

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT (RIMU)

Capability Statement

2017



Photo by Ann Jones

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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 (RMA) and the Local Government Acts (LGA) 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.

For further help and information go to our website:

www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz

or email: rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

LAND USE, INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAM

The team analyses critical issues confronting Auckland in relation to housing, land use, planning capacity and infrastructure. The team also oversees the provision of growth information for services and asset planning.

Regan Solomon (MSc Geography) Manager

Dr Nancy Golubiewski (PhD) Senior Researcher
 Kyle Balderston (BSc Hons) Principal Growth Analyst
 Dr Jennifer Joynt (PhD) Researcher Planning
 Craig Fredrickson (BSc, PGDipPlan) Researcher
 Dr Mario Fernandez (PhD) Resource Economics
 Tony Edhouse (BSc, Dip. Libr) Researcher
 Chad Hu (MPlan, BSc) Growth Analyst
 Grant Lawrence (MSc) GIS Scientist

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAM

The team provides evidence in relation to population growth and change, diversity, social trends and issues, and spatial, macro- and micro-economic analysis, including housing, retail and business land use.

Eva McLaren (MA Sociology) Manager

Dr Carina Mearns (PhD) Senior Social Researcher
 Alison Reid (MA) Senior Social Researcher
 Dr Jesse Allpress (PhD) Social Researcher
 Dr Esther Rootham (PhD) Social Researcher
 Dr Penny Lysnar (PhD) Social Researcher
 Penelope Tuatagaloa (MSc) Senior Research Economist
 Mehrnaz Rohani (MA) Research Economist
 Ting Huang (MA) Research Economist
 Brian Osborne (MSc) Statistical Information Analyst
 Ross Wilson (MA) Analyst
 Ta'ala Shane Ta'ala Senior Advisor Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori Responsiveness
 Jacob Otter (MA) Social Researcher
 Alexandra Clark (MA Hons) Social Researcher

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAMS

The environmental teams carry out the physical monitoring of Auckland's environment: the rivers, sea, land and air - as required by law. In addition, they focus on understanding human generated impacts on the natural environment, report on environmental quality, and develop indicators to represent and communicate current and future environmental states.

AIR AND FRESHWATER

Simon Tredgett (BSc; Dip. Marketing) Manager

Dr Shanju Xie (PhD) Air Quality Scientist
 Dr Nick Talbot (PhD) Air Quality Scientist
 Dr Laura Buckthought (PhD) Freshwater Scientist
 Matt Hope (Dip. Hydrology) Principal Freshwater Hydrologist
 Nick Holwerda (BSc, Dip. Hydrology) Freshwater Hydrologist
 Angela Perks (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist
 Kent Steel (BSc) Freshwater Hydrologist
 Kristy Alley (PG Dip Env) Freshwater Hydrologist
 Clive Coleman Freshwater Hydrologist
 Kristi Holland (MSc) Freshwater Ecologist
 Jamie Boyle (MSc) Coastal Specialist

LAND AND MARINE

Jacqueline Anthony (BSc Hons) Manager

Dr Todd Landers (PhD) Terrestrial Biodiversity Scientist
 Dr Craig Bishop (PhD) Senior Biodiversity Scientist
 Dr Fiona Curran-Cournane (PhD) Land and Soil Scientist
 Jade Khin (MSc) Terrestrial Ecologist
 Dr Megan Carbines (PhD) Senior Marine Scientist
 Melanie Vaughan (MSc) Marine Scientist
 Marcus Cameron (MSc) Aquatic Contaminants Scientist
 Ebrahim Hussain (MSc) Marine and Freshwater Specialist
 Emma Chibnall (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist
 Luke Stanley (BSc) Freshwater Ecologist

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 Human Participants Ethics Committee
- developing and maintaining websites for easy access to data and reports (see Knowledge Auckland)

KNOWLEDGE AUCKLAND



Knowledge Auckland



The Knowledge Auckland website is managed by RIMU. It provides 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: <http://ecoprofile.infometrics.co.nz/auckland>
- **Environmental data online** and **State of Auckland** – for Auckland environmental data and report cards: <http://maps.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aucklandcouncilviewer/?widgets=HYDROTEL>; and <http://stateofauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

Auckland Council technical publications are also published on the council's website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz