



AUCKLAND WATER STRATEGY

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Annual Progress Report 2023/2024

September 2024





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About this report

The Annual Progress Report provides an update on the implementation of the Auckland Water Strategy (the strategy) in its second year of implementation (1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024). It is prepared for the Governing Body (which oversees council-wide strategies), Auckland Council staff (who implement the strategy), and the public (who benefit from the strategy) to understand how the strategy has been implemented across the council's functions and activities related to water over the last year.

1. **The Background section** provides an overview of the:
 - Auckland Water Strategy
 - operating context for the second year of implementation (2023/2024)
 - engagement with mana whenua
 - strategy's alignment to other significant policy and planning programmes.
2. **The Evaluating Progress section** provides an overview of implementation of the Auckland Water Strategy in its second year. This includes:
 - an overall summary of progress in year two (2023/2024)
 - the red, amber, green (RAG) status of each action associated with each strategic shift in the strategy.

Additional detail on the implementation status and risks for each action and an overview of each strategic shift is provided in the Appendix: Detailed Strategic Shift and Action Progress 2023/2024.



Background

The Auckland Water Strategy is Auckland Council's thirty-year approach to water, guided by the vision 'te mauri o te wai, the life-sustaining capacity of Auckland's water, is protected and enhanced'¹. It sets a vision for the region's water and provides strategic direction for investment and action across the council group. The strategy was adopted by the Environment and Climate Change Committee (ECC) on 10 March 2022, along with the *Auckland Water Strategy Implementation Plan* (implementation plan)².

The strategy sits underneath the Auckland Plan 2050 alongside Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan and guides decision-making across the council group.

The strategy sets out eight overarching shifts for the council. Each 'strategic shift' (shift) represents a transformation in the council's approach to water and outlines specific actions to progress towards the shift's aim:

1. Te Tiriti Partnership

The council and mana whenua working together in agreed ways on agreed things.

2. Empowered Aucklanders

The council working with Aucklanders for better water outcomes.

3. Sustainable Allocation and Equitable Access

Prioritising mauri when using water, to sustain the environment and people in the long term.

4. Regenerative Infrastructure

Ensuring Auckland's water infrastructure is regenerative, resilient, low carbon, and increases the mauri of water.

5. Water Security

Creating water abundance and security for a growing population through efficient use and diverse sources.

6. Integrated Land Use and Water Planning

Integrating land use and water planning at a regional, catchment and site scale.

7. Restoring and Enhancing Water Ecosystems

Taking catchment-based approaches to the health of water ecosystems.

8. Pooling Knowledge

Fostering a shared understanding enabling better decisions for our water future.

¹ A Glossary of Terms is included in the Auckland Water Strategy (page 40) that gives the interpretation of mauri as life force, the essential quality and vitality of a being or entity. It is also the life-sustaining capacity of an entity.

² <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/looking-after-aucklands-water/water-strategy-policy-standards/Pages/auckland-water-strategy.aspx>

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

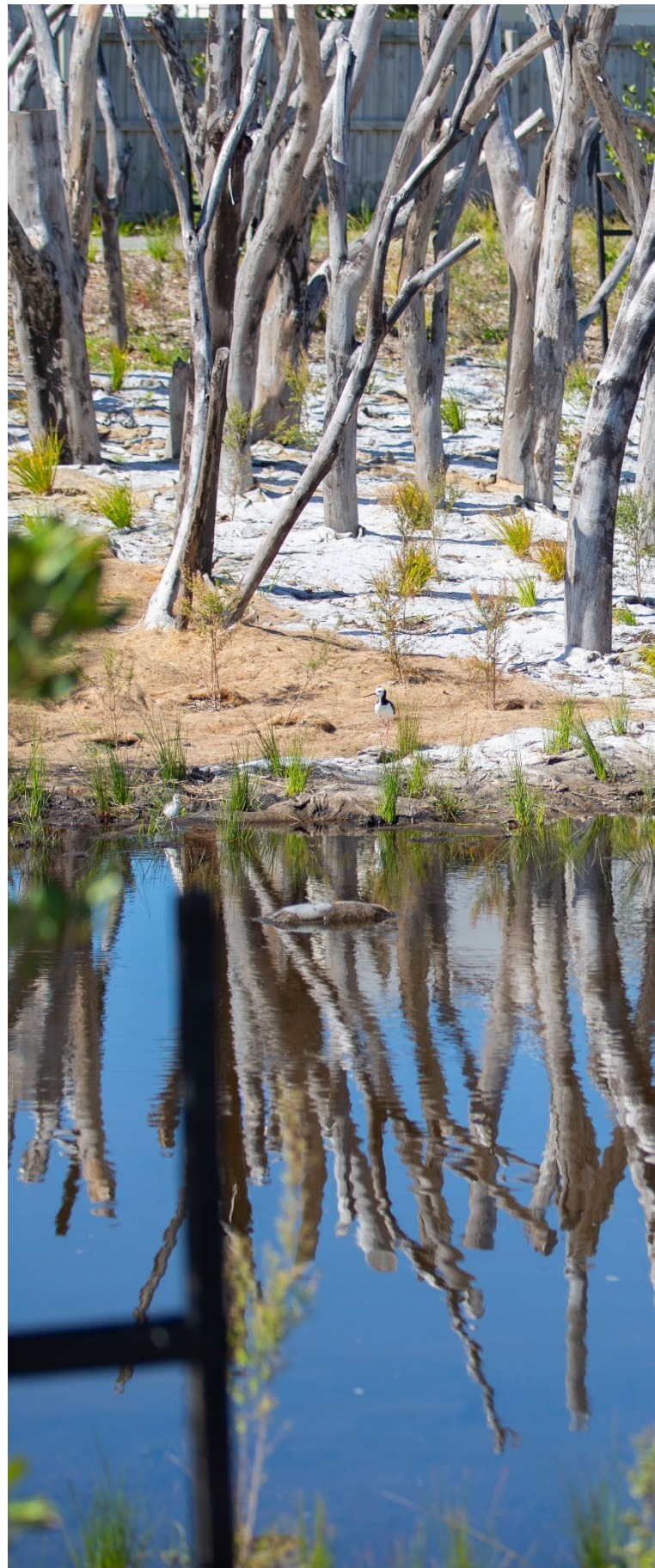
The eight strategic shifts set out aspirational goals over a thirty-year timeframe, supported by a total of fifty-eight actions to be undertaken by the council group. The implementation plan sets out general delivery timelines and detail for each action, identifying:

- one action completed before the strategy's adoption on 10 March 2022
- three actions to be completed in year one (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023)
- thirty actions to be completed by year three (1 July 2024– 30 June 2025)
- nine actions to be completed by year five (1 July 2026– 30 June 2027), and
- fifteen actions to be completed by year ten (1 July 2032– 30 June 2033).

All fifty-eight actions are included in this report, highlighting four actions that have progressed over year two that were originally scoped for later commencement.

The strategy is monitored and evaluated in two ways:

1. annual progress reports on the implementation of the eight strategic shifts and the associated actions, and
2. five-yearly dual-benchmarking of Auckland's progress towards achieving the vision of the strategy using both a water sensitive cities index¹ as well as a Mātauranga Māori benchmarking framework (in development).



2023/2024 context

The national context for the strategy's implementation has remained dynamic this year, with central government introducing several new reforms and amendments to legislation which are relevant to the management of water in Auckland.

In February 2024, Parliament reversed the previous government's approach to water services via the *Water Services Acts Repeal Act 2024* (Repeal Act 2024), ceasing a transition of Auckland's water services to 'Entity A.' This means that drinking and wastewater will continue to be managed by Watercare as a council-controlled organisation (CCO) and stormwater will continue to be managed by Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience as a department of Auckland Council. Legislative uncertainty has slowed the progression of some actions. It has also resulted in the reversal of proposed co-governance systems with mana whenua that would have progressed goals set out in the Auckland Water Strategy. However, the strategy's direction for partnership with mana whenua and improvements to water services will not change because of these national shifts.



The Repeal Act 2024 was the first of three pieces of legislation that the government has introduced regarding the delivery of water services. The second piece of legislation, introduced in July 2024 during the preparation of this report, is the *Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill* which will establish preliminary arrangements for the delivery of water services³. The third is a bill to be introduced in December 2024 that will establish the legislative settings for water services.

The government also signaled changes to policy direction around freshwater management this year by introducing the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill in June 2024. The council is still assessing and responding to the impact of these proposed changes to ongoing programmes. While it will have implications for how some aspects of strategic direction are progressed in the short term, staff remain committed to the direction in the strategy.

The context within Auckland has been more stable than the national stage. The council increased resourcing to resilience building, storm recovery, and water services delivery in both its short-term and long-term planning this year.

On 29 June 2023, the Governing Body adopted the Annual Budget including a \$20 million per annum on-going increase to operational budget for the Storm Response Fund which would carry through to at least the end of financial year 2030/2031. This fund includes multiple packages of funding with relevance to direction in the strategy, and directly funds three actions related to enhancing the resilience of our natural and build infrastructure.

The Long-term Plan (LTP), also known as the 10-year Budget, sets out the priorities and funding for Auckland Council Group activities planned over a 10-year period. An updated LTP 2024-2034, was adopted by Governing Body on 27 June 2024⁴. Water is one of its seven investment areas, with notable funding allocated to support the delivery of stormwater management through a planned 10-year allocation of \$507 million to the Making Space for Water programme and through extending the Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR).

³ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2024/0052/latest/whole.html#whole>

⁴ <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/budget-plans/long-term-plan-2024-2034/Pages/default.aspx>

Engagement with mana whenua

The strategy directs the council group to work towards a future where the mauri of Auckland's waters is restored and protected. Partnership with mana whenua across the region is essential to realising this aspiration.

Mana whenua engagement, and sometimes partnership, on specific water related projects, programmes and topics occurs across CCOs and council departments. This can take the form of regular engagement with collective fora, and/or individual iwi and hapū engagement.

In year two (2023/2024) staff sought to engage with all nineteen mana whenua entities on the strategy's implementation, and fifteen were available to meet. Hui included an implementation update and overview of several key work areas that have opportunities for further involvement. The remaining four mana whenua entities will be engaged with in year three (2024/2025).

As well as individual engagement, staff have worked with the Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum through its environment sub-committee, Te Pou Taiao, on the development of the strategy and subsequently its finalisation and next steps.

