Research and Evaluation Unit | RIMU

Capability Statement 2021

![Auckland Council logo - Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau]

Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU)

Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) undertakes the evidence gathering functions, including research, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, to ensure that the council's decision-making is based on robust evidence in the context of growth and change.

RIMU's work underpins and informs the council's core function, which includes planning for growth and meeting legislative requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Acts in relation to social, economic, land use and environmental issues.

RIMU is a multi-disciplinary hub that brings together highly skilled professionals to deliver these requirements. By linking research, policy and implementation, RIMU is uniquely placed to foster innovative and collaborative approaches to the complex issues Auckland faces now and in the future.

Monitoring and reporting on the state and trends of Auckland's environment, RIMU provides an essential node in New Zealand's national monitoring programme. A core responsibility of the council is to manage and develop Auckland in a context of sustained growth, so it is critical that decision-makers have a clear understanding of the implications of this growth and development in the region.

RIMU also provides in-house support for evaluation and quality assurance across Auckland Council. The teams are responsive to the demands of decision-makers throughout the organisation and translate primary and secondary evidence for a variety of end-users and audiences beyond Auckland Council. RIMU supports robust practices and provides the justification and transparency in the council's decision-making that ultimately shapes Auckland and the environment in which we live.

Core Products and Services

RIMU provides a range of products and services including:

- high-quality evidence to assist with strategy and policy development, implementation and evaluation
- advice on research / monitoring priorities and assistance with research design
- scenario modelling (e.g. Capacity for Growth)
- analysis and interpretation of data using statistical techniques
- State of the environment monitoring and reporting
- monitoring of national and international trends, events and government policy developments
- producing reports, articles, technical publications and research papers tailored to a broad range of audiences
- promoting and disseminating Auckland data and reports to the community
- providing 24/7 environmental monitoring services
- peer review of technical publications
- managing the council's Research Ethics Advisory Group
- developing and maintaining websites for easy access to data and reports (e.g. www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz).

For more information, visit our websites:

- **www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz**
- **https://environmentauckland.org.nz**

or email: rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

The Knowledge Auckland website, www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz is managed by RIMU. It provides published research, information, analysis and data about Auckland's social, economic and environmental landscape.

Please also visit RIMU's special websites for expert data and research information:

- **Auckland counts** – for Auckland's census data: *www.censusauckland.co.nz*
- **Auckland economic profile** – for information about Auckland's economy (provided by Infometrics Ltd): *http://ecoprofile.infometrics.co.nz/auckland*
- **Environmental data** – for environmental data visit our Environment Auckland website: *https://environmentauckland.org.nz*. Data enquiries: *environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz*

Updated: April 2021   *Photographs by Ann Jones*

Eva McLaren (MA) Manager, Research and Evaluation

RIMU Business Support:

Ann Jones (BA, Dip.Bus) PA / Business Liaison
Brenda D'Silva (BCom) PA / Business Liaison

Hydrology and Environmental Data Management Team: Monitors and reports on surface and groundwater quality and leads RIMU's environmental data management

Matt Hope (Dip.Hyd) Team Manager

Clive Coleman Freshwater Hydrologist
Finley Townsend (BSc) Hydrologist
Georgia Spankie (BSc) Hydrology Specialist
Jade McMurtry (MSc) Senior Environmental Data Specialist
Jonathan De Villiers (BSc) Freshwater Specialist
Kolt Johnson (MSc) Senior Hydrogeology Scientist
Martin Meyer (BSc) Freshwater Specialist
Shane Sullivan (BSc) Senior Freshwater Hydrologist
Stacey Fraser (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist
Vanitha Pradeep (MSc) Environmental Data Specialist

Water Quality Team: Monitors and reports on freshwater and marine water quality

Jonathan Benge (PhD) Team Manager

Angela Chaffe (MSc) Freshwater Ecology Scientist
Chris Drake (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Coral Grant (PhD) Principal Freshwater Scientist
Freya Ewing (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Jane Groom (PhD) Freshwater Scientist
Laura Buckthought (PhD) Senior Freshwater Scientist
Natalie Gilligan (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Rhian Ingley (MSc) Marine Scientist
Sheldon Benito (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Shymala Sidharth (MSc) Environmental Specialist

Air, Land and Biodiversity Team: Monitors and reports on air, land, and terrestrial and marine biodiversity

Jacqueline Lawrence-Sansbury (BSc) Team Manager

Dani Guinto (PhD) Soil Scientist
Dimitri Colella (B.ASc) Senior Marine Specialist
Gaia Dell'Ariccia (PhD) Seabirds Scientist
Georgianne Griffiths (PhD) Senior Ecology Scientist
Hamish Allen (MSc) Marine Scientist
Louis Boamponsem (PhD) Air Quality Scientist
Megan Carbines (PhD) Principal Environmental Scientist
Miriam Ludbrook (MSc) Environmental Specialist
Shanju Xie (PhD) Senior Air Quality Scientist
Tarn Drylie (PhD) Marine Scientist
Todd Landers (PhD) Senior Seabirds Scientist

Economic and Social Research and Evaluation Team: Monitors and reports on population growth and change, diversity, equity, social trends and issues, and economic analysis

Alison Reid (MA) Team Manager

Jacob Otter (PhD) Social Researcher
Jesse Allpress (PhD) Principal Social Scientist
Ross Wilson (M.Com) Economic Analyst
Ting Huang (MA) Research Economist

Spatial Analysis and Modelling Team: Analyses critical issues in relation to housing, land use, planning capacity and infrastructure; oversees the provision of growth information for services and asset planning

Sarah Lomas (MSc) Team Manager

Andrew Price (BA) Senior Spatial Analyst
Brian Osborne (MSc) Senior Statistical Analyst
Chad Hu (M.Plan; BSc) Senior Spatial Analyst
Grant Lawrence (MSc) Spatial Researcher
Jennifer Joynt (PhD) Senior Socio-Spatial Researcher
Mario Fernandez (PhD) Senior Spatial Researcher
Tony Edhouse (BSc, Dip.Libr) Research Information Advisor