

2022/2023

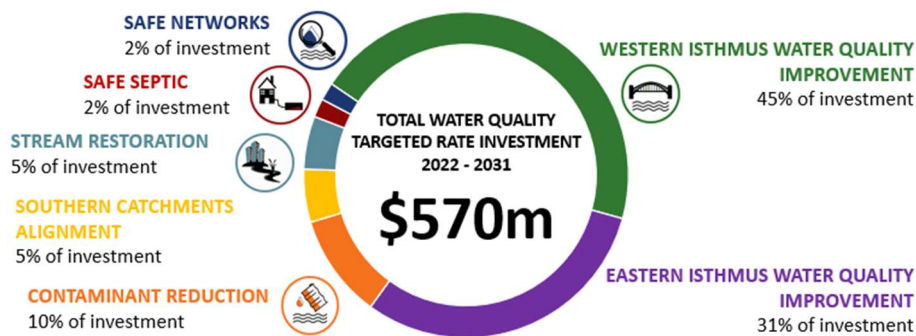


Albert-Eden Local Board

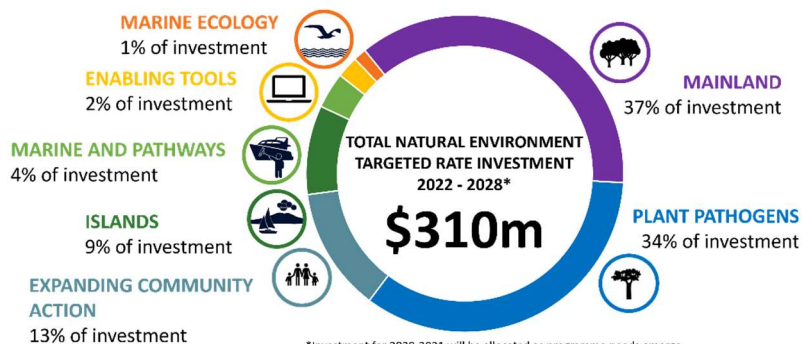
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wet weather overflows into waterways and the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.2 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$412 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

Carrington Road stormwater extension (Unitec)

- Design has commenced on this project, which has been identified as part of the Western Isthmus Water Quality Improvement Programme. The objective is to provide for growth and to reduce the risk of uncontrolled combined sewer overflows by installing a stormwater network and separating the existing combined stormwater/wastewater network. The work includes extending the stormwater network from the manhole outside 17 Fontenoy Road to the Carrington Road/Fontenoy Street intersection.

Oakley / Bollard Methuen Stormwater Separation

- This project is part of the Western Isthmus Water Quality Improvements Programme. It includes installing 562m of stormwater network, 15 new stormwater manholes and separating 51 properties and connecting them to the stormwater network. Resource consent has been lodged on this project. Property owner consultation and detailed design is in progress ahead of planned construction in the 2024/2025 financial year. This work will facilitate growth and provide environmental benefits by removing stormwater from the combined sewer network. It will reduce wet weather wastewater overflows to Te Auaunga Oakley Creek and will provide improved level of service for the stormwater and wastewater networks.

Pt Chevalier Stormwater Separation

- This project will install a separated stormwater network to reduce wet weather overflows to Meola Creek and reduce the risk of the combined network surcharging into private properties during large rain events. In the long term, it will also reduce the volume of stormwater needing to be conveyed to the Central Interceptor. Due to the scale of the works, the project has been split into four stages. Stage one was completed in September 2023 and a stormwater pipe was installed along Wakatipu Street and Walmer Road. Stage two will involve installing around 1000 metres of pipe on Pt Chevalier Road in alignment with Auckland Transport's approved road improvement project.

Waterview Catchment Separation

- This project will create a separate wastewater and stormwater networks to support growth, mitigate flooding, and improve the environment and water quality of Te Auaunga Oakley Creek and the Waterview inlet. Due to the complexity, the project will be staged. Resource consent for package one has been submitted and physical works are planned to commence in May 2024. Package two is in design and preparing to lodge resource consent.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

76A Second Avenue, Kingsland

- Works to renew ageing infrastructure will take place in Second Avenue. Three properties will have their wastewater to stormwater cross-connection separated. Site investigations have been completed. Resource consent is being lodged in FY2023/2024 ahead of planned works in FY2024/2025.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds proactive compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 207 site visits were undertaken with a 96 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. Currently, completion of stormwater improvement plans has been accomplished in Glen Innes town centre, Henderson-Massey, Warkworth, Avondale, Wairau, Oakley, and Puhinui stormwater catchment areas.



Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality of the eastern isthmus waterways and the Waitematā Harbour.

- The eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme is in the planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Urban Ark was allocated \$33,000 for a coordinator to continue with community engagement, monitor pest presence and biodiversity in your area, and increase the on-the-ground effectiveness of existing trapping networks. They will be working with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority and supporting work on Māori managed land such as Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Maungarongo.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- We provided further funding and equipment to community groups, schools, kindergartens and landowners in your area for native species monitoring, pest control and printing of engagement collateral.

Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land

- We complement work undertaken on public land by engaging with private landowners and providing them with advice and funding to take action to protect and enhance important areas of native biodiversity on their land. We awarded grants to nine landowner-led projects across the region, enabling a range of conservation activities including stock-exclusion fencing, weed and/or pest animal control, and planting of native plants. In your area one grant of \$35,000 was provided to enable Urban Ark Manawa Taiao to support landowner-led conservation to protect critically endangered volcanic rock forest occurring on private land near Maungawhau / Mt Eden.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Six schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Albert-Eden, Franklin and Rodney. Two sites in Albert-Eden were planted.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the EnviroSchools kaupapa. This year EnviroSchools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and

enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 20 schools are participating in Enviroschools. Edendale School and Epsom Girls College held Wai Care water quality monitoring, education and action days with 196 participants. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere / forest and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 185 properties bordering reserves associated with Te Auaunga Oakley Creek and Howlett Reserve, completing work across a total of 14.4 ha and partially completing work across a further 3.3 ha. Moth plant was the most abundant weed species controlled, followed by woolly nightshade, ginger and climbing asparagus.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We are attempting to completely eradicate around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are seven active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, 11 sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and 11 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants. In your area, tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus was released at Roy Clements Treeway.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of certain plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 (RPMP). In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, three pet store visits and four nursery visits were conducted.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