Te Pou Taiao (the environment sub-committee) of the Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum stopped meeting in June 2023 – as such, work with the Pou has ceased. In its absence, staff have engaged with the Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum (February 2024) and individual mana whenua entities.

See the Appendix on page 24 of this report for additional information on mana whenua engagement and partnership across the council activities related to implementation of the Auckland Water Strategy.

Alignment to significant policies and programmes

The strategy directs alignment of initiatives at both planning and operational levels.

Council's implementation of national direction in year two progressed the strategy. This included evidence gathering for the freshwater plan change that will be required to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM). Staff also employed new and novel approaches to engage with Aucklanders about freshwater issues and their management.

Auckland Water Strategy direction was embedded in two significant strategies the council is required to deliver: the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy adopted through the LTP 2023-2034 and the Tāmaki- Whenua Taurikura Auckland Future Development Strategy 2023-2053. The aligned direction for resilient communities and infrastructure set across these three strategies⁵ supported an operational focus on improving our understanding of the existing state of infrastructure and how we can better enable 'regenerative' infrastructure. The Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland programme has also embedded implementation of this direction in future years of the programme through its focus on supporting community-led adaptation and empowering Aucklanders to shape decisions about, and prepare for, our changing water future.

There are many other regional policy and strategy documents that share outcomes with the strategy, with progress on these also advancing the vision of the Auckland Water Strategy. For details on that alignment, see Appendix 2 of last year's Auckland Water Strategy Annual Progress Report (2022/2023).⁶

⁵ The 30-year Infrastructure Strategy, the Tāmaki- Whenua Taurikura Auckland Future Development Strategy 2023-2053, and the Auckland Water Strategy (2022-2050)

⁶ <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/czrd4p2i/auckland-water-strategy-annual-report-2022-2023.pdf>

Evaluating progress

The long-term change envisioned in the strategy will take at least thirty years to achieve, and this report covers just the second year of the strategy's implementation (1 July 2023-30 June 2024). The strategy's implementation plan indicatively identifies thirty-four of the strategy's fifty-eight actions to be completed by the end of year three (30 June 2025).

Of those 34 actions:

15 are on track for meaningful progress or completion by the end of year three

16 are at risk of not achieving a major milestone by the end of year three

3 are overdue, having been scoped for completion in year one

✓ Where we are on track



Enhancing our resilience to water-related natural hazards

We are enhancing our resilience to water-related natural hazards. Increased resourcing for recovery and resilience programmes this year have progressed strategic direction to empower Aucklanders to prepare for a changing water future, improve the resilience of our infrastructure, and improve the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) to support our resilience to natural hazards. As one example, the council has funded many new place-based community initiatives to develop local knowledge of flood risks.



For details on progress, see actions: 2.2, 2.8, 4.5, 6.5, 6.8 in the Appendix



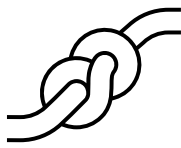
Updating our planning framework

Substantial work was undertaken this year to inform changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) to improve the integration of land use management and water planning. This work included collating technical advice and guidance and engaging with mana whenua and communities. This will improve the council's land management functions to reduce impacts on our receiving environments. As one example of new approaches being advanced, a tool has been developed this year to inform planning decisions by estimating the potential impact of different land use interventions on freshwater quality (i.e. nutrient and sediment discharge).



For details on progress, see actions: 1.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.9, 7.2, 7.3, 8.2 in the Appendix

⚠ Where we are at risk



Embedding te mauri o te wai in our planning framework in envisioned timeframes

While significant progress towards improving our planning framework was made this year, the indicative timeframes set out for embedding a consideration of te mauri o te wai in those efforts will need to be lengthened due to the changing legislative requirement and timeframes for notifying the council's freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020). We are committed to embedding te mauri o te wai in our planning framework. The lengthened timeframe also creates opportunities for more fully considering the strategy's direction in the plan change.



For details on progress, see actions: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 in the Appendix



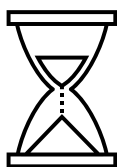
Coordinated action

Looking across the fifty-eight actions of the strategy reveals positive examples of progress from individual programmes and initiatives in many areas of the strategy (i.e. enhancing partnership with mana whenua and improving how we work with and engage with Aucklanders). However, some of this progress represents individual actions across departments and teams as opposed to the cohesive organisational change envisioned in the strategy. A challenge in implementing the strategy is joining up these initiatives across the organisation.



For details on progress, see actions: 1.2, 2.4, 7.1, 8.3 in the Appendix

⊗ Where we are falling short



There are three overdue strategic actions

- **Action 1.1** Apply dual framework to benchmark water outcomes
- **Action 5.1** Adopt a council position to address affordable water access
- **Action 5.2** Develop a plan to address affordable water access in Auckland

These actions were all indicatively scoped to be completed in year one (by 30 June 2023), which was an ambitious timeframe to deliver work programmes of this size. Work has been underway for all three actions this year and will be prioritised for ongoing delivery in year three (2024/2025).



For details on progress, see actions: 1.1, 5.1, and 5.2 in the Appendix

Action status tables

The year two implementation status of each action is detailed in Table 1 using a red, amber, green (RAG) categorisation. The year one implementation status is also provided to enable easy comparison between years. Table 1 also includes the status of additional ‘implementation actions’ outlined in the strategy’s implementation plan (a supplementary document for Auckland Council group staff). These relate to general enabling actions that will support the implementation of strategy across the organisation. A more detailed summary for each action is provided in the Appendix and a breakdown of the red, amber, green metrics is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Red, amber, green (RAG) status key status markers used in Table 1

Key			
Not on track for completion	Progressing with some challenges	Complete or on track for completion	Scoped for a later start date

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Table 1: Year two implementation Status of actions 2023-2024 with comparison to 2022-2023 progress

Shift 1 – Te Tiriti Partnership				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
1.1 Apply dual framework to benchmark water outcomes (ongoing)	1	Council	Underway	Underway
1.2 Resource mana whenua to enable meaningful partnership relationships with the council (ongoing)	2-3	Council	Underway	Underway
1.3 Report on te mauri o te wai (ongoing)	2-3	Council	Ongoing	Ongoing
1.4 Resource mana whenua to lead environmental monitoring (ongoing)	2-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Underway
1.5 Create further partnership mechanisms with mana whenua	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date
1.6 Enable and support co-governance arrangements where appropriate	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date

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Shift 2 -Empowered Aucklanders				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
2.1 Develop and deliver a framework for, and measure, water literacy at regular intervals (ongoing)	1-3	Council and Watercare	Underway	Underway
2.2 Grow council group's water literacy education programmes (ongoing)	1-3	Council and Watercare	Scoping	Underway
2.3 Resource mana whenua to lead community engagement for water projects in catchments in their rohe (ongoing)	1-3	Council	Scoping	Scoping
2.4 Align, coordinate, resource and evaluate the council group's community engagement on water	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
2.5 Develop a measure of Aucklanders' access to blue-green spaces; a programme to increase access over time; and track progress (ongoing)	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
2.6 Investigate community-based ownership models for water infrastructure and services	1-3	Council and Watercare	Underway	Underway
2.7 Set targets for and implement empowered communities' approach for water projects across the council group (ongoing)	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date
2.8 Review the council group's resilience-building programmes for effectiveness, and define and measure community resilience overtime	4-10	Council and Watercare	Scoped for a later start date	Underway

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Shift 3 - Sustainable allocation and equitable access				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
3.1. Develop indicators based on mauri to define allocation limits, in partnership with mana whenua	1-3	Council	Scoping	Scoping
3.2. Assess Auckland's water resources and availability across the region using a Tāmaki expression of the Te Mana o Te Wai hierarchy (ongoing)	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
3.3. Develop a dynamic water availability model and use it to plan for the future (ongoing model development)	1-5	Council	Scoping	Underway
3.4. Set take limits and review allocation rules for the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management using the Tāmaki expression of the Te Mana o Te Wai hierarchy	1-5	Council	Underway	Underway
3.5 Understand the mauri of existing water sources where water is extracted for use, in partnership with mana whenua	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date
3.6 Create a smart allocation system through increased monitoring and data analysis	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date

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Shift 4 - Regenerative water infrastructure				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
4.1. Collate case studies to increase understanding of resilient, conspicuous, and mauri-enhancing water infrastructure solutions (complete)	✓	Council	Complete	Complete
4.2. Review emissions reductions for water infrastructure against those required by Te-Tāruke-a-Tāwhiri and develop an emissions plan if required	1-3	Council and Watercare	Underway	Underway
4.3. Resource mana whenua to develop guidance and assessment methods for mauri-enhancing infrastructure	2-3	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoping
4.4. Assess and map impacts of existing water infrastructure on te mauri o te wai, in partnership with mana whenua	2-3	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoping
4.5. Evaluate and map resilience of the council's water infrastructure systems	2-3	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Underway
4.6. Partner with mana whenua to pilot water infrastructure projects that enhance te mauri o te wai (ongoing)	2-3	Watercare	Scoped for a later start date	Scoping
4.7. Include mauri in the council's investment prioritisation process for the Annual Budget and Long-Term Plan in partnership with mana whenua (ongoing)	2-3	Council	Ongoing	Ongoing

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Shift 5 – Water Security				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
5.1. Adopt a council position to address affordable water access	1	Council	Underway	Underway
5.2. Develop a plan to address affordable water access in Auckland	1	Council and Watercare	Scoping	Scoping
5.3. Add a level of service for and develop a plan to proactively manage both peak demand and drought response	1-3	Council and Watercare	Underway	Underway
5.4. Model climate change scenarios to understand impacts on water sources (ongoing)	1-3	Watercare	Underway	Underway
5.5. Develop a smart demand management system to predict and manage peak demand using smart meter data and associated communication tools to engage Aucklanders (ongoing)	2-5	Watercare	Scoped for a later start date	Underway
5.6. Support central government to set targets for water efficient homes (ongoing)	2-3	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Underway
5.7. Develop an investment plan for diverse sources to meet 2030 and 2050 targets, guided by te mauri o te wai for 2024 Long-Term Plan	2-3	Council and Watercare	Underway	Underway
5.8. Develop policy to achieve target of 30% of urban roof area to collect rainwater for use 2050 (ongoing)	2-5	Council and Watercare	Underway	Underway
5.9. Develop regulations and targeted information to support Aucklanders to increase water capture for reuse (homes and businesses)	2-5	Council and Watercare	Scoped for a later start date	Scoping
5.10 Monitor investments to meet water consumption reduction targets and review targets in 2024 (ongoing)	4-10	Council and Watercare	Underway	Underway
5.11 Pursue pilots, community engagement, technology, and regulations to enable purified wastewater reuse (ongoing)	4-10	Council and Watercare	Scoped for a later start date	Underway

