

# FRANKLIN REPORTING AREA

Franklin Local Board

## STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD

2018



### QUICK FACTS

THE REPORTING AREA  
IS APPROXIMATELY

**120,500**  
HECTARES IN SIZE

ALL WETLAND  
TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY  
MONITORING SITES  
IN FRANKLIN HAVE BEEN  
SAMPLED TWICE SINCE  
THE PROGRAMME'S  
INCEPTION IN 2009

#### FOREST - LANDCOVER

E	D	C	B	A
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#### FOREST - NATIVE PLANTS

E	D	C	B	A
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#### FOREST - NATIVE BIRDS

E	D	C	B	A
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#### FOREST - PEST ANIMALS

E	D	C	B	A
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#### FOREST - WEEDS

E	D	C	B	A
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#### WETLANDS - CONDITION

E	D	C	B	A
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#### WETLANDS - NATIVE PLANTS

E	D	C	B	A
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#### WETLANDS - NATIVE BIRDS

E	D	C	B	A
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#### WETLANDS - PEST ANIMALS

E	D	C	B	A
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#### WETLANDS - WEEDS

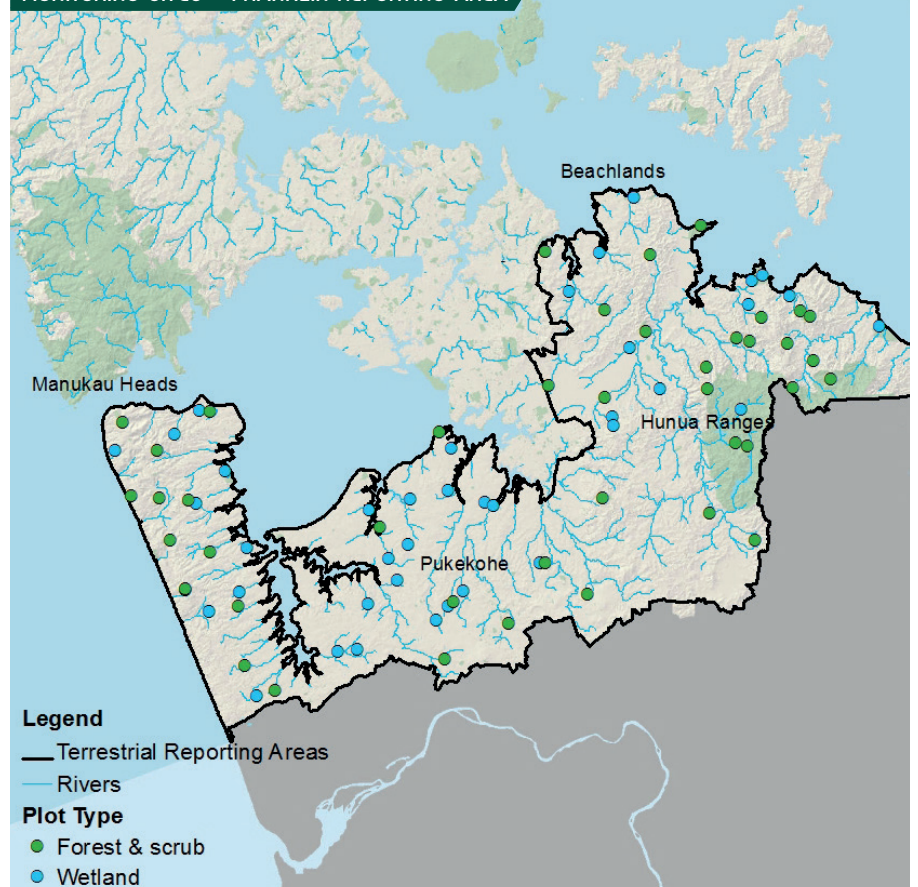
E	D	C	B	A
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### WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?

Indicator grades were calculated using data collected from forest and wetland terrestrial biodiversity monitoring plots. As the full set of remeasures were only available for the wetland indicators, only the wetland grades have been updated and thus the forest grades are the same as the last 2016 report card.

THE HŪNUA RANGES CONTAINS THE LARGEST  
AREA OF KAURI-HARD BEECH FOREST IN THE  
AUCKLAND REGION WHICH IS FREE OF  
KAURI DIEBACK

#### 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 local 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.

### HIGHLIGHTS

The Franklin Local Board area contains the largest forest in mainland Auckland, the Hūnua Ranges, which is characterised by rugged terrain, low human population densities, outstanding wildlife habitat and high ecological values. The Hūnua Ranges contains important habitat for a number of rare and endangered flora and fauna, including the long-tailed bat, Hochstetter's frog, kākā and toropapa. This area is also home to the only naturally occurring population of kōkako in mainland Auckland, and the largest area of kauri-hard beech forest in the Auckland region, which is currently free of kauri dieback disease.

The specific management focus for the Hūnua Ranges, as set out in the Auckland Regional Parks Management Plan 2010, is to 'protect and enhance this outstanding wildlife habitat with high ecological values, and to cultivate an ethic of stewardship.' With any mainland site of high conservation value, pest control is an ongoing requirement. Invasive mammals such as possums, rats and mustelids, are all identified as pests in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy, and all are prevalent in the Hūnua Ranges. The Strategy sets out that Auckland Council will deliver programmes to control these pests in areas of high conservation value.

Aerial application of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) cereal pellets was recommended as the most effective method to reduce densities to targeted levels across the expansive parkland and to protect the significant ecological values within it. 1080 was applied in August and September 2015 and again in the winter of this year. Thus far, pre-control and post-control monitoring have shown the following:

- Possum Residual Trap Catch (RTC) data dropped from 9.35 per cent in February 2014 to 1.25 per cent in October 2015.
- Five-minute bird count data conducted in 2014-15 before 1080 was applied in comparison to the most recent counts in 2017-18 have shown kākā, kōtare/kingfisher and hōmiromiro/tomtit to have increased significantly in abundance, while the numbers of harriers did not change significantly.
- Kōkako breeding success monitoring (n = 6 nests) has consistently been higher annually post-1080 control.



Kaka, Edin Whitehead

### FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by the Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit, which undertakes monitoring and research to provide information and evidence to inform the council's activities and reporting. More report cards can be found at: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment). The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

For more information: e-mail [rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto: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: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)