

# Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU)

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.

## RIMU Teams

**Eva McLaren** (MA) Manager, Research and Evaluation

### RIMU Business Support:

Ann Jones (BA) Business Liaison  
Brenda D'Silva (BCom) Business Liaison

**Economic and Social Team:** Monitors and reports on population growth and change, diversity, social trends and issues, and spatial economic analysis, including housing, retail and business land use

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

**Land Use and Infrastructure Team:** Analyses critical issues in relation to housing, land use, planning capacity and infrastructure; oversees the provision of growth information for services and asset planning

**Regan Solomon** (MSc Geography) Team Manager  
**Barbara Ribeiro** (MDes) Analyst  
**Chad Hu** (MPlan, BSc) Growth Analyst  
**Dr Jennifer Joynt** (PhD) Researcher - Planning  
**Kyle Balderston** (BSc Hons) Principal Growth Analyst  
**Dr Leon Hoffman** (PhD) Researcher  
**Dr Mario Fernandez** (PhD) Research Economist  
**Dr Nancy Golubiewski** (PhD) Senior Researcher  
**Tony Edhouse** (BSc, Dip. Libr) Research Advisor

**Hydrology and Environmental Data Team:** Monitors and reports on surface and ground water quality and leads RIMU's environmental data management

**Matt Hope** (Dip. Hyd.) Team Manager  
**Clive Coleman** Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Finley Townsend** (BSc) Hydrologist  
**Jade Khin** (MSc) Senior Environmental Data Specialist  
**Jonathan De Villiers** (BSc) Freshwater Specialist  
**Kolt Johnson** (MSc) Senior Scientist - Hydrogeology  
**Martin Meyer** (BSc) Freshwater Specialist  
**Nick Holwerda** (BSc, Dip. Hyd.) Senior Hydrologist  
**Shane Sullivan** (BSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Stacey Fraser** (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Vanitha Pradeep** (MSc) Environmental Data Specialist

**Water Quality Team:** Monitors and reports on freshwater and marine water quality

**Dr Jonathan Benge** (PhD) Team Manager  
**Dr Coral Grant** (PhD) Principal Freshwater Scientist  
**Courtney Foster** (MSc) Freshwater Specialist  
**Dimitri Colella** (B.ASc) Marine Biologist  
**Ebrahim Hussain** (MSc) Freshwater Scientist  
**Dr Emily Frost** (PhD) Marine Scientist  
**Dr Laura Buckthought** (PhD) Freshwater Scientist  
**Luke Stanley** (MSc) Marine Ecologist  
**Maddison Jones** (BSc) Environmental Specialist

**Air, Land and Biodiversity Team:** Monitors and reports on air, land, and terrestrial and marine biodiversity

**Dr Megan Carbines** (PhD) Acting Team Manager  
**Dr Craig Bishop** (PhD) Senior Biodiversity Scientist  
**Dr Fiona Curran-Cournane** (PhD) Senior Scientist  
**Dr Gaia Dell'Araccia** (PhD) Scientist (Seabirds)  
**Hamish Allen** (MSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Jamie Boyle** (MSc) Senior Coastal Specialist  
**Dr Nick Talbot** (PhD) Scientist - Air Quality  
**Dr Shanju Xie** (PhD) Scientist - Air Quality  
**Dr Todd Landers** (PhD) Senior Scientist (Seabirds)

## 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).

For more information, visit our websites:

- [www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz](http://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz)
  - <https://environmentauckland.org.nz>
- or email: [rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Knowledge Auckland

The Knowledge Auckland website, [www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz](http://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz) is managed by RIMU. It provides published 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** – for environmental data visit our Environment Auckland website: <https://environmentauckland.org.nz>.  
Data enquiries: [environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

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Photographs: Ann Jones



**RIMU** Research and Evaluation Unit

## Capability Statement 2019

