

RODNEY REPORTING AREA

Rodney Local Board

STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD

JULY 2014

AREA
GRADE

C

QUICK FACTS

OVERALL GRADE



LAND COVER



NATIVE PLANTS



BIRDS



PESTS



WEEDS



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.

THE REPORTING AREA
IS APPROXIMATELY

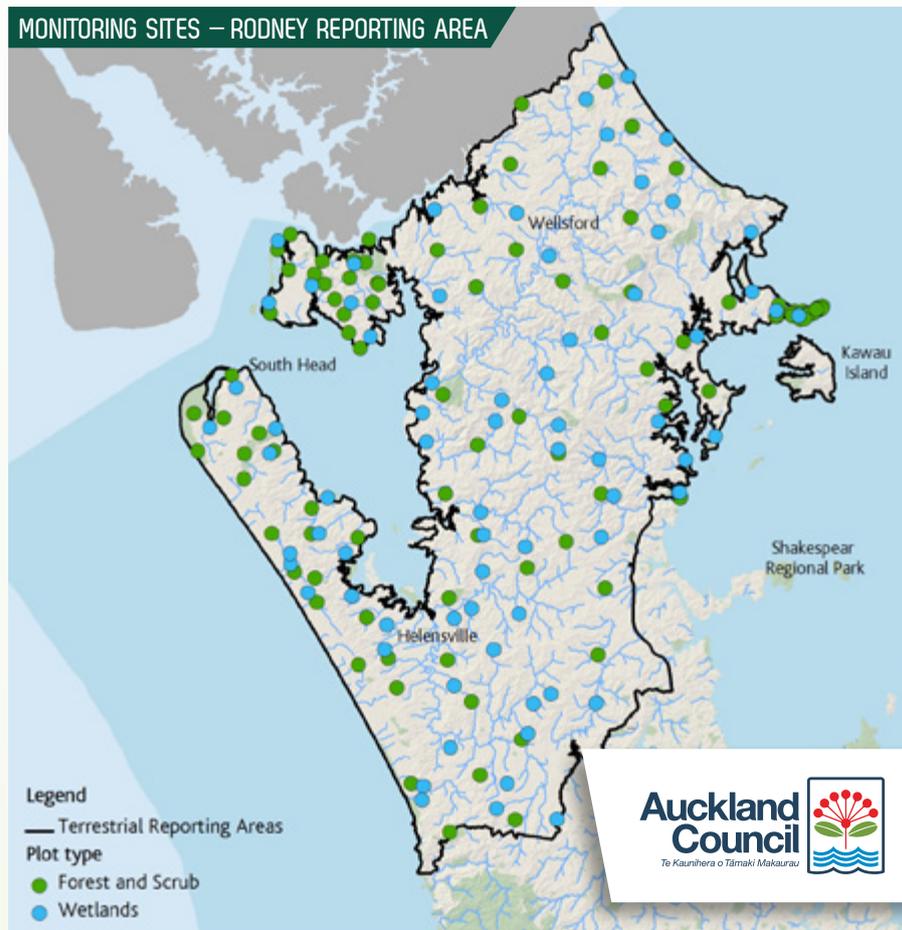
235,500
HECTARES IN SIZE

IT'S THE LARGEST OF ALL
REPORTING AREAS IN
AUCKLAND, AND IS

61%
RURAL LAND

ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S MOST ENDANGERED INDIGENOUS BIRDS,
THE NEW ZEALAND FAIRY TERN, BREEDS AT
PAPAKANUI SPIT ON THE SOUTH KAIPARA HEAD

MONITORING SITES – RODNEY REPORTING AREA



CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Rodney reporting area includes the entire area north of Auckland city centre and the Waitākere Ranges. It has a long coastline, including the Kaipara Harbour, but also includes large areas of inland hill country. The area is predominantly rural (approx 60%), and contains the greatest amount of plantation forestry in Auckland, covering around 38,500 hectares.

While there is little urban development, most of the native forest has been lost. The remaining native vegetation is fragmented, although there are sizeable areas of logged native forest at Moirs Hill, Dome Valley, Omaha, Mount Auckland, Pouroro and Makarau, and extensive areas of native scrub on the South Head of Kaipara Harbour. There is very little original mature native

forest, particularly in more lowland and fertile sites. Freshwater wetlands, in particular, have been seriously depleted with only small and scattered wetlands comprising of less than one per cent of their original extent. The most notable wetlands are the dune lakes and associated vegetation near Tomarata.

Duneland vegetation is an ecosystem of national importance for biodiversity conservation, and important areas of duneland vegetation are present at Mangawhai, Pakiri and Kaipara South Head Peninsula. Rodney also contains a large amount (approx 46%) of Auckland's estuarine habitat. Most of these estuarine habitats occur in the Kaipara Harbour and are relatively undisturbed compared with the terrestrial wetlands.

KEY BIODIVERSITY SITE

OMAHA-TANIKO WETLANDS SCIENTIFIC RESERVE

Omaha-Taniko Wetlands Scientific Reserve is a DOC administered reserve situated on the Mangatawhiri Spit, between Omaha township and the Whangateau Harbour. Scientific Reserves typically protect small remnants of native ecosystems with very high ecological and scientific values that have survived in a largely cleared landscape. The reserve is one of the very few remaining extensive areas of lowland kahikatea forest in the North Island. It is also the only example of coastal kahikatea forest on sand in the Auckland region.

The biodiversity value of this reserve is further increased by the fact it is part of an intact ecological sequence grading from kahikatea swamp forest to manuka shrubland to saltmarsh vegetation to estuarine mangroves and seagrass habitat. Such sequences are now very rare, and this example is of national importance. The reserve supports good numbers of kereru, tui, and other common bush and wetland bird species. Less common and secretive birds such as banded rail, fernbird, marsh crane and spotless crane also utilise the bordering shrubland and saltmarsh vegetation. Unfortunately the main forest block has been bisected by the causeway leading into Omaha, which has left it vulnerable to 'edge effects' (i.e. high light and drying winds) and weed invasion.



Omaha-Taniko & Omaha township

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.

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