

# WAITĀKERE REPORTING AREA

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

## STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD



### QUICK FACTS

THE REPORTING AREA IS APPROXIMATELY  
**31,000**  
 HECTARES IN SIZE  
 IT INCLUDES 20% OF ALL NATIVE VEGETATION IN THE REGION

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

#### FOREST - LANDCOVER



#### FOREST - NATIVE PLANTS



#### FOREST - NATIVE BIRDS



#### FOREST - PEST ANIMALS



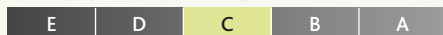
#### FOREST - WEEDS



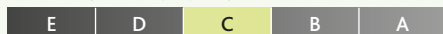
#### WETLANDS - CONDITION



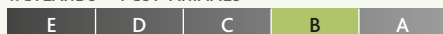
#### WETLANDS - NATIVE PLANTS



#### WETLANDS - NATIVE BIRDS



#### WETLANDS - PEST ANIMALS



#### WETLANDS - WEEDS

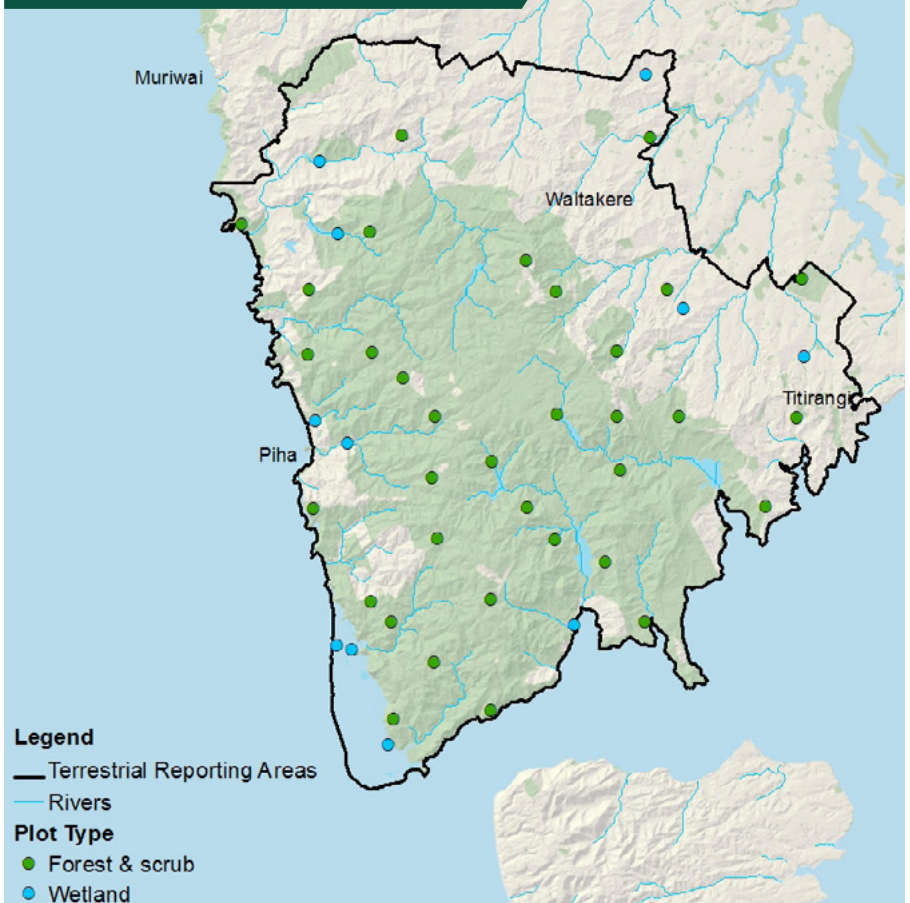


### WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?

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.

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SEABIRD SITES ON NEW ZEALAND'S MAINLAND IS AT TE HENGA (BHELLS BEACH) WITH FOUR SPECIES OF PETRELS BREEDING THERE

#### MONITORING SITES - WAITĀKERE REPORTING AREA



## CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Waitākere reporting area ranges in altitude from sea level to 474m, and is dominated by the rugged topography of the Waitākere Ranges. These forested ranges are the eroded remains of a 20 million year old volcano that was centred around 20km offshore from the present west coast.

The area also includes more recently deposited sand and silt sediments in the larger valleys (e.g. Te Henga) and along the coastline (e.g. Whatipu). Very large and diverse wetland systems are present on some of these more recent sediments, which are also internationally important as wading bird habitats.

The Waitākere Ranges is the second largest block of continuous vegetation on the mainland in Auckland (after the Hunua Ranges). Most of the area is still covered in a diverse mix of different native ecosystems (approx 50 per cent forest, 28 per cent scrub and 2 per cent wetland). These ecosystems provide excellent habitat for a wide range of native birds, reptiles, bats and insects. Some of the diverse habitat types found in the reporting area includes kauri forest, conifer-broadleaved forest, coastal forest, sand dune vegetation, and freshwater wetlands. Approximately 75 per cent of the remaining native vegetation is protected; most of this is within the Auckland Council managed Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

### HIGHLIGHTS

New Zealand is famous for being the 'seabird capital of the world' with a quarter of all seabirds breeding here. Auckland is also well known for its seabirds with the majority of its ocean areas classified as 'Important Bird Areas'. Although seabirds would have once blanketed most of the coastal areas on the mainland, the majority of Auckland's seabirds are now confined to breeding on pest-free islands in the Hauraki Gulf; however, there are a few areas on the mainland where seabirds breed, and one of the most significant is the Waitākere Ranges.

A recent survey of the coast from Te Henga (Bethells Beach) north to Muriwai identified the 'at risk' kororā/little penguin and ōi/grey-faced petrel breeding at a number of locations. Ōi have been known to breed at Te Henga for many years on the island stacks, however this survey confirmed the presence of chicks at mainland sites. Other recent seabird survey work in the Waitākere Ranges has been uncovering more active ōi breeding areas at Cornwallis, Whatipu, Piha, Anawhata, and Karekare. And Te Henga itself is one of New Zealand's most significant mainland petrel areas, with at least four species breeding there: ōi, kuaka/northern diving petrel, tītī/sooty shearwater, and toanui/flesh-footed shearwater. The latter three species are 'at risk' species, as are kororā, which likely breed at Te Henga as well.

For more information on the above mentioned survey, see:

Landers, T. J (2017). Muriwai Beach to Te Henga (Bethells) 2016 grey-faced petrel and little penguin survey. Auckland Council technical report TR2017/027, visit:  
<http://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publication/?mid=1762>



Grey-faced petrel, James Russell

### 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](http://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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### GET INVOLVED

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