

MONITORING BACKGROUND AND INTERPRETATION

Auckland Council's State of the Environment (SoE) monitoring programme has been building a record of Auckland's environment for more than 25 years. This information is critical to the effective management of Auckland's natural environment, after all, you can't manage what you don't monitor.

The monitoring programme shows there is a strong relationship between the health of rivers and the type of land cover in the surrounding catchment. Rivers that drain through forested catchments (particularly native forests) typically have excellent

water quality and ecology, while rivers that drain from urban catchments typically have poor water quality and ecology.

The health of the rivers in the Orākei reporting area is considered to be impaired. Urban development has led to a high level of impervious surface in the area, which prevents rainfall from soaking into the ground.

This has follow-on effects for rivers in the area leading to high water temperatures, changes to the natural flow patterns and increased pollution from contaminated stormwater.

WAI CARE ORĀKEI

Wai Care is a water quality education, monitoring and action programme managed by Auckland Council, for schools and community groups in the Auckland region.

The programme aims to educate people about freshwater issues and encourage and facilitate action in the local community, from water quality monitoring to streamside planting and litter clean-ups.

The following table shows achievements of the Wai Care Programme in Orākei during the 2013/2014 financial year.

Achievement	Total Orākei 2013/2014	Total Auckland 2013/2014
Active groups	4	138
Sites monitored	4	142
Monitoring sessions	4	246
Education sessions	5	198
Students involved in education	616	7704
Action events	0	82
People involved in action	0	2274



Photo: Participants from the Ngāti Whātua Orākei Mātātahi Programme

Highlights

Wai Care Central participated in the Ngāti Whātua Orākei Mātātahi Programme, which aims to give Māori youth out-of-the-classroom learning experiences and encouragement to pursue careers in science. The day consisted of activities ranging from horticultural science, terrestrial ecology, freshwater ecology and marine science and was hosted by the Orākei Marae.

For more information on Wai Care, or to view site data for your area, go to www.waicare.org.nz or call 09 3010101 and ask for Wai Care.

FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by the Auckland Council's Research, Investigations and Monitoring Unit, which undertakes monitoring and research to provide information and evidence to inform the council's activities and reporting. Auckland's environment must be healthy and resilient in order

to support life and lifestyle. More report cards can be found at: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/stateofauckland. The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council provides more than 20 environmental programmes across the region for you to get involved with and improve your local environment.

► For more information: e-mail monitoring@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or call us on 09 301 0101.