

SOUTH-EASTERN PLAIN REPORTING AREA

Includes Howick, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Papakura local boards

STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD

JULY 2014

AREA
GRADE

D

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.



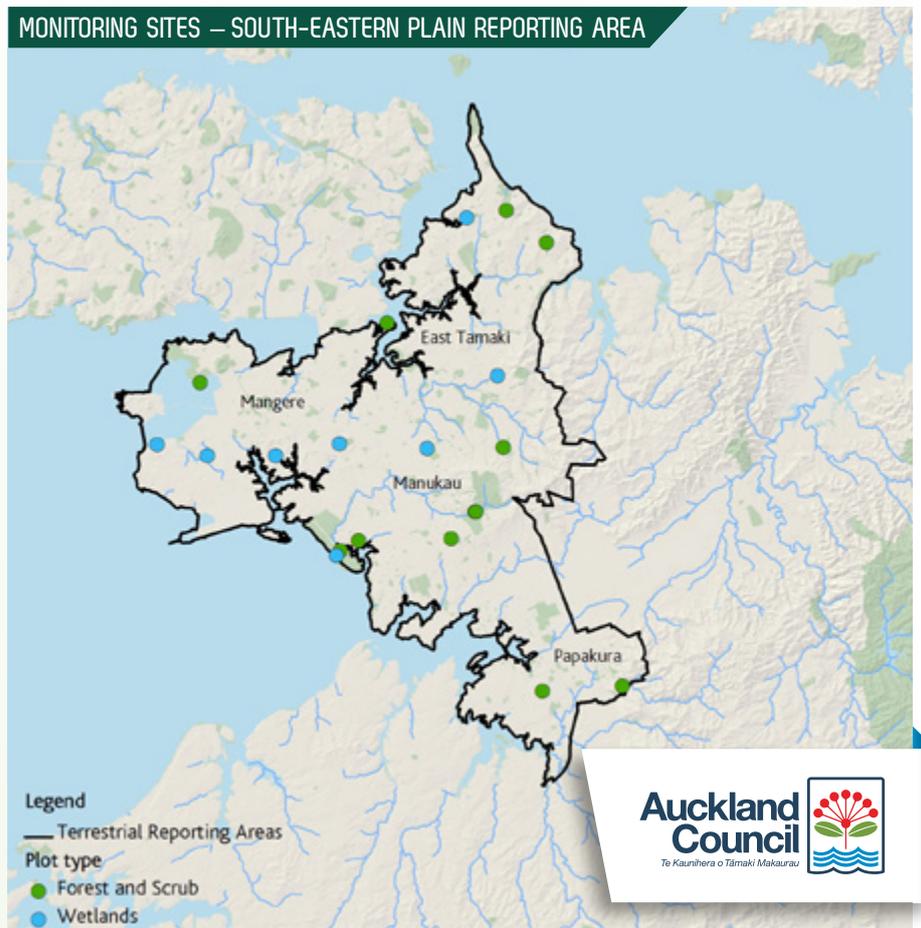
THE KAURI FOREST THAT ONCE COVERED AROUND

50%

OF THE WHOLE BOARD REPORTING AREA IS NOW ALMOST NON-EXISTENT (LESS THAN 0.01% COVER)

THE RARE ORCHID *DANHATCHI AUSTRALIS* WAS DISCOVERED IN KIRK'S BUSH IN 1966 AND IS KNOWN IN ONLY A HANDFUL OF OTHER AUCKLAND LOCATIONS

MONITORING SITES – SOUTH-EASTERN PLAIN REPORTING AREA



CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The south-eastern plain reporting area includes Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Howick, Manurewa, Papakura and Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Boards, which collectively comprise the flat, relatively fertile plains to the south and east of the city. More recent volcanic landforms of the Auckland volcanic field are also present along the Tāmaki Estuary and in the Māngere-Papatoetoe area.

Land cover in this area has been heavily modified by human activity in the past 150 years, and very little (approx 3%) native vegetation remains. The northern and western parts of this reporting area are largely urban (approx 60% total cover) while the east and south has a long history of farming,

given its rich volcanic soils, with most native vegetation having been cleared for agricultural purposes.

Estuarine habitats are the most common native vegetation, most of which is located in major watercourses (e.g. Waimahia, Puhinui and Waokauri creeks) and along the long, convoluted harbour and estuary coastlines. These estuarine areas are home to migrant and native bird species, several of which are threatened. Native forest and scrub, once the most widespread land cover in this area, has been reduced to a few small, scattered fragments and most freshwater wetlands have been drained.

KEY BIODIVERSITY SITE

PUHINUI RESERVE

The c. 200 ha Puhinui Reserve was purchased by the Manukau City Council in 1991. It occupies the southern portion of the Puhinui Peninsula between the tidal Puhinui Creek and the Manukau Harbour. The reserve and its coastline comprise a rich diversity of indigenous ecosystems such as mangrove forest, saltmarsh, saltmeadow, shellbanks, freshwater wetlands, and manuka scrub. Some of the oldest mangroves in the harbour are found in the Puhinui Creek. Areas of coastal forest, and the riparian margins of Puhinui stream, are also being actively restored.

The Puhinui Reserve foreshore is a habitat of international significance for migratory and wading birds; the extensive sandflats support an abundance of indigenous invertebrates, which are a key food source for these species. This coastal part of the reserve is one of six key high tide roost sites in the Manukau Harbour, as determined by the numbers of birds that use this area. These include thousands of Arctic migrants, such as bar-tailed godwits and lesser knots, while hundreds of turnstone frequent the mudflats and saline vegetation in summer. Threatened bird species recorded in the Puhinui coastal wetlands and surrounds include New Zealand dotterel, banded dotterel, wrybill, Caspian tern, and pied stilt.



Wrybill - Photo: Geoff Moon

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.

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