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Shift 6 - Integrated land use and water planning				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
6.1. Embed te mana o te wai as a central consideration in all plan change processes, including the development of council-initiated plan changes and when providing evidence on private plan changes	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
6.2. Resource and enhance the council's capability to effectively implement the Essential Freshwater Package	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
6.3. Review and improve spatial planning processes to consider water consistently and advocate for statutory weight for structure plans	1-3	Council	Ongoing	Ongoing
6.4. Develop a regional blue-green network spatial plan	1-3	Council	Scoping	Underway
6.5. Develop a position to limit development in, and remove vulnerable structures from, high risk water related natural hazard areas	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
6.6. Review, develop and grow the council's Strategic Approach to Sediment Programme (ongoing)	1-3	Council	Underway	Ongoing
6.7. Investigate and continuously improve the council's understanding and management of cumulative effects to protect and enhance mauri (ongoing)	1-5	Council	Scoping	Underway
6.8. Avoid further development in water-related natural hazard areas in all plan change processes and ensure regulations take a precautionary and risk-based approach (ongoing)	1-5	Council	Underway	Underway
6.9. Deliver a package of non-regulatory and regulatory interventions to support the uptake of water-sensitive design processes and ongoing management of devices (ongoing)	1-10	Council	Scoping	Underway

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Shift 7 - Restoring and enhancing water ecosystems				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
7.1. Develop methods to assess mauri for Auckland's freshwater ecosystems, in partnership with mana whenua	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
7.2. Develop targets and priorities to improve the mauri of freshwater ecosystems, in partnership with mana whenua	3-5	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Underway
7.3. Improve our understanding of freshwater ecosystems and pressures (ongoing)	2-5	Council	Underway	Underway
7.4. Develop an investment framework and strategic investment plan to guide funding and incentive opportunities (ongoing)	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date
7.5. Take a catchment-based approach to management of waterways protection and enhancement (ongoing)	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Underway

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Shift 8 – Pooling Knowledge				
Strategic action	Indicative timeframe	Owner	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
8.1. Implement a council group knowledge governance framework for water (ongoing)	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
8.2. Build a robust evidence base to support the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management plan change in 2024.	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
8.3. Develop a consistent council approach to working with treaty partners and their mātauranga	1-3	Council	Underway	Underway
8.4 Evaluate and where required improve 'whole of policy cycle' environmental management across the council group (ongoing)	4-10	Council	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date
8.5 Enable Aucklanders' ability to readily access and contribute to water data, information, and knowledge (ongoing)	4-10	N/A	Scoped for a later start date	Underway
8.6 Develop external partnerships for innovation, research, and development (ongoing)	4-10	N/A	Scoped for a later start date	Scoped for a later start date

Water Security Targets

Auckland Council adopted water security targets as part of the Auckland Water Strategy (2022-2050). These targets aim to reduce our water consumption from the reticulated network and increase our supply of non-dam recycled water⁷ and rainwater progressively towards 2050. Table 2 sets out the status of progress towards achieving those targets.

Reporting on consumption in previous years was impacted by record rainfall (2022-2023), COVID restrictions (2021-2022), and drought restrictions (2020-2021), and therefore this year may be more representative of average demand.

Table 2: Water Security Targets 2023-2024

Consumption (demand)			
Year	Water Security Targets	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
2025	<253 litres consumption per person per day (gross PCC, network)	241 litres/person/day 12-month rolling average	255 litres/person/day 12-month rolling average. ⁸
2030	<247 litres consumption per person per day (gross PCC, network)		
2050	<225 litres consumption per person per day (gross PCC, network)		
Collection (supply)			
Year	Water Security Targets	Year one status (July 2022-June 2023)	Year two status (July 2023-June 2024)
2030	20 million litres per day (non-dam) rainwater and recycled water capacity for beneficial use	21.70 million litres/day Recycled water capacity for beneficial use in Auckland	22.01 million litres/day Recycled water capacity for beneficial use in Auckland. ⁹
2050	100 million litres per day (non-dam) rainwater and recycled water capacity for beneficial use		
2050	30% of urban roof area to collect rainwater for use	Metrics yet to be developed	Metrics under development

⁷ Recycled water is defined in the Auckland Water Strategy as the retreatment of water already used for one purpose to a standard that is fit for one or more subsequent purposes. Where the purpose does not require potable standard water, such as industrial cooling or irrigation, the use of recycled water reduces demand on the potable water supply.

⁸ per day per resident within the territorial authority district (*litres plus/minus 2.5%)

⁹ Based on Watercare data on recycled water in some wastewater treatment plants and major infrastructure projects. This does not include data on rainwater tank supply.

Risks and mitigation

The most significant risk to implementation of the strategy is awareness and buy-in across the organisation. Implementation relies on staff commitment to the strategy's vision and goals, as its implementation is not a statutory requirement. Many 'at-risk' (i.e. amber) actions in the report are due to the lack of a willing team or department to lead progress, indicating a challenge with buy-in. Moreover, poor awareness of how the strategy can be embedded in ongoing and new programmes can also impact the accuracy of reporting. There is likely to be progress happening to advance the strategy that isn't recognised or reflected in this report. Successful implementation will require consistent advocacy from leaders within the council, as well as awareness of its direction across the organisation.

Auckland Council staff proposed mitigating this risk by establishing an executive level governance group in September 2023. Many other related workstreams have executive governance groups to support coordination and buy-in; these could be a model for, or be leveraged to support, increased commitment to implementation of the Auckland Water Strategy. A proposed structure was peer reviewed in year two and will be presented to executive level management for consideration.

Despite increased resourcing for resilience and water services this year, existing budgets and capacity still drive most activity to deliver the strategy. In many cases, implementation competes with other departmental priorities and obligations. Limited resourcing inevitably means that not all actions can be delivered within the timeframes envisioned.

To mitigate the risk of inaction or uncoordinated progress due to the volume of directed work, an annual prioritisation process identifies the highest priority actions for each financial year. In addition to governance approaches, staff will undertake communications to raise awareness and support for the strategy across the organisation, especially for high priority actions. Staff intend to convene broader briefings for key department managers and staff on the strategy's implementation progress to date and highlight where departments could either lead or contribute to implementation for high priority actions identified for year three (2024/2025). Refer to the next section, 'Transitioning into year three (2024/2025)' for more information on prioritisation.

Transitioning into year three (2024/2025)

The Auckland Water Strategy has fifty-eight actions, with thirty-four of these indicatively scoped to be completed by the end of year three (2024/2025). An Auckland Water Strategy prioritisation review is completed annually to identify priority actions for the upcoming year, in recognition that the strategy's implementation largely relies on the allocation of existing resources and capacity.

Actions were evaluated to prioritise those that:

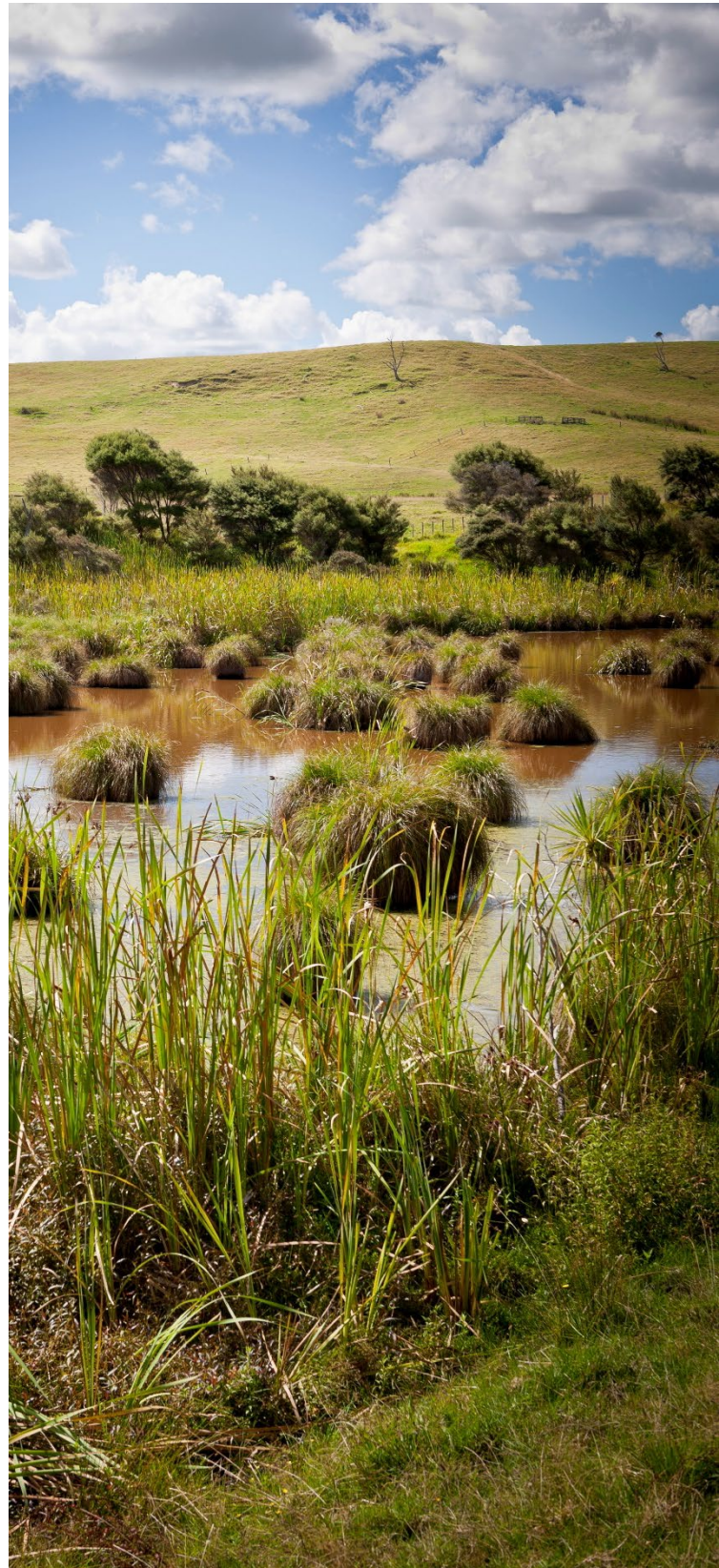
- have the greatest urgency based on indicative scoping in the Auckland Water Strategy Implementation Plan,
- have a low risk of being derailed and high reputational risk associated with delay,
- have existing momentum or linkages with other organisational priorities, and
- have the greatest impact on achieving the vision of the strategy and its strategic shifts.

