

UPPER WAITEMATĀ REPORTING AREA

Includes Henderson-Massey, Kaipatiki,
Upper Harbour and Whau local boards

STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD

2018



QUICK FACTS

THE REPORTING AREA
IS APPROXIMATELY

21,000
HECTARES IN SIZE

ALL WETLAND TERRESTRIAL
BIODIVERSITY MONITORING
SITES IN THE UPPER WAITEMATĀ
REPORTING AREA HAVE BEEN
SAMPLED TWICE SINCE THE
PROGRAMME'S INCEPTION
IN 2009

THE UPPER WAITEMATĀ REPORTING AREA
HAD AN URBAN TREE COVER OF AROUND

23% IN 2013

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF THIS TREE COVER
IS ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND.

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.

MONITORING SITES – UPPER WAITEMATĀ REPORTING AREA



CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Upper Waitematā reporting area includes Henderson-Massey, Whau, Upper Harbour and Kaipātiki Local Boards – all the land surrounding the upper Waitematā Harbour.

The local boards in the reporting area form two groups based on their geology, landform and pattern of development. Whau, Henderson-Massey and the western part of Upper Harbour Local Board mostly comprise low-lying, fertile soils that have been intensively developed for food production, urban or industrial use. However, there is an isolated 'island' of more rugged clay hills around Massey and West Harbour. In contrast, the Kaipātiki and eastern Upper Harbour local boards are dominated by steeper, clayey hills surrounding an 'island' of

more fertile, low-lying sediments in the Albany Basin.

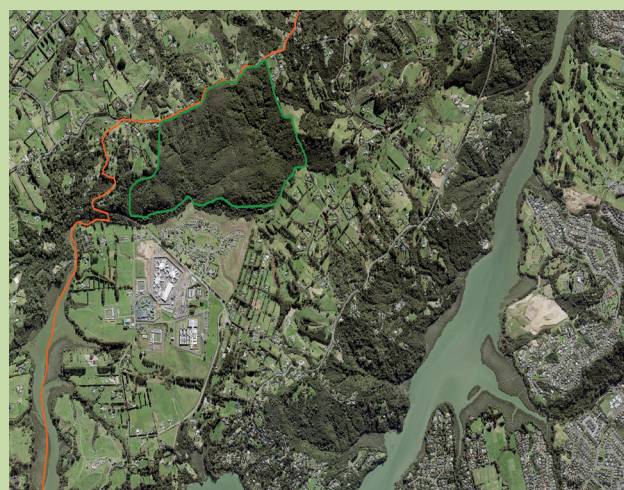
The low-lying western parts of the reporting area have been heavily modified, with almost three quarters (approx 70 per cent) of the total area developed for urban use. Very little native vegetation remains on the land. Native wetlands, forest and scrub comprise only five per cent of land cover. Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour local boards have a much lower cover of urban growth (approx 35 per cent), with relatively large areas of indigenous forest and scrub, and farmland. The development approach in these areas has retained many coastal strips and stream gullies in indigenous forest and scrub vegetation.

HIGHLIGHTS

At around 107 hectares, Paremoro Scenic Reserve is a large bush reserve just outside the city, and forms part of the north-eastern boundary of Upper Harbour Local Board. It contains around 20 per cent of all the total native forest landcover remaining in the Upper Harbour Local Board, and deservedly has the status of a Site of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWI). It is a critical part of the North West Wildlink, which links the Hauraki Gulf islands and the Waitākere Ranges. The reserve covers steeply sloping hill country with a south-easterly aspect and comprises a contiguous block of good quality conifer-broadleaved forest and mānuka scrub. Key forest species present include kauri, kahikatea, totara, matai, rimu, and kānuka.

The reserve has a substantial area of undisturbed interior habitat with high botanical diversity, and contains significant examples of kauri-podocarp-broadleaved forest, kauri-hard beech forest, kauri-tanekaha forest, and mānuka-dominant gumland. Gumland vegetation is a historically rare ecosystem that is confined to the upper half of the North Island. The exclusion of stock along with limited possum control has resulted in a forest understorey that is healthy and floristically diverse.

The regionally threatened herb *Gunnera monoica* and regionally uncommon fern *Loxosoma cunninghami* also occur at the reserve. Of all the bush reserves with SSWI status, Paremoro Scenic Reserve supports one of the highest diversities of indigenous bird species in the Auckland urban area. The species include kererū, tūi, kōtare/Sacred kingfisher, piwakawaka/New Zealand fantail, tauhou/silvereye, warou/welcome swallow and riroriro/grey warbler. The reserve also provides critical riparian buffering to Paremoro Creek, which in turn supports threatened species such as longfin eel (Threatened - Declining), kōura/freshwater crayfish (Threatened - Declining) and inanga/whitebait (Threatened - Declining). As part of the Paremoro/Lucas Creek Bush Biodiversity Restoration Project, the local branch of Forest and Bird organises volunteer working bees to control pests and monitor birds in the reserve.



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. The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

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