

WAITEMATĀ REPORTING AREA

Waitematā Local Board

STATE OF AUCKLAND FRESHWATER REPORT CARD

AUGUST 2016

AREA
GRADE

D

QUICK FACTS

THE REPORTING
AREA COVERS

19KM²

REPRESENTING 0.4% OF THE
REGION – THE SMALLEST OF THE
REPORTING AREAS

THE LAND COVER
IS MAINLY URBAN

(91%)

WITH SMALL POCKETS
OF NATIVE, EXOTIC AND
PASTORAL VEGETATION

THE EXTENT OF IMPERVIOUS
SURFACE (HARD SURFACES) IS
THE HIGHEST IN THE REGION

(71%)

AND VERY HIGH WHEN
COMPARED WITH THE
REGIONAL AVERAGE OF 9%

WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?



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.

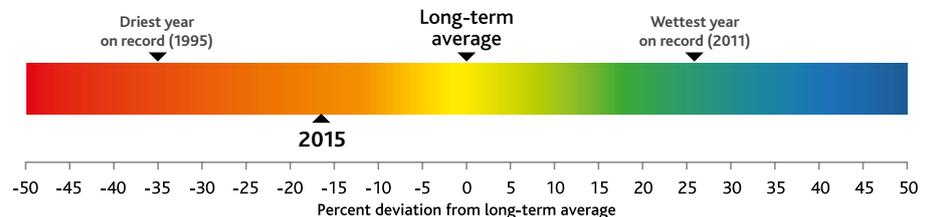
Flow patterns: This involves monitoring the hydrologic connectivity of the river to upstream and downstream reaches and the floodplain using the Stream Ecological Valuation (SEV), which is a method of assessing the ecological health of our rivers.

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



Total rainfall in 2015 (993mm) was 17% less than the long-term average (1196mm). There are 142.2 years of rainfall record from the Albert Park rain gauge.

WAITEMATĀ MONITORING SITES



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 Waitematā's rivers 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 WAITEMATĀ



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

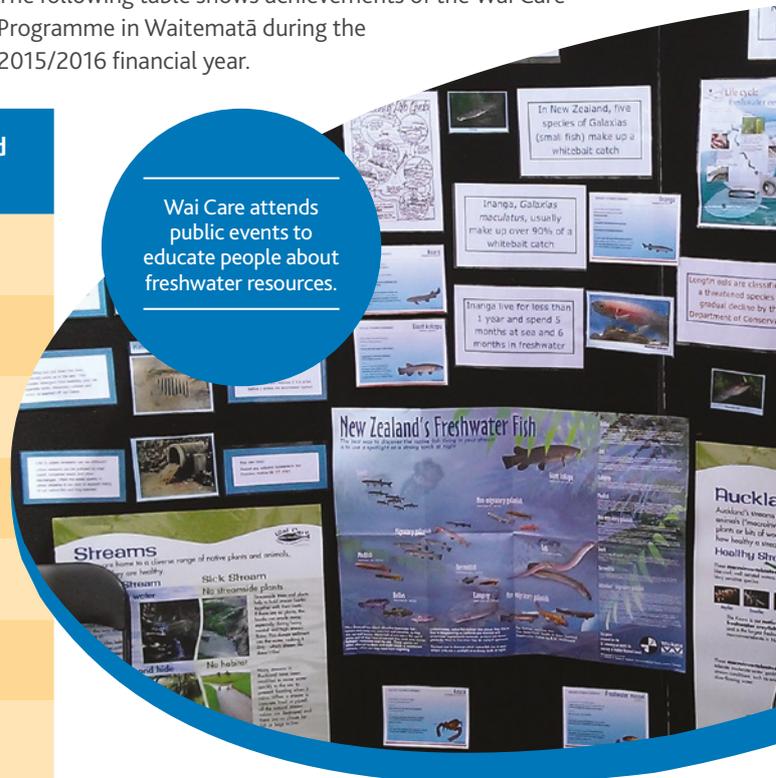
The programme aims to educate people

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 Waitematā during the 2015/2016 financial year.

Achievement	Total Waitematā 2015/2016	Total Auckland 2015/2016
Active groups	7	152
Sites monitored	6	256
Education sessions	8	373
Students involved in education	147	11118
Action events	6	106
People involved in action	253	4217
Native trees planted	400	28577

Wai Care attends public events to educate people about freshwater resources.



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.