The prioritisation exercise included staff from Watercare, Healthy Waters & Flood Resilience, and Policy Planning & Governance. The results are intended to help the organisation allocate limited resources to the most impactful work. Priority actions could be earmarked for programme support and resourcing opportunities but should not be interpreted as the only actions that will progress in 2024/2025.

Actions related to the following themes were prioritised:

- partnering with mana whenua
- building and enhancing resilience to water-related natural hazards
- improving land use management.

A year ago, preparing for transition to the new water entity and implementation of the Essential Freshwater Package were identified as priority themes for implementation.



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Table 3: The 10 highest priority actions for year three of implementation. Note, the order of actions is based on strategic shift (from one to eight) and does not imply ranking.

Strategic action		Year
1.1.	Apply dual framework to benchmark water outcomes (ongoing)	1
1.4.	Resource mana whenua to lead environmental monitoring (ongoing)	2-10
4.5.	Evaluate and map resilience of the council's water infrastructure systems	2-3
4.7.	Include mauri in the council's investment prioritisation process for the Annual Budget and Long-Term Plan in partnership with mana whenua (ongoing)	2-3
5.1.	Adopt a council position to address affordable water access	1
5.4.	Model climate change scenarios to understand impacts on water sources (ongoing)	1-3
5.7.	Develop an investment plan for diverse sources to meet 2030 and 2050 targets, guided by te mauri o te wai for 2024 Long-Term Plan	2-3
6.3.	Review and improve spatial planning processes to consider water consistently and advocate for statutory weight for structure plans	1-3
6.4.	Develop a regional blue-green network spatial plan	1-3
6.8.	Avoid further development in water-related natural hazard areas in all plan change processes and ensure regulations take a precautionary and risk-based approach (ongoing)	1-5

Appendix: Detailed Strategic Shift and Action Progress 2023/2024

This Appendix provides an update on the implementation progress of the eight strategic shifts encompassed by the adopted Auckland Water Strategy, and includes a more detailed update on the actions associated with each strategic shift at the end of year two (1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024).

Each section below addresses one strategic shift (from one to eight) and includes an overview of progress towards the aim of that shift over the reporting period. Following the shift’s overview of progress, a subsequent table lists each action associated with that shift, which covers the:

- red, amber, green (RAG) status of each action (consistent with the RAG status provided in the main body of this report - see Figure 1 for meanings)
- year one implementation update
- year two (this reporting period) implementation update
- challenges and risks associated with the action.

This information is gathered throughout the financial year via staff updates from across the council group.

A full list of actions and indicative timeframes for delivery can be referenced on page 57 of the [Auckland Water Strategy Implementation Plan](#).

Appendix Guide

Figure 1: Table key

Symbol/Colour	Meaning
	Overdue for completion based on indicative timeframes in the Auckland Water Strategy (2022-2050)
	Progressing with some challenges / at risk of not achieving a major milestone in envisioned timeframes
	Complete or on track for completion based on indicative timeframes in the Auckland Water Strategy (2022-2050)
	Scoped for a later start date
*	A priority action identified for year two (2023/2024)
+	Significant progress made prior to the indicative commencement date in the Auckland Water Strategy (2022-2050)

Shift 1: Te Tiriti Partnership

Aim

Council and mana whenua are partners in the protection, management, and enhancement of water.

Overall implementation update

Partnership is a long-term and ongoing goal. Addressing the challenges to achieving meaningful partnership for water outcomes with the nineteen mana whenua entities recognised by the council will take time. Overall, the council group is still in the early stages of establishing the foundations to achieve its goals and over this last year the national and regional context has changed the operating environment under which those foundations can be developed in some instances. However, there are tangible examples of progress that can be noted.

In October 2023, Auckland Council decided not to establish a Māori ward for the 2025 local body elections - missing an opportunity to increase Māori representation in regional governance. This decision was taken considering most of the public consultation feedback did not support the Māori wards proposal. Māori wards will be reconsidered in advance of the 2028 local body elections.

The coalition government's reform agenda has had significant implications for Māori over the period November 2023 – June 2024. The change has caused much concern in Māori communities and altered the regional context for the council group's work to improve partnership relationships.

Despite this challenging context for Te Tiriti partnership, the council group is actively seeking to fulfil its Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations and responsibilities. This involves operationalising key strategies and plans focused on Māori outcomes¹⁰ as well as numerous individual relationships, partnerships and engagement processes that relate specifically to te taiao (environment) and/or te wai (water).

The 2024 Te Tiriti o Waitangi Audit¹¹ classified the council group in a maturity state of 'Te Pō' in relation to its delivery on its commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. A Te Pō classification means that some expected processes and structures are documented and repeatable, but that enhancements are required. Recommended improvements include:

- leadership and accountability for Māori outcomes and Te Tiriti principles across the organisation
- improvements to engagement and partnership processes
- training for staff to upskill on how to give effect to Māori outcomes in their work.¹

Mana whenua engagement on the Auckland Water Strategy has been a focus over the reporting period. This has included a focus on whakawhanaungatanga (establishing relationships), and processes and resourcing to enable staff to work with mana whenua representatives specifically on the aims and actions identified in the strategy. Engagement with all nineteen mana whenua entities of the region has been sought in year two, with fifteen able to meet in that timeframe. Engagement will continue into year three. Further detail on the actions within this strategic shift can be found in Table 1A.

¹⁰ PricewaterhouseCoopers 2024. He Waka Kōtuia – Te Tiriti o Waitangi Audit. Prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers for Houkura. [He+Waka+Ko+tuia+-+Te+Tiriti+o+Waitangi+Audit+Report+2024.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.squarespace.com/He+Waka+Ko+tuia+-+Te+Tiriti+o+Waitangi+Audit+Report+2024.pdf)

¹¹ Houkura commission a Te Tiriti o Waitangi audit of the council group every three years.

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Next steps for this strategic shift include establishing an evaluation and reporting framework to track progress over time; working with staff across the council group and mana whenua representatives to input into tracking progress and evaluation; and progressing specific actions 1.1 – 1.4 below as a priority. There is an outstanding risk that action 1.1 may not be completed at the end of year three due to the complex and resource intense nature of making progress with 19 mana whenua partners for this action.

Table 1A: Strategic shift 1 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Te Tiriti Partnership (Reference page 9 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*1.1 Apply dual framework to benchmark water outcomes (ongoing)		<p>A water-sensitive cities index was completed for Auckland in 2021.</p> <p>A Mātauranga Māori benchmarking framework draft was completed in 2022, in partnership with Te Pou Taiao (Environment Committee) of the Mana Whenua Forum.</p>	<p>Collective mana whenua engagement (August 2023) to socialise draft concept and initial, rapid feedback received.</p> <p>Progress paused in the absence of mana whenua delivery partner.</p> <p>Establishing engagement with the 19 mana whenua entities has been the subsequent focus. Fifteen were available to engage on this action, and engagement will continue with all in year three.</p>	<p>Delayed delivery: limited capacity of mana whenua partner to continue in 2022-2023. Subsequent loss of mana whenua partner in July 2023 due to the council removing support for the TMMWF 'Pou' on 30 June 2023 has delayed progress.</p> <p>Mitigation has been individual engagement with mana whenua, which is requiring a longer timeframe and staff resource to implement.</p> <p>Waiting for decision on the future of the TMMWF before progressing new partnership solutions.</p>

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Te Tiriti Partnership (Reference page 9 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*1.2 Resource mana whenua to enable meaningful partnership relationships with the council (ongoing)		<p>Ngā Mātārae commissioned an external review of Auckland Council engagement with mana whenua (Beyond Obligation, September 2022).</p> <p>‘The freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) implementation programme resources long-term engagement with mana whenua - including the establishment of an Independent Wai Māori Mana Whenua Technical Support Panel - to support mana whenua’s partnership role in the implementation of the freshwater plan change.</p> <p>The role of Senior Māori Engagement Advisor - Strategy within Natural Environment Strategy, APSR was filled at end of the reporting period. The primary focus of this role is to support Māori Engagement across several initiatives including the strategy.</p> <p>Healthy Waters and Watercare have increased resourcing towards mana whenua engagement, partnership, and staff cultural competency over the last year.</p>	<p>Māori Outcomes funding has been increased to \$171 million in the 2024-2034 LTP.¹²</p> <p>‘Uplift’ funding for mana whenua entities (Māori Outcomes fund) increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000 each, annually on 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Individual plans, programmes, and projects across the council group continue to prioritise Te Tiriti partnership in their work. Several water focused examples that progressed in this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Ara Awataha and Te Whakaoranga o te Puhinui • Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland • Freshwater and Natural Hazard Plan Changes • Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau guide • te taiao plan and climate adaptation plan funding (Climate Action and Māori Outcomes funding) • multiple environmental monitoring and conservation/restoration focused initiatives. 	<p>This action is delivered across the council group; however, reporting on this action is limited. To progress more comprehensive reporting on this action a reporting and evaluation approach will be developed and implemented - to capture and evaluate progress from across the council group.</p>

¹² Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau is one of the council group’s formal Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments. The strategy was adopted in 2021 at the same time \$150 million was allocated specifically for Māori Outcomes in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP). Māori Outcomes Funding is additional and does not include departmental investment in engagement and partnership with mana whenua and Māori.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Te Tiriti Partnership (Reference page 9 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
1.3 Report on te mauri o te wai (ongoing)		<p>Updates on the strategy approval were given during joined-up freshwater hui (water strategy, freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020), and Three Waters Reform) with individual iwi/hapu groups between March 2022 and February 2023.</p> <p>A presentation on the progress of the Auckland Water Strategy in year one was provided to Te Pou Taiao in June 2023.</p>	<p>The council undertakes extensive water quality and quantity monitoring. Annual, 5-yearly, and ad hoc reports are produced and published on Knowledge Auckland.</p> <p>Monitoring is being expanded to address all monitoring required under the NPS-FM 2020.</p> <p>Staff are increasing the accessibility of environmental monitoring information. In 2023/2024 this included an NPS-FM specific dashboard and a hydrology dashboard.</p> <p>Auckland Council staff are working on how to improve the of sharing information with mana whenua, as well as sharing mana whenua views and environmental state knowledge in the council's reporting (underway).</p>	None.
1.4 Resource mana whenua to lead environmental monitoring (ongoing)		None.	A council-wide approach to supporting iwi/hapū environmental monitoring is being scoped over years two and three. This has included individual engagement with iwi/hapū and a cross-council working group.	None.
1.5 Create further partnership mechanisms with mana whenua		None.	Not a part of year two implementation.	None.
1.6 Enable and support co-governance arrangements where appropriate		None.	Not a part of year two implementation.	None.

