

Enquiries on and Responses to Water Quality and Natural Environment Targeted Rates for Ōrākei Local Board and Waitematā Local Board areas

Water Quality Projects

1. Ōkahu Bay targeted separation:
 - Based on site investigations, we found more properties with combined drainage. The approved budget is now \$15.3m and the number of private properties to be separated are around 230
 - We are currently in the process of procuring a contractor, and are planning to start construction by October 2019
2. Ōkahu Bay outfall diversion:
 - The project has been through the detailed design stage and is now at the resource consent stage. Planning for the project started well before the water quality targeted rate (WQTR), however the WQTR is now paying for the delivery of the project
3. Safe Networks investigations – Meadowbank (Pourewa West Catchment) and Mission Bay, St Heliers, Kohimarama, Ōkahu Bay, and Judges Bay:
 - The WQTR has enabled us to increase the resources available for these projects, including dedicated teams
 - Safeswim is installing new digital signs across the region, including Judges Bay and Herne Bay

Natural Environment Projects

1. We gave just over \$6,000 to the Men's Shed – what did they spend it on?
 - Most of this budget was spent on nearly 600 T-rex plastic rat traps
 - We also purchased weta hotels from the Men's Shed to provide to the Eastern Bays Songbird Project
2. We gave three lots of funding to the Eastern Songbird project (1x RENH grant plus two other pieces) – what did they spend it on?
 - Project management and co-ordination to enable their work in distributing pest traps, removing pests and campaigning
 - We purchased more than 2000 pest traps, 1000 chew cards and spent \$700 on a trap trailer/mobile advertising billboard
3. What additional pest control work is occurring in Waiatarua Reserve and can we confirm we are not using Timms traps?
 - We're carrying our pest plant and animal management where requested, as well as preventative maintenance such as precautionary measures to prevent the spread of kauri dieback
 - Enhanced support for community groups such as Eastern Bays Songbirds Project who are active in Waiatarua Reserve
 - Council contractors and community groups do use Timms traps as an important and safe tool for possum control in accordance with pest management best practice

4. What is occurring in Parnell area including the Domain

- Auckland Domain is a high-value ecological site, so it already receives a higher level of pest plant and animal control as part of the ecological maintenance contract
- We're undertaking a long term project to get rid of privet in Auckland Domain over the next 3-7 years
- Having the biosecurity dog depot in Auckland Domain is helping the Domain become pest free through advice, identifying pest hot spots, and direct pest control

5. New biosecurity dog depot in the Domain

- Thanks to the natural environment targeted rate, council has been able to increase its protection of the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, and has invested in increased pest detector dogs and handlers, certified under the Conservation Dog programme.
- This is part of the programme of pest prevention for the Hauraki Gulf, which includes Pest-free Warrants, ambassadors and advocacy, undertaken in partnership with the Department of Conservation. The islands of the Hauraki Gulf are largely mammalian pest free, and are of high biodiversity and conservation value as they are defendable and usually fewer pests have had an impact there. They also contain some of Auckland's greatest collections of threatened species – including kiwi, takahe, tuatara, tieke, weta punga and seabirds.
- The councils dog handlers and dog team are able to detect for rodents, mustelids, plague skinks and Argentine ants. In addition to 14 pest detector dogs on mainland either fully certified or in training, we have two dogs on Aotea Great Barrier Island.
- The dog team largely work on the waterfront where most island-bound boats depart from. They needed a base where they could rest the dogs between waterfront ferry inspections, and keep them in a central, convenient location, where they were ready to respond to incursions and could easily carry out their island surveillance programme. Auckland Domain has provided an area of unused land which has been converted to a compound for the dogs on a temporary basis. This has proved to be a hugely beneficial site as the team can easily access the sites they need to visit and have a safe and secure area for the dogs.