

Research and  
Evaluation Unit

**RIMU**

## Capability Statement 2023



## 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](http://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz)).

For more information, visit our websites:

- [www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz](http://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz)
  - <https://environmentauckland.org.nz>
- or email: [rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Knowledge Auckland

The Knowledge Auckland website, [www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz](http://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](http://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 to: [environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

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Photographs by Ann Jones

### Business Support to RIMU:

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



## RIMU Teams

**Jonathan Benge** (PhD) Head of Research, Evaluation and Monitoring  
**Coral Grant** (PhD) Lead Water Scientist  
**Megan Carbinés** (PhD) Lead Environmental Scientist  
**Tony Edhouse** (BSc, DipLibr) Snr Research Information Advisor

### Hydrology and Environmental Data Management

**Team:** Monitors and reports on surface and groundwater quality and leads RIMU's environmental data management

**Kolt Johnson** (MSc) Team Manager  
**David Wright** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Freya Green** (BSc) Environmental Data Specialist  
**Georgia Spankie** (BSc) Hydrology Specialist  
**Jade McMurtry** (MSc) Senior Environmental Data Specialist  
**Katie Twentyman** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Kylie Robertson** (BSc) Senior Environmental Data Specialist  
**Matt Brewster** (BEng) Freshwater Specialist  
**Matt Wright** (MSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Morgan Brockelsby** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Riaan Delpport** (BSc) Senior Scientist Hydrogeology  
**Shane Sullivan** (BSc) Senior Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Simon Jimenez** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Stacey Fraser** (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist  
**Tom Bailey** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Vanitha Pradeep** (MSc) Environmental Data Specialist

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

**Sietse Bouma** (MSc) Team Manager  
**Andrew Hart** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Chris Drake** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Gina Gascoigne** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Jack Adams** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Jade Kraus** (BSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Jane Groom** (PhD) Freshwater Scientist  
**Janine Kamke** (PhD) Scientist Coastal and Freshwater  
**Jassalyn Bradbury** (BSc) Senior Env. Data Specialist  
**Julia O'Grady** (BSc/BBus) Environmental Specialist  
**Laura Buckthought** (PhD) Senior Freshwater Scientist  
**Natalie Gilligan** (BSc) Senior Environmental Specialist  
**Rhian Ingley** (MSc) Senior Scientist Marine  
**Sheldon Benito** (BSc) Senior 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) Scientist Soils  
**Gaia Dell'Ariceia** (PhD) Senior Scientist Seabirds  
**Georgianne Griffiths** (PhD) Senior Scientist Ecology  
**Grant Fale** (BSc) Senior Environmental Specialist  
**Grant Lawrence** (MSc) Senior Scientist  
**Hamish Allen** (MSc) Scientist Marine  
**Jennifer Montañó** (PhD) Snr Scientist Coastal Processes  
**Jonathan De Villiers** (BSc) Senior Environmental Specialist  
**Louis Boamponsem** (PhD) Scientist Air Quality  
**Maira Fessardi** (MSc) Snr Environmental Specialist Seabirds  
**Miriam Ludbrook** (MSc) Environmental Specialist  
**Shanju Xie** (PhD) Senior Scientist Air Quality  
**Tarn Drylie** (PhD) Senior Scientist Coastal Processes  
**Todd Landers** (PhD) Senior Scientist Seabirds

### 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  
**Ashleigh Prakash** (PhD) Social Researcher  
**Jesse Allpress** (PhD) Principal Social Scientist  
**Kathryn Ovenden** (MA) Senior Social Researcher  
**Ross Wilson** (MCom) Economic Analyst

**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  
**Ashton Eaves** (PhD) Senior Urban Data Engineer  
**Brian Osborne** (MSc) Senior Statistical Analyst  
**Chad Hu** (MPlan/BSc) Senior Spatial Analyst  
**Krystal Alferez** (MUrbPlan) Spatial Analyst  
**Kyle Balderston** (BSc) Principal Spatial Analyst  
**Maribeth Todd** (MSc) Senior Spatial Analyst  
**Tim Guo** (PhD) Senior Socio-Spatial Researcher