

HIBISCUS COAST REPORTING AREA

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

STATE OF AUCKLAND FRESHWATER REPORT CARD

AUGUST 2016

AREA
GRADE

A

QUICK FACTS

THE REPORTING
AREA COVERS
78KM²
REPRESENTING 1.6%
OF THE REGION

LAND COVER IS A MIX OF
PASTORAL VEGETATION

(39%)

URBAN (27%), NATIVE
VEGETATION (20%) AND
EXOTIC VEGETATION (13%)

THE EXTENT OF IMPERVIOUS
SURFACE (HARD SURFACES)
IS HIGH

(14%)

WHEN COMPARED WITH THE
REGIONAL AVERAGE
OF 9%

WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?

OVERALL GRADE



WATER QUALITY



FLOW PATTERNS



NUTRIENT CYCLING



HABITAT QUALITY



BIODIVERSITY



The overall grade is made up of five indicators:

Water quality: Water samples are tested for temperature, oxygen concentration, turbidity and the levels of pH, ammonia and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus). The results of this testing are compared against guidelines for Auckland to produce a water quality index.

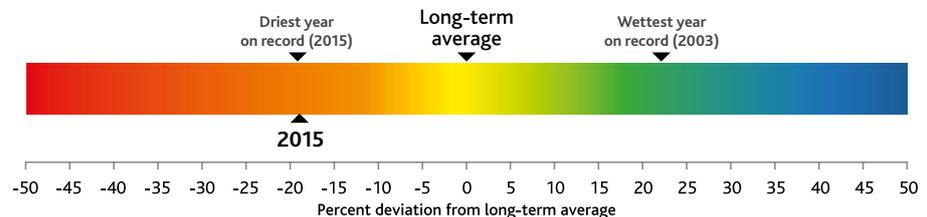
Flow patterns: This involves monitoring the hydrologic connectivity of the river to upstream and downstream reaches and the floodplain using the Stream Ecological Valuation (SEV), which is a method of assessing the ecological health of our rivers.

Nutrient cycling: This involves monitoring the inputs and processing of minerals, particulates and contaminants using the SEV biogeochemical functions.

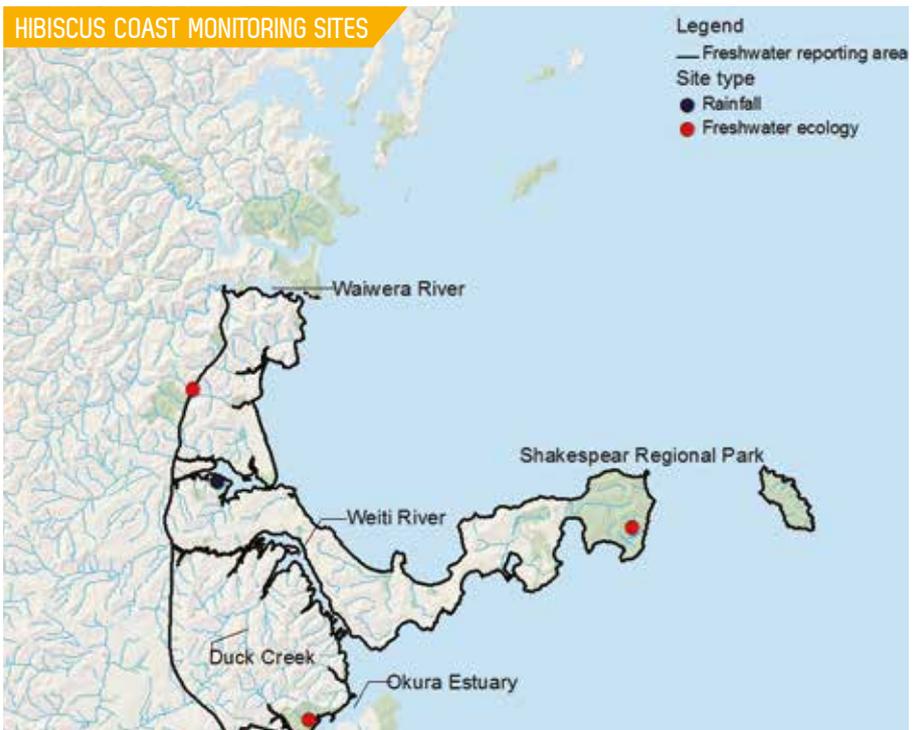
Habitat quality: This involves monitoring the diversity and quality of habitats using the SEV habitat provision functions.

Biodiversity: Field assessments and samples are collected to assess the type and amount of native plants and animals using the SEV biodiversity functions.

Annual Rainfall 2015



2015 was the driest year on record. Total rainfall (972mm) was 19.1% less than the long-term average (1202mm). There are 19.7 years of rainfall record from the Orewa rain gauge.



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 Hibiscus Coast reporting area is very good. The relatively low intensity of the urban development, together with the large areas of forested land remaining, means the effects of urban development in this area are not as strong as elsewhere in the region.

Rivers in the Hibiscus Coast reporting area tend to have riparian margins with some trees and bush, which provide shade, leaf litter and woody debris to the stream and anchor the stream banks. The debris enhances the quality of habitat for flora and fauna, although some of the original riparian vegetation has been removed to allow for more intensive land use.

WAI CARE HIBISCUS AND BAYS



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 Hibiscus and Bays during the 2015/2016 financial year.

Achievement	Total Hibiscus and Bays 2015/2016	Total Auckland 2015/2016
Active groups	9	152
Sites monitored	34	256
Education sessions	16	373
Students involved in education	888	11118
Action events	2	106
People involved in action	32	4217
Native trees planted	-	28577



Mairangi Bay School with new stream education sign.

For more information on Wai Care, or to view site data for your area, go to waicare.org.nz or call 09 301 0101 and ask for Wai Care.

FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU), which provides the mandatory and critical evidence to support the council's decision-making, activities and reporting. Report cards and the latest full State of the Environment Report can be found at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/stateofauckland

To view technical publications visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/planspoliciesprojects/reports/technicalpublications/Pages/home.aspx

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

GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council provides more than 20 environmental programmes across the region that you can get involved in. To find out more on how you can help visit the Auckland Council website.