

# FRANKLIN REPORTING AREA

Franklin Local Board

## STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD

JULY 2014

AREA  
GRADE

C

### QUICK FACTS

#### OVERALL GRADE



#### LAND COVER



#### NATIVE PLANTS



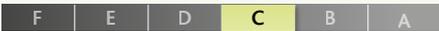
#### BIRDS



#### PESTS



#### WEEDS



THE REPORTING AREA  
IS APPROXIMATELY

**120,500**  
HECTARES IN SIZE

THE REPORTING AREA  
CONTAINS EXAMPLES OF

**20%**

OF NEW ZEALAND'S  
PLANT SPECIES, INCLUDING  
MORE THAN 50% OF  
NEW ZEALAND FERNS

BEFORE KOKAKO WERE RE-INTRODUCED  
TO THE REGION, THE HUNUA RANGES WAS HOME TO THE  
**LAST SURVIVING KOKAKO POPULATION  
IN THE REGION**

### WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?

The overall grade is made up of five indicators:

**Land cover:** Based on different ecosystems mapped in NZ Land Cover Database 3 (2008).

**Native plants:** Average of four sub-indicators which reflect the diversity and biomass of native plants, and the regeneration of native saplings and seedlings.

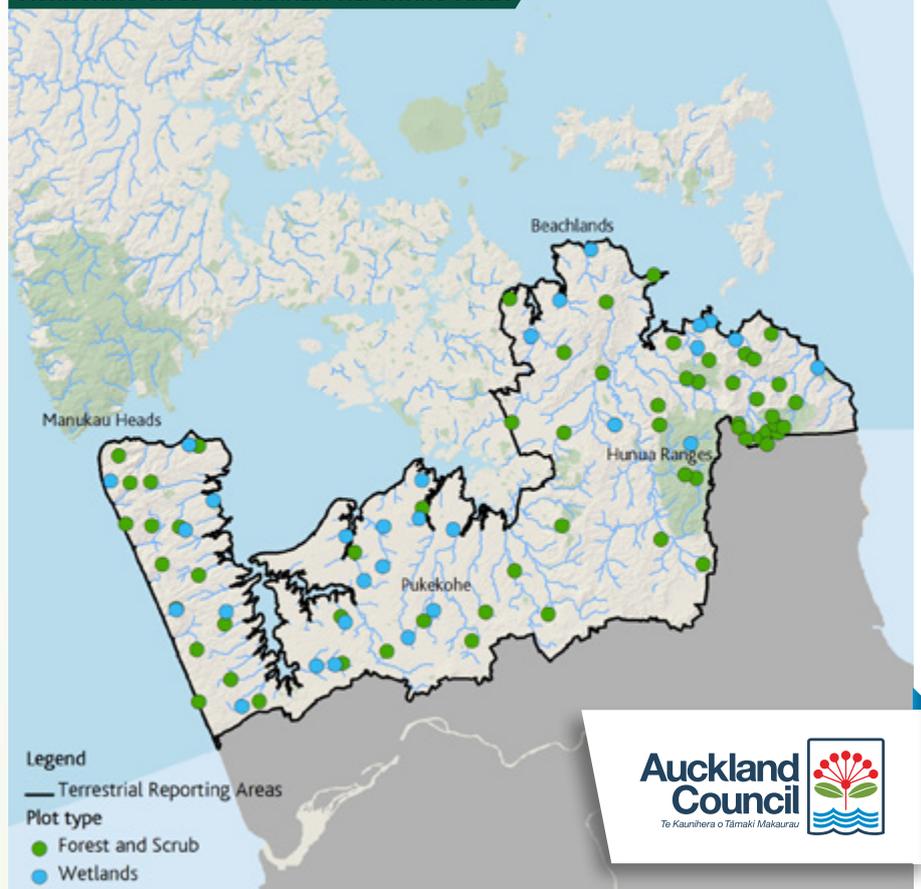
**Birds:** Average of three sub-indicators which reflect the average diversity and conspicuousness of native birds, and the total number of bird species found within the reporting area.

**Weeds:** Average of three sub-indicators which reflect the abundance and relative dominance of weedy and exotic trees, saplings and seedlings.

**Pests:** Average of four sub-indicators which indicate the number of pest-free sites, and presence of rats, mice and possums in the landscape.

**Note:** Includes forest data only. From 2015 wetland data will also be reported.

### MONITORING SITES – FRANKLIN REPORTING AREA



## CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Franklin reporting area is second only to the Rodney reporting area in size. It extends from Awhitu Peninsula in the west to the Hunua Ranges in the east. The area contains extensive and ecologically diverse areas of coastline bordering the Tasman Sea, the Manukau Harbour and the Firth of Thames.

The area is predominantly rural in character with over 70 per cent of land cover comprising farmland. Native forest and scrub cover around 15 per cent of the board area and the vast majority of this is contained in the Hunua Ranges, a 20,000 hectare area of native forest and shrubland administered by Auckland Council.

Agricultural land largely comprises the western and mid regions of Franklin. Most of the Awhitu Peninsula is now farmed, with exotic forestry and iron sand extraction for steel production at the southern end of the peninsula.

Despite the significant modifications made by humans, Awhitu still retains numerous freshwater wetlands and dune lakes, which support a number of threatened bird species such as banded rail and North Island fernbird.

### KEY BIODIVERSITY SITE

## LAKE POKORUA AND WETLANDS

Lake Pokorua (c.20.2 ha) is the largest dune lake on the Awhitu Peninsula, which also makes it the largest in the Franklin Local Board. The lake has been identified as a Site of Special Wildlife Interest. It supports at least five threatened bird species: Australasian bittern, New Zealand dabchick, fernbird, little shag, and black shag. The lake is surrounded by a continuous fringe of wetland vegetation dominated by raupo, harakeke/flax, various sedges, and cabbage trees. The lake margins have been fenced off by local landowners and an ecological restoration project has been initiated. Over time the restoration of forest on the surrounding dunes will provide additional habitat and shelter for indigenous flora and fauna, increasing biodiversity and restoring natural linkages between the freshwater wetland and terrestrial ecosystems.

Lake Pokorua is one of the highest ranked of the Auckland lakes in terms of its ecological condition and quality of aquatic plant communities. The lake has native charophyte meadows recorded to a depth of 3.3 m, including an open canopy of native pondweeds. While the exotic water weed *Egeria densa* continues to pose an ongoing threat to the native vegetation, it is restricted in its distribution at present.



Lake Pokorua

### 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](http://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](mailto:monitoring@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or call us on 09 301 0101.