  
 Jamie Boyle (MSc) Coastal Specialist  
 Anna Kleinmans (MSc) Environmental Specialist  
 Hamish Allen (MSc) Environmental Specialist  
 Courtney Foster (MSc) Environmental Specialist  
 Stacey Fraser (MSc) Environmental 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  
 Pete Del Ferro (BSc) Senior Marine Scientist  
 Melanie Vaughan (MSc) Marine Scientist  
 Marcus Cameron (MSc) Aquatic Contaminants Scientist  
 Ebrahim Hussain (MSc) Marine and Freshwater Specialist  
 Luke Stanley (BSc) Freshwater Ecologist

## 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



Knowledge Auckland



The Knowledge Auckland website is managed by RIMU. It provides research, information, analysis and data about Auckland's social, economic and environmental landscape. 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 online** and **State of Auckland** – for Auckland environmental data and report cards: <http://maps.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aucklandcouncilviewer/?widgets=HYDROTEL>; and <http://stateofauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

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