Shift 2: Empowered Aucklanders

Aim

Aucklanders are empowered to shape decisions about, and are prepared for, our changing water future.

Overall implementation update

The council group has invested in empowering Aucklanders to be prepared for a changing water future in year two. Following the flooding events of 2023, council activities have increased to provide Aucklanders with better and targeted information about the risks they and their properties face, and what they can do to prepare for future storm events, represented by several programmes, funded through the Storm Response Fund, as well as Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and the Making Space for Water initiative.

Some actions within this shift have been slow to progress, primarily due to the de-centralised nature of community engagement responsibility across the organisation, and the difficulty of attributing ownership to specific parts of council group to coordinate scoping and progress of actions. More information on each action within this shift is presented in Table 2A.

Table 2A: Strategic shift 2 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Empowered Aucklanders (Reference page 14 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
2.1. Develop and deliver a framework for, and measure, water literacy at regular intervals (ongoing)		<p>Watercare has developed a framework and shared with council its monthly water literacy tracker based on drinking and wastewater service provisions with customers. A baseline for water literacy has been established.</p> <p>A literature scan of methods and definitions for water literacy was completed to inform a definition for water literacy in Auckland.</p> <p>A cross-council and Watercare workshop was held in mid-June 2023 following internal reviews on definitions and literature and an analysis on the Watercare water literacy survey questions.</p>	Watercare has continued their water literacy survey and added some questions to their ongoing water literacy survey, as suggested by council staff.	No team or department in council group has elected to lead next steps on this action. Defining water literacy requires mana whenua engagement, requiring a council lead for the engagement. Action is unlikely to be achieved within envisioned timeframes and deadline may need to be rescope.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Empowered Aucklanders (Reference page 14 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
2.2. Grow council group's water literacy education programmes (ongoing)		<p>None - build on work from 2.1 above when more information is available.</p> <p>Watercare has an ongoing water education program and in FY23 delivered 448 lessons across 76 schools and reached 11,500 pupils.</p>	<p>Watercare runs a school education programme which has reached an additional 13,400 pupils from 446 classes across 86 schools in 2023/2024.</p> <p>Council has implemented the following initiatives this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new climate resilience campaign, including a new Climate Ready section on the council's climate action website 'Live Lightly' • information on 'Preparing your Property for Flooding', which has been widely distributed in flood-prone areas • place-based community initiatives to develop local knowledge of flood risks. 	<p>Gaps in council group's water literacy education programmes can be difficult to identify without a coordinated work programme on this. No team or department in council group has elected to lead this action.</p>
2.3. Resource mana whenua to lead community engagement for water projects in catchments in their rohe (ongoing)		<p>Council engagement with mana whenua has not been centred on this topic specifically.</p> <p>This is an ongoing activity for Watercare.</p>	<p>The Storm Response Fund has provided funding for marae in areas highly impacted by the 2023 flooding events to support marae to build resilience to water-related climate disruption and enhance energy and food security resilience in preparation for future severe weather events.</p>	<p>No team or department in the council group has elected to lead this action, noting that resourcing has been provided through some projects and departmental initiatives.</p>

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Empowered Aucklanders (Reference page 14 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
2.4. Align, coordinate, resource and evaluate the council group's community engagement on water		<p>ToR deemed unnecessary and a working group will not be formed. However, key inputters have been identified and members of the knowledge governance group (strategic shift 8) are aware of this piece of work.</p> <p>Engagement guidance documents have been updated and will be reviewed at a cross-council workshop in year two (2023/2024).</p> <p>Watercare has an ongoing community engagement programme and have developed a measurement for community satisfaction around delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Watercare also widely engaged public and customers on our wastewater network strategy and has made commitments for further engagement to build resilient communities through more robust and transparent reporting.</p>	<p>The council established a governance group across multiple teams involved in community resilience, preparedness, recovery, and adaptation to support coordination of joint investment in community-led planning to reduce duplication through a more united approach.</p> <p>The council commissioned guidance to support community engagement on planning for climate disruption: How to talk about community planning for climate disruption.</p>	No team or department in the council group has elected to lead this action and coordinating engagement across the council group remains a challenge. The newly formed community resilience governance group is one mitigation approach.
2.5. Develop a measure of Aucklanders' access to blue-green spaces; a programme to increase access over time; and track progress (ongoing)		Initial cross-council discussions have taken place to consider options regarding urban access framework parameters.	Staff conducted a literature review on methodologies to develop a measure for access to blue-green space. This will be further progressed through development of a blue-green network spatial tool (see action 6.4).	None.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Empowered Aucklanders (Reference page 14 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
2.6. Investigate community-based ownership models for water infrastructure and services		<p>Research materials have been collated and a feasibility report on community-based water management for Auckland is being prepared.</p> <p>Watercare piloted an empowerment approach through their Citizens' Assembly project with Koi Tū on Auckland's next water source between August and September 2022.</p>	Staff authored a brief report to investigate international models and applicability in Auckland, with recommendations to support next steps.	None.
2.7 Set targets for and implement empowered communities' approach for water projects across the council group (ongoing)		None.	None.	None.
2.8 Review the council group's resilience-building programmes for effectiveness, and define and measure community resilience overtime		None.	<p>The Storm Response Fund is supporting Aucklanders in better understanding their local climate risks. The initial focus has been on communities most impacted by the 2023 weather events.</p> <p>The Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau programme completed work to measure vulnerability which will inform a regional vulnerability assessment and form the baseline for defining and measuring community resilience.</p>	None.

Shift 3: Sustainable allocation and equitable access

Aim

When the council allocates water from the natural environment, water use is sustainable, and considers the health and wellbeing of ecosystems and people.

Overall implementation update

The direction of this shift aligns to requirements under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) to review our water availability and allocation systems. Last year, staff reported that the implementation of this shift may not be achieved through this work, because of the short timeframe for notification of the associated freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020).

Since then, this timeframe has been extended by central government. This presents an opportunity to embed more of the direction set out in this strategic shift within this work. Uncertainty around updates to the NPS-FM make it difficult to anticipate how these will impact the work programmes originally envisioned, and year two implementation has focused on continuing to gather the evidence on water resources and availability presumed to be required for the plan change. The council remains committed to the direction in this shift.

Auckland Council's lack of a shared definition for 'equity' has been identified as a barrier to progressing some actions in this shift. The council group has made progress to define equity in a local government context through a community of practice in year two. A council definition for equity would assist progressing this shift in coming years. More detail is provided on each strategic action in Table 3A.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Table 3A: Strategic shift 3 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Sustainable allocation and equitable access (Reference page 20 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
3.1. Develop indicators based on mauri to define allocation limits, in partnership with mana whenua		<p>A stocktake on mauri assessment methods in use across council in partnership with mana whenua has been completed to inform this action.</p> <p>Engagement with mana whenua on Mahinga Kai and any desired Māori Freshwater values was conducted in year one (2022-2023).</p> <p>The Independent Wai Māori Mana Whenua Technical Support Panel for the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) is advising on the compulsory mahinga kai values and other freshwater values of interest to Iwi as a preliminary step.</p>	<p>Staff have reviewed information on mahinga kai and Māori freshwater values to inform further engagement on how these values contribute to mauri of freshwater and should inform allocation limits in Auckland.</p> <p>Existing information includes survey data and monitoring programmes, as well as advice from earlier proposed freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) engagement with mana whenua. Further engagement with mana whenua is scheduled for year three.</p>	Limited resourcing was allocated to this action over the last financial year, with uncertainty around the scope and timeframe for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) that this work was initially scoped to be delivered through.
3.2. Assess Auckland's water resources and availability across the region using a Tāmaki expression of the Te Mana o Te Wai hierarchy (ongoing)		<p>Provisions have been drafted for 'Te mana o te wai' on a broad basis (not on water quantity or allocation) and presented to Mana Whenua for feedback, as a first step to developing a Tāmaki expression.</p> <p>The freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) programme water availability workstream is assessing Auckland's water resources and availability. A groundwater accounting spreadsheet has been developed and will be used as an interim tool and a surface water accounting approach has been drafted and will be further developed over FY23/24.</p>	<p>Staff have made progress in assessing Auckland's water resources and availability based on existing take limits, flows and levels.</p> <p>Assessing resources and availability through a Tāmaki expression of the hierarchy requires additional scoping and definition as a subsequent stage of work.</p>	A Tāmaki expression of Te Mana o Te Wai hierarchy has not yet been agreed within the council group, which is anticipated to take longer than the next financial year.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Sustainable allocation and equitable access (Reference page 20 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
3.3. Develop a dynamic water availability model and use it to plan for the future (ongoing model development)		Initial cross-council discussions on a dynamic water availability tool have taken place. Further scoping to be done.	Staff have submitted a proposal to resource improvements to the council's water take data systems. A work scope has been developed for investigating policy approaches to support expanded telemetry use for water takes.	Resourcing for the technology and tools to support delivery of this action has been identified as an ongoing challenge, given resourcing constraints with council's technology services.
3.4. Set take limits and review allocation rules for the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management using the Tāmaki expression of the Te Mana o Te Wai hierarchy		Relevant work within the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) initiative is taking place, with the intention of considering this action in more depth from year two.	Existing Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) water take limits have been reviewed. A report on groundwater accounting reviewed Auckland Council's groundwater limits, determined the level of confidence of the limit and made recommendations to gather further evidence to include them as take limits in the AUP under the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020).	A review of allocation rules is presumed to be needed under an updated National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). Staff are committed to embedding the direction of this action in that work, but the ability to scope how that will proceed is difficult until changes to the national policy statement are clarified by central government. The new plan change is required to be notified by December 2027.
3.5 Understand the mauri of existing water sources where water is extracted for use, in partnership with mana whenua		None.	None.	None.
3.6 Create a smart allocation system through increased monitoring and data analysis		None.	None.	None.

Shift 4: Regenerative water infrastructure

Aim

Regenerative infrastructure systems enhance the life-sustaining capacity of water (mauri).

Overall implementation update

The Long-term Plan (2024-2034) was developed and finalised during year two, including the organisation’s Infrastructure Strategy, which reflects the Future Development Strategy direction to prioritise regenerative infrastructure. This will enable the council group to improve the uptake of regenerative infrastructure in coming years.

One of the targets in this shift is for the council to have guidance, assessment methods, and tools for regenerative and mauri-enhancing water infrastructure by 2025. Examples of progress in year two include partnership arrangements with mana whenua in the development of blue-green networks and the work underway to update the Strategic Investment Framework for Infrastructure. However, more resourcing of staff and funding - particularly into working in partnership with mana whenua - will be needed to meet this goal. Table 4A details the progression of the actions within this strategic shift.

Table 4A: Strategic shift 4 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Regenerative water infrastructure (see page 25 of the Auckland Water Strategy Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
4.1 Collate case studies to increase understanding of resilient, conspicuous, and mauri-enhancing water infrastructure solutions (complete)		Completed	None.	None.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Regenerative water infrastructure (see page 25 of the Auckland Water Strategy Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*4.2. Review emissions reductions for water infrastructure against those required by Te-Tāruke-a-Tāwhiri and develop an emissions plan if required		<p>2023/2024 has been set as the baseline year for carbon emissions data and will include current construction and operational activities.</p> <p>In alignment with 'Te-Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan', the targets have been set for a reduction of operational emissions by 50% by 2030 and to achieve net zero by 2050. Note that both Healthy Waters and Watercare intend to include Scope 3 emissions in planning, which are not captured in Te-Tāruke.</p> <p>Emissions reduction plans are under development by water infrastructure teams in council, noting a difference between reduction plans and roadmaps. Watercare operational emissions reduction roadmap to 2030 was signed off June 2022 and will need to be updated to include embodied infrastructure.</p>	<p>Watercare and the Healthy Waters & Flood Resilience department have drafted emissions reduction plans for water infrastructure aligned to the targets set out in Te-Tāruke-a-Tāwhiri. These roadmaps are being reviewed by council staff.</p> <p>Reviewing emissions of water infrastructure is ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Waters have set out a pathway and challenges to review scope 3 emissions and are developing a carbon accounting tool for stormwater projects and operations. Watercare is baselining capital emissions associated with their 2021 Asset Management Plan (AMP) and has deployed new equipment to monitor operational emissions associated with wastewater treatment plants. <p>A baseline for emissions for all water infrastructure will not be complete by July 2025, however, emissions reduction plans iterative with ongoing monitoring and evaluation are on track for completion.</p>	None.
4.3. Resource mana whenua to develop guidance and assessment methods for mauri-enhancing infrastructure		None.	The Long-term Plan 2024-2034 that was finalised in June 2024 focuses next efforts on building our understanding of mauri-enhancing infrastructure, but no engagement or work in year two was undertaken to advance this action.	This action still requires significant amounts of engagement with mana whenua, which due to limited staff capacity has not begun and may delay delivery past the scoped deadline.
4.4 Assess and map impacts of existing water infrastructure on te mauri o te wai, in partnership with mana whenua		None.	None.	Staff capacity has limited progress on this action to date, but a future scope has been discussed.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Regenerative water infrastructure (see page 25 of the Auckland Water Strategy Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
4.5. Evaluate and map resilience of the council's water infrastructure systems		None.	This action received funding support by the Storm Response Fund. A scope was finalised in March 2024. A draft framework to assess the viability of investments to increase resilience is to be finalised and tested. A definition has been proposed as part of the draft measurement framework.	None.
4.6. Partner with mana whenua to pilot water infrastructure projects that enhance te mauri o te wai (ongoing)		None.	Strong partnership mechanisms are being developed with mana whenua in the development of blue-green projects under the Making Space for Water initiative - mana whenua are part of working groups in a mechanism similar to partnership with local boards.	<p>This action still requires significant amounts of engagement with mana whenua which are likely to take more than one year to complete, exceeding the scoped delivery date.</p> <p>Watercare continues to resource mana whenua engagement, partnership, and staff cultural competency to enable this action.</p>
*4.7. Include mauri in the council's investment prioritisation process for the Annual Budget and Long-Term Plan in partnership with mana whenua (ongoing)		<p>The 2023/2024 Annual Budget includes mauri as an investment criterion.</p> <p>The Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2024 advocates for additional investment in understanding and implementing regenerative and mauri-enhancing infrastructure.</p>	<p>The 2023/2024 Annual Budget includes mauri as an investment criterion.</p> <p>The Long-term Plan 2024-2034 was adopted in July 2024 and includes mauri as a priority for investment.</p>	None.

Shift 5: Water Security

Aim

Auckland captures, uses, and recycles water efficiently so that everyone has access to enough water of the appropriate quality to meet their needs.

Overall implementation update

Staff came together at the outset of year two to analyse and prepare for the potential impacts of El Niño on our water security. An El Niño climate oscillation was declared from October 2023 – March 2024. El Niño is associated with above average temperatures and lower than average rainfall, soil moisture, and river flows in Auckland. Staff considered both our urban and rural communities and briefed elected members on this preparedness in October 2023.

Watercare continues to promote water efficiency through its water efficiency plan, educational campaigns for schools, and the rollout of smart meters. Water consumption across Auckland increased in year two. While not yet meeting the 2025 target to reduce demand, we anticipate achieving this target by 30 June 2025.

The supply of non-dam recycled water for use in wastewater treatment plants and projects increased in year two, exceeding the 2030 target set for water supply in the strategy. Initial work has commenced to understand current rain tank capacity across Auckland. The council has taken efforts to enhance the water sensitivity of assets and facilities. Pilots for innovative ways of recycling and reusing water are still in their infancy, which are hampered by an ongoing lack of central government direction and standards for wastewater reuse. Further information for each strategic action is described in Table 5A.

Table 5A: Strategic shift 5 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Water security (Reference page 31 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
Water Strategy Consumption Target		The average consumption of drinking water per day per resident within the territorial authority district (*litres plus/minus 2.5%) (12-month rolling average) as of June 2023 was 241.33 litres/day/person. ¹³	Average demand increased to 255.30 litres/ person/day over year two, just shy of the 2025 target to reduce consumption under 253 litres /person/day. ¹⁴	Climate and population influence water demand. Watercare has reviewed population projections. Climate projections and potential impacts on water demand will also be considered in a review of the demand targets.

¹³ https://wslpwstoreprd.blob.core.windows.net/kentico-media-libraries-prod/watercarepublicweb/media/watercare-media-library/board-meetings/public_agenda_and_board_papers_8_aug_2023.pdf

¹⁴ This represents the average consumption of drinking water per day per resident within the territorial authority district (*litres plus/minus 2.5%) (12-month rolling average) as of June 2024.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Water security (Reference page 31 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
Water Strategy Supply Target		Between 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 Auckland had 21.70 MLD of recycled water capacity for beneficial use. This includes several wastewater treatment plant volumes reused onsite, and one for golf course irrigation. It does not include rainwater tanks volumes across Auckland.	Auckland's recycled water capacity for beneficial use increased to 22.01 million litres/day, exceeding the 2030 target of 20 million litres/day. ¹⁵ It does not include rainwater tank capacity across Auckland. Work has begun to quantify this.	None.
*5.1. Adopt a council position to address affordable water access		Council staff are developing a project brief and scope to guide a stakeholder engagement process.	Staff investigated water affordability in both urban and rural Auckland in FYI 23/24 and have drafted a paper with recommendations for next steps. This is currently under review.	Based on staff investigations, the current need for an Auckland Council position is being evaluated. Watercare has an affordability measure that it is currently meeting. The effectiveness of this is being investigated as part of the paper.
*5.2. Develop a plan to address affordable water access in Auckland		An internal memo on access to affordable water was completed during the development of the strategy that considers a range of policy levers. These should be considered in jointly scoping the next steps with Watercare.	An assessment of current programmes and investments to support Aucklanders' access to affordable water was completed as part of the investigation outlined in 5.1. Gaps and opportunities will be identified as part of the next steps for this work.	This action is a year past deadline and is dependent on the completion of action 5.1. It is expected that work will begin in year three to jointly scope the delivery of this action with Watercare, using the memo and the position paper for reference.
5.3. Add a level of service for and develop a plan to proactively manage both peak demand and drought response		Updated Drought Management Plan (DMP) approved by Council Committee in March 2023, and Board Meeting in May 2023. Draft Peak Demand Management Plan under internal review. Cross-council/CCO working group established. Watercare implements an annual summer demand management plan.	A draft Peak Demand Management Plan remains under internal review by council. Watercare field crews increased in FY23/24. Aucklanders are also reporting leaks, leading to an increase in leaks reported in January 2024. Watercare experienced 16% more leaks in FY23/24 than FY22/23, which could be attributed to more proactive leak detection and difference in rainfall.	Resourcing to deliver this action has been an ongoing challenge for both Watercare and the council. Budget constraints mean leak field crews are not staffed to optimal levels. Commitment to setting a new level of service is a risk.

¹⁵ Recycled water refers to the retreatment of water already used for one purpose to a standard that is fit for one or more subsequent purposes. This figure was provided by Watercare based on the recycled water capacity for re-use in wastewater treatment plants and projects.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Water security (Reference page 31 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
5.4. Model climate change scenarios to understand impacts on water sources (ongoing)		<p>The Integrated Source Management Model (ISMM) utilised by Watercare considers the impact of rainfall patterns on dam storage to optimise water source decisions on a real-time basis.</p> <p>Watercare has a diverse portfolio of water sources, which it continues to review to keep up with projected demand and climate change.</p>	<p>Watercare updated its model for managing supply sources in 2023 to include climate change.</p> <p>NIWA released updated projected climate change impacts for New Zealand in June 2024, which should inform next steps for this action.</p>	Watercare's source management model considers the impact of climate change on dam storage but does not address potential impact on other sources or on demand, which could impact sources.
5.5. Develop a smart demand management system to predict and manage peak demand using smart meter data and associated communication tools to engage Aucklanders (ongoing)		None.	<p>Watercare has installed just over 50,000 smart meters and 90,000 customers have downloaded and started using the app which is suitable for both mechanical and smart meters. Smart meter customers using the Watercare app benefit from timely notifications of leaks and high-water usage, enabling them to proactively manage their consumption.</p> <p>Watercare undertook a smart meter analysis which demonstrated a 2% drop in consumption by customers with smart meters. Additionally, through targeted initiatives, Watercare have observed a 10% drop in commercial consumption over the past four years.</p>	None.
5.6. Support central government to set targets for water efficient homes (ongoing)		None.	<p>Staff are in contact with MBIE to track feasibility (and timing) for strengthening standards.</p> <p>Watercare advocated updating standards for more water efficient shower fixtures in a submission on the next version of green star buildings for New Zealand to the Green Building Council on 4th October 2023.</p>	None.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Water security (Reference page 31 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
5.7. Develop an investment plan for diverse sources to meet 2030 and 2050 targets, guided by te mauri o te wai for 2024 Long-Term Plan		Sustainable Water Actions Plans and Rainwater Harvesting Development Plans are under development and include possible alternative water sources and redevelopment / renewal of existing rainwater harvesting assets.	Council staff are exploring bore water utilisation to reduce reliance on the town supply for community facilities.	No team or department in the council group has elected to lead this action.
5.8. Develop policy to achieve target of 30% of urban roof area to collect rainwater for use 2050 (ongoing)		Watercare have conducted surveys that include rain tank data, and results have been shared with council. Surveys are being updated to expand data capture. Legislative barriers have been identified to mandating rainwater tanks for indoor potable use (Health Act and Building Act).	An initial assessment of rainwater tank capacity across Auckland is underway. Council is exploring opportunities to adopt rainwater harvesting (RWH) for some facilities to reduce reliance on the town supply for assets undergoing scheduled renewal and rebuilds.	Some rain tank data is inaccessible to the council. Mitigation will involve carefully considering assumptions that can be made on source information (e.g. consents) to support the analysis and outcomes.
5.9. Develop regulations and targeted information to support Aucklanders to increase water capture for reuse (homes and businesses)		None.	The first of four “LowCo Pilot Homes” was launched in April 2024, in a collaboration between Watercare and Fletcher Living. The homes pilot innovative features reducing energy and water usage across fixtures, appliances, and even landscape planning. The costs and savings from the pilot home will be assessed over the next three years through tenant use.	At this stage, there are no clear central government guidelines for establishing and managing recycled water options. Mitigation includes research on suitable options and benefits to homes and businesses through partnership with Taumata Arowai.
+5.10. Monitor investments to meet water consumption reduction targets and review targets in 2024 (ongoing)		Watercare prepares quarterly reports for the Watercare Board including consumption levels, leakage, campaigns, and smart meters rollout.	Watercare prepares quarterly reports for its Board that cover consumption, leakage, campaigns, and smart meters rollout. A review of consumption reduction targets is underway between Auckland Council staff and Watercare. The review will assess the original model used to propose demand reduction targets for Auckland and updating its assumptions based on new information and projections. Updated demand targets will be proposed by December 2024.	None.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Water security (Reference page 31 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
5.11 Pursue pilots, community engagement, technology, and regulations to enable purified wastewater reuse (ongoing)		None.	Watercare are trialling using purified recycled water to learn, collect data, and test the quality of water that can be delivered. For this work, Watercare is also looking to international experience for learnings.	None.

Shift 6: Integrated land use and water planning

Aim

Water and its life-sustaining capacity is a central principle in land management and planning decisions.

Overall implementation update

Improving land use management to reduce impacts on receiving environments has been a major focus on work across the council group in year two. There has been progress on evidence gathering and analysis for proposed changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP). The changes will help to better control the impact of development and growth on receiving environments and reduce exposure to the risk of natural hazards. Staff have undertaken numerous initiatives to scope and develop innovative new tools and models to improve the council's land management capability. Improved capability includes catchment planning, resource consenting and compliance monitoring.

The pending changes to government's statutory instruments on growth and freshwater management have impacted the progress of some actions within this shift. The lack of certainty regarding changes to national policy hinders resourcing and implementation at the regional level. Refer to Table 6A for detailed information on the progress of actions within this strategic shift.

Table 6A: Strategic shift 6 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Integrated land use and water planning (Reference page 39 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*6.1. Embed te mana o te wai as a central consideration in all plan change processes, including the development of council-initiated plan changes and when providing evidence on private plan changes		<p>The freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) was included as a consideration in the development of the plan changes for the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD).</p> <p>Auckland Council's freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) has embedded te mana o te wai in its draft Regional Policy Statement.</p>	<p>Planning staff received training on Te Mana o te Wai in October 2023.</p> <p>Government has signalled changes to the NPS-FM and how Te Mana o te Wai must be considered, so this has not progressed.</p>	<p>The government's amendments to the NPS-FM may impact how the council progresses this action. Updates are anticipated during FY24/25.</p>

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Integrated land use and water planning (Reference page 39 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*6.2. Resource and enhance the council's capability to effectively implement the Essential Freshwater Package		<p>Clearer legal definitions provided in the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (January 2023), to provide certainty to implementation of plan change and specific rule considerations from the freshwater plan change.</p> <p>The Resource Management (Freshwater farm plans) Regulations were released in June 2023 and are currently being evaluated given core council regulatory services obligations (e.g. reporting interface, regulatory compliance, catchment context description) needing consideration through the LTP process.</p> <p>Council staff have assessed regulatory provisions in the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, and the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2022, with current provisions in the Auckland Unitary Plan.</p>	<p>In June 2024, Auckland Council submitted on the central government's Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, which would impact how this action is implemented.</p> <p>Staff continue to resource the provision of catchment-specific information to farmers, including funding proposals for supporting communication tools. Staff are confident this will remain a council requirement even with signalled changes to the regulations.</p> <p>The council commissioned technical experts to support evidence gathering and options development for the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020). See examples of this work in action 8.2.</p>	<p>Central government has signalled changes to several instruments of the Essential Freshwater Package, challenging staff ability to consider and plan for resourcing in the long-term.</p> <p>To mitigate this, staff are focusing on resourcing parts of the package that have not been signalled for change or for which change is unlikely to impact resourcing needs.</p>

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Integrated land use and water planning (Reference page 39 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
6.3. Review and improve spatial planning processes to consider water consistently and advocate for statutory weight for structure plans		<p>The draft Future Development Strategy (FDS) required by NPS-UD considers integrated land use and water planning to reduce our vulnerability to the impact of water-related natural hazards and promotes mauri-enhancing infrastructure in our spatial planning.</p> <p>Staff feedback on the RM Reforms exposure drafts of bills have advocated for greater statutory weight to structure plans.</p> <p>Plan Changes 78 (Intensification) and 80 (Regional Policy Statement) to the Auckland Unitary Plan were notified in response to the NPS-UD. PC 78 includes water related provisions such as riparian yards and wetlands as a qualifying matter development). PC 80 amends the RPS to ensure Auckland is more resilient to the effects of climate change when new development occurs, including through providing for water reuse and rainwater collection.</p>	<p>The Planning, Environment and Parks Committee adopted a Future Development Strategy in November 2023. It includes direction on integrating land use, water, and infrastructure outcomes.</p> <p>A project to develop a new land use simulation model for policy and investment decisions (Strategic Spatial Model) is underway.</p> <p>Options assessments for the incorporation of water-sensitive design principles, natural hazard risk management, and resilience-building have been drafted to support future spatial planning via the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020).</p>	None.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Integrated land use and water planning (Reference page 39 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*6.4. Develop a regional blue-green network spatial plan		12 sites have been identified as potential blue-green spaces as part of the Making Space for Water programme within Resilient Auckland.	<p>The Storm Response Fund resourced a discovery phase to define problem statements for blue-green network planning and potential digital (i.e. spatial) solutions. Engagement with mana whenua on the project is ongoing.</p> <p>Separately, the Making Space for Water programme has improved flood resilience and reduced flood risk across the region, especially in high priority catchments. Examples include designing blue-green flood resilience and land stability projects, conducting geomorphic and stream assessments to improve stream and waterways resilience, undertaking property assessments for overland flow issues, and deploying cameras that use AI to support proactive maintenance.</p>	For the blue-green network planning, build on the work completed in the discovery phase: maintain momentum and foster on-going collaboration across the identified user groups of a future tool; develop a demonstration version using existing GIS functions and data.
*6.5. Develop a position to limit development in, and remove vulnerable structures from, high risk water related natural hazard areas		<p>Work is progressing through Resilient Auckland to strengthen the AUP to enhance resilience (including limiting development in natural hazard areas) and Making Space for Water to remove vulnerable structures from high-risk areas.</p> <p>Resilient Auckland has incorporated previous work through the Too Much Water Policy (which became Te Ara Urutau: Waikino, and then Mahi Tahī Tatou) to initiate public engagement including a position to limit development in, and remove vulnerable structures from, high risk water related natural hazard areas.</p>	<p>A framework for asset decision-making in vulnerable areas is being developed through the Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland programme.</p> <p>A Natural Hazard Plan Change is underway to strengthen the AUP's ability to appropriately manage natural hazard risks into the future. It will seek to improve how areas which may be subject to natural hazards (flooding, coastal inundation, erosion, and land subsidence) are identified. This plan change is intended to be notified in April 2025.</p> <p>The Making Space for Water programme expects to buy-out an estimated 700-900 properties through the Voluntary Buy-out Scheme, co-funded with central government.</p>	None.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Integrated land use and water planning (Reference page 39 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*6.6. Review, develop and grow the council's Strategic Approach to Sediment Programme (ongoing)		<p>Internal cross-council workshops are held twice yearly.</p> <p>Priority areas and actions for the Strategic Approach to Sediment Programme have been identified and shared with councillors in an informational memo and pilot programmes set up.</p> <p>One pilot project of the Programme is using turbidity sensors downstream of small construction sites to prioritise where compliance staff are deployed to monitor sediment.</p> <p>A second pilot project uses cameras to monitor sediment from construction sites and alert compliance teams.</p>	<p>The programme continues to support compliance monitoring using remote cameras, machine learning, and turbidity sensors to identify unusual discharges from small construction sites.</p> <p>Auckland Council and Auckland Transport staff trialled the use of high-resolution satellite imagery and machine learning to identify unsealed rural roads that pose a risk of sediment discharge to freshwater and/or significant ecological areas. This output supported additional funding for rural roads through the Long-term Plan 2024-2034.</p>	None.
6.7. Investigate and continuously improve the council's understanding and management of cumulative effects to protect and enhance mauri (ongoing)		None.	Staff gathered evidence to establish baseline states for required attributes for the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) that advances this action. See Action 8.2 for more details on relevant progress.	None.
6.8. Avoid further development in water-related natural hazard areas in all plan change processes and ensure regulations take a precautionary and risk-based approach (ongoing)		<p>Future Development Strategy draft out for consultation limits development in water-related natural hazard prone areas.</p> <p>PC78 has been consulted on which would include natural hazards and coastal inundation as qualifying matters for the MDRS provisions.</p> <p>Resilient Auckland includes a workstream to strengthen the AUP in considering water-related natural hazard areas in plan changes.</p>	<p>The Future Development Strategy identified four greenfield locations as priorities for the partial or entire removal from future urban development. Their recommended removal was due to their high-risk status for natural hazards. Staff are progressing proposed plan changes to formally rezone these future urban areas.</p> <p>A Natural Hazard Plan Change is underway to strengthen the AUP's ability to appropriately manage natural hazard risks into the future. This proposed plan change is intended to be notified in April 2025.</p>	Staff are progressing the development of the Natural Hazards Plan Change, with intention to notify the plan change in April 2025. However, there is some uncertainty with the exact timing and method of delivery for this plan change due to central government's commitment to reform urban development national policy, as well as natural hazards.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Integrated land use and water planning (Reference page 39 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
6.9. Deliver a package of non-regulatory and regulatory interventions to support the uptake of water-sensitive design processes and ongoing management of devices (ongoing)		None.	<p>Auckland Council commissioned technical expertise to provide guidance to embed water-sensitive design in the freshwater plan change, and an options paper was drafted for further consideration.</p> <p>Auckland Council published a new city centre public design manual, which includes multiple ways to promote water-sensitive design and catchment approaches.</p>	<p>Central government changes to the Resource Management Act or freshwater plan change may impact the timeline and scope of this work. This will be determined once the coalition government releases proposed legislation (mid-December 2024) and a revised version of the freshwater plan change is produced (2024-2025).</p>

Shift 7: Restoring and enhancing water ecosystems

Aim

Auckland has thriving and sustainable natural water ecosystems that support life, food gathering and recreation.

Overall implementation update

The council has various roles and functions that support restoration and enhancement of water ecosystems. These include direct restoration through urban regeneration and asset management, as well as indirectly by supporting Aucklanders with guidance and advice and leading by example.

The actions for this shift focus on the council's partnership with mana whenua to achieve thriving and sustainable natural water ecosystems. In addition to the progress outlined in actions below, the council produced an ecological restoration guide this year called 'Te Haumanu Taiao: Restoring the natural environment in Tāmaki Makaurau' in partnership with Ngā Iwi Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the 19 recognised mana whenua entities of the Auckland region). The guide provides mana whenua perspectives on restoration, including kaitiakitanga and how to engage and collaborate to bring valuable knowledge and a partnership approach to conservation, as well as ecosystem-specific guidelines. It's a great example of partnership promoting mauri-enhancing restoration envisioned in this shift. More shift detail is provided on each action in Table 7A.

Table 7A: Strategic shift 7 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Restoring and enhancing water ecosystems (Reference page 46 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
7.1. Develop methods to assess mauri for Auckland's freshwater ecosystems, in partnership with mana whenua		A cross-council stocktake on methods and processes that assess and/or consider te mauri o te wai in partnership with mana whenua and an accompanying summary report were completed.	Staff investigated progress on this action in November 2023. The investigation found te mauri o te wai is being considered and assessed at various scales across the organisation using methods best suited to individual relationships. Advancing this action requires supporting staff capacity and capability to partner with mana whenua in considering te mauri o te wai.	None.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Restoring and enhancing water ecosystems (Reference page 46 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
7.2. Develop targets and priorities to improve the mauri of freshwater ecosystems, in partnership with mana whenua		None.	<p>Auckland Council departments and CCOs have individual partnerships with mana whenua entities or collectives to set targets and priorities for enhancing the mauri of key ecosystems, including the Puhinui catchment, Kaipara Moana, and Mahurangi Harbour.</p> <p>Engagement with mana whenua on the freshwater plan change this year included consideration of mahinga kai and Māori freshwater values and the approach to including cultural values in assessing outstanding waterbodies.</p>	None.
7.3. Improve our understanding of freshwater ecosystems and pressures (ongoing)		Council's freshwater plan change programme is building a robust evidence base to support the implementation of the freshwater plan change, including a plan change anticipated in late 2024, that also builds our understanding of water ecosystems and pressures.	<p>Staff completed a report on threatened species and habitat mapping through the freshwater plan change programme (NPS-FM 2020), and ongoing work on wetland and aquatic restoration is underway.</p> <p>Action planning is underway through the freshwater plan change programme (NPS-FM 2020) that will support this action.</p>	None.
7.4. Develop an investment framework and strategic investment plan to guide funding and incentive opportunities (ongoing)		None.	None.	None.
7.5. Take a catchment-based approach to management of waterways protection and enhancement (ongoing)		None.	<p>Staff assess waterway criticality considering the catchment as a whole to determine necessary network improvements.</p> <p>Long term strategic direction to improve the environmental health of the Manukau Harbour catchment was adopted by the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee in June 2024.</p>	None.

Shift 8: Pooling knowledge

Aim

Auckland has the knowledge about water to make good quality, timely, and strategic decisions about water.

Overall implementation update

Effective knowledge management continues to be a focus across the council group, particularly around improving our data management and reducing siloes across the organisation to achieve better outcomes for Auckland. An ongoing initiative to develop a data management strategy for the organisation will be a great support to the direction in this strategic shift.

This has been a year of significant changes. They include a new Government and subsequent reversal of the previous government’s initiatives to establish a new Water Services Entity; and an organisational restructure (June 2024). Together they have created a dynamic working environment for knowledge management. This level of change highlights the importance of effective knowledge management practices. It also challenges momentum on initiatives. More shift detail is provided on each action in Table 8A.

Table 8A: Strategic shift 8 actions and their progress in year one and year two, challenges, and mitigation controls.

Pooling knowledge (Reference page 51 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
8.1. Implement a council group knowledge governance framework for water (ongoing)		<p>A Working Group with a Terms of Reference was established in January 2023 and meets regularly to deliver this action.</p> <p>A stocktake and analysis of water knowledge and key knowledge-sharing gaps across council was completed in June 2023.</p>	<p>A draft knowledge governance framework draft has been completed and was reviewed by the working group in February 2024. Revisions to the framework are underway. Further workshopping of the framework and drafting of tools is yet to be completed.</p> <p>A programme of work is underway to develop a knowledge system¹⁶ to support adaptation planning. The programme has identified knowledge system needs, data, information and knowledge requirements for adaptation, and methodologies for understanding community vulnerability and adaptive capacity to climate change in developing a knowledge system to support.</p>	None.

¹⁶ A ‘knowledge system’ is defined as a set of interacting agents, practices and institutions that organize the production, transfer, and use of knowledge.

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Pooling knowledge (Reference page 51 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
*8.2. Build a robust evidence base to support the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management plan change in 2024.. ¹⁷		<p>A stocktake of evidence base under the freshwater plan change programme has been completed.</p> <p>A base map with relevant overlays has been created to collate some data.</p> <p>Technical advice provision in analysing evidence-base for freshwater plan change is now underway.</p> <p>Additional funding has been secured to support resourcing to fill gaps in evidence-base for freshwater plan change implementation.</p> <p>Scoping of the technical work to implement the freshwater plan change is underway.</p>	<p>Significant technical work to build an evidence base for the proposed freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020) was completed – one example is a technological tool that estimates the impact of different land use mitigation measures on freshwater quality (i.e. nutrient and sediment discharge) to inform planning decisions.</p> <p>Workshops with stakeholder groups provided valuable feedback on proposals for inclusion in the freshwater plan change (NPS-FM 2020).</p> <p>Public consultation on ‘Setting our direction’ for improving freshwater in Tāmaki Makaurau/ Auckland resulted in over 3,800 submissions. A summary of the submissions was reported to all local boards, which provided comprehensive feedback.</p> <p>Engagement with mana whenua has contributed to this evidence base – see action 7.2 for details.</p>	None.
8.3. Develop a consistent council approach to working with treaty partners and their mātauranga		Practice and guidance note on sensitive Māori information in development; linkages to Knowledge Governance Framework (8.1) have been established.	The council is developing an overall data management strategy for the organisation. This will have a complementary Māori data framework, for which work is underway.	<p>Data management is an ongoing focus for the organisation, for which improvements include how to safely treat Māori data.</p> <p>A consistent council approach to working with Treaty partners and their mātauranga requires work on approaches beyond the management of data that will extend beyond the scoped delivery date in the next year.</p>
8.4 Evaluate and where required improve ‘whole of policy cycle’ environmental management across the council group (ongoing)		None.	None.	None.

¹⁷ The government has changed the RMA deadline for a plan change to December 2027 to allow time for implementation of a revised National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM).

Te Pūrongo-ā-Tau a te Rautaki Wai ki Tāmaki Makaurau

Pooling knowledge (Reference page 51 of the Implementation Plan)				
Strategic action	RAG status	Progress made in year one	Progress made in year two	Challenges and mitigation
8.5 Enable Aucklanders' ability to readily access and contribute to water data, information, and knowledge (ongoing)		None.	In response to the 2023 flooding, staff set up a website and online portal to enable people to upload photos of flooding and share their experiences. This has informed our immediate response and future planning. See action 1.3 on additional work to increase the accessibility of environmental monitoring information to Aucklanders.	None.
8.6 Develop external partnerships for innovation, research, and development (ongoing)		None.	None.	None.

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