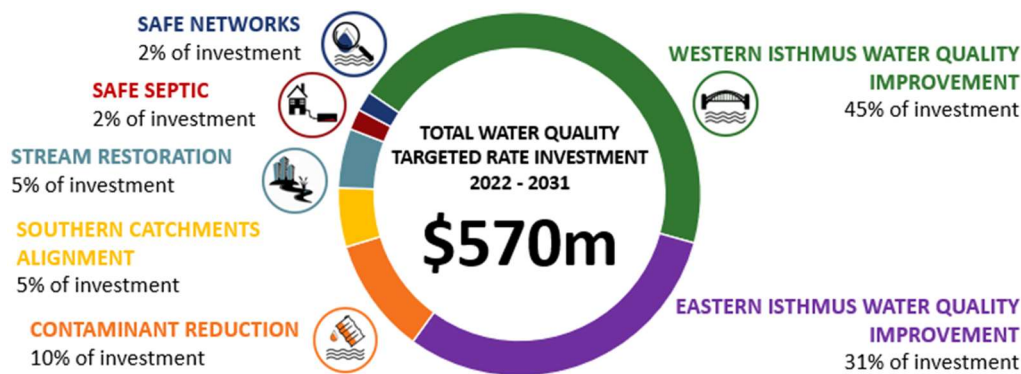


Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

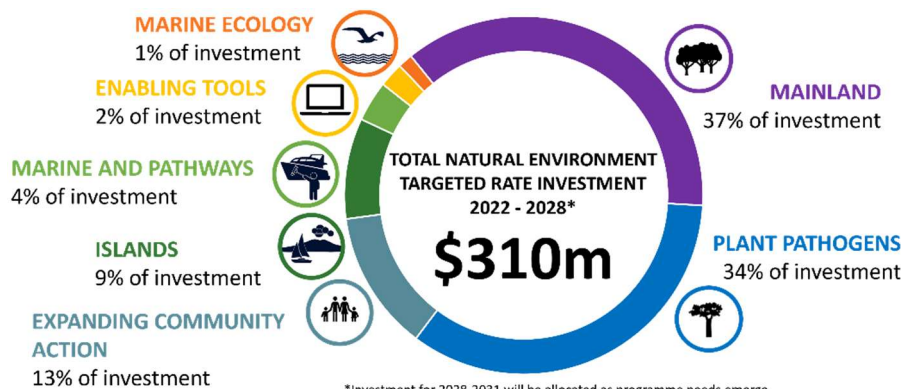
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Tryphena

- Tryphena Water quality sampling at Pah Beach Stream, Mulberry Grove and Gooseberry Flat has been completed over the last year. No contamination issues were identified that require further investigation. Safeswim will continue sampling in the receiving environment to validate the Safeswim model.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 25 in your area. Of these inspections completed in your area, 2 were found to require attention.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.

Regional Waterways Protection Fund

- The Regional Waterway Protection Fund offers co-funding for waterway protection fencing and planting of private rural land. This benefits property owners across Franklin, Papakura, Aotea Great Barrier Island, and Rodney. Of 64 applications, 42 property owners have been awarded funding to a value of \$698,915.12, to be paid on completion of the projects. \$15,863.40 was awarded in Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board area to 2 landowners. Landowners are given two years to complete the work. The FY2022/2023 round of funding will deliver 16.5km of fencing, protect 47.5ha of riparian areas, 34km of waterways and 12.6ha of wetlands, and plant approximately 160,000 plants in newly protected areas. Auditing of landowner projects has shown a high level of project delivery. Keeping stock out of waterways by fencing instantly improves water quality, and planting riparian margins and wetlands is transforming these areas. There have also been habitat restoration outcomes including inanga spawning sites and work with local iwi on protection of cultural heritage sites.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year and saw an average regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities groups to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Windy Hill Trust was supported with funding of \$110,000 to continue management of pest animals and pest plants, keeping them to low levels within the Windy Hill Sanctuary. They were also allocated \$30,000 for a weed and track field worker. Volunteers contributed 1145 hours to the trust's activities.
- Glenfern Sanctuary Trust were awarded \$3090 for pest monitoring equipment.
- Tū Mai Taonga was allocated \$40,000 for field worker wages to protect and restore native species and ecosystems through feral cat removal and intensified rat control, and a further \$50,000 for pest monitoring equipment. This funding complemented the \$400,000 allocated to Tū Mai Taonga from the Māori Outcomes Steering Group. The Trust's goal is to restore taonga species to the island by eradicating pests through the continued employment of whanau and wider community members.
- Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust was allocated \$11,220 for a community facilitator to work with landowners to extend the Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision project. This will create a landscape-scale integrated pest management area across private and public land covering a combined area of 2,500ha in the south-east of Aotea. The Trust was also allocated \$5000 for field worker wages, bait stations and monitoring equipment, \$8770 for pest control tools to distribute to the community, and \$1710 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support. Volunteers contributed 2440 hours to the trust.
- Motu Kaikoura Trust was allocated \$15,000 for invertebrate surveys. Volunteers contributed 784 hours to the trust.
- Okiwi Ecology Community Group received \$500 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support and were awarded \$995 for planting materials.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of the Aotea Trap Library and Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision to build capability. Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. Events grow the local conservation community and their mahi, and respond to local needs. In your area, we supported the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust to run the Aotea Great Barrier Festival on 22 October 2023 at the Claris Conference Centre, attracting 60 attendees.

Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land

- We complement work undertaken on public land by engaging with private landowners, providing them with advice and funding to take action to protect and enhance important areas of native biodiversity on their land. We awarded grants to nine landowner-led projects across the region, enabling a range of conservation activities including stock-exclusion fencing, weed and/or pest animal control, and planting of native plants. In your area, we provided Kotuku Peninsula Charitable Trust with \$100,000 to undertake pest animal management and biodiversity monitoring on public and private land behind the predator-exclusion fence at Kotuku Peninsula, Aotea / Great Barrier.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades. In your area, three schools are participating in Enviroschools, with Kaitoke and Mulberry Grove Schools starting this year. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Mainland projects

- We fund integrated management of pest plants and pest animals across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of pest plant control this year as well as controlling mustelids, rats, rabbits, cats and pigs in selected parks. We also funded the expansion of pest plant control on 13 local parks.
- We delivered surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 private properties buffering 45 regional and local parks to reduce or prevent reinvasion into those parks.
- We control possums across many high priority ecosystems. During the last year, we carried out ground-based possum control across 23,000 hectares of rural land.
- We implemented large scale aerial survey works for feral deer and goats this year as an efficient and effective tool to detect these pest animals at a landscape level.
- We released five pest plant biocontrol agents in sites across the region to suppress widespread pest plant species including tradescantia, moth plant and Japanese honeysuckle, and reduce the reliance on herbicide.
- We made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, rules that prohibit the sale of plants and animals that can escape to become pests in the wild.
- We continued trialling methods to remove pest fish from lakes Tomarata and Rototoa.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region and around another 30 specifically on Aotea / Great Barrier Island. On Aotea, 184 sites are currently active and controlled for low incidence pest plants. We monitored 58 sites to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and there are 10 sites where eradication has been confirmed. We grid searched over 200ha of potential habitat for climbing asparagus, with 23 seedlings and one mature plant found, enabling early intervention to control the species.

Site-led weed control

- We continued to remove ecosystem transforming pest plants from threatened ecosystems in areas including Motu Taiko / Broken Islands, Motairehe, Whangapaoua, Awana, Claris-Kaitoke (including wilding pines) and Medlands. The majority of this work is being carried out by Motairehe Ltd, with their capacity increasing and team skillset developing to meet delivery expectations. Windy Hill Trust were also supported to continue controlling pest plants within the Windy Hill Sanctuary.

Pest animal control

- Pest animal control on Aotea aims to reduce animal pests to levels that will ensure the long-term protection of Aotea's native species and ecosystems. We achieve this through improving responsible cat ownership and controlling rabbits, rats and unowned cats.
- We carried out over 800ha of rabbit control with post-control monitoring recording the lowest counts of rabbits since management began in 2013. Prior to our control work starting, parts of Aotea were recording the highest rabbit numbers in Aotearoa.
- We supported Tū Mai Taonga to manage ship rats and eradicate cats on the Grey Group and Broken Islands. Over the past year, our monitoring detected no rats on 11 of the 12 Grey Group Islands along the coast of Aotea. Te Manu, Saddle and Motu Rako Islands have been rat-free for over eight years. No rat captures have been recorded on Opakau Island since ship rats were eliminated in 2020.
- Windy Hill Trust were supported to continue managing pest animals within the Windy Hill Sanctuary.

Pest ant eradication

- Four sites totalling 57 ha have been declared eradicated of Argentine ants on Aotea by the technical advisory group. This is nearly half the area actively managed for Argentine ants on the island. This includes the 20 ha Sandhills Road site, the 5 ha Okupu site, the 2 ha Mason Road site and the 30 ha Mulberry Grove site. The latter is recognised as the largest known area in Aotearoa to have been successfully eradicated of the species.
- No Darwin's ants were detected at previously active sites at Whangaparapara Wharf, Claris clay fill site or Oceanview Road. Monitoring will continue until eradication is confirmed.

Freshwater pest control

- We have invested significant effort in trying to locate a missing red eared slider turtle on Aotea. Efforts have included trapping, eDNA surveillance, electric fishing key habitat, and ground searches. The response has now been downgraded and follow up actions will include regular communications in local publications and Facebook pages to encourage reports of sightings of this species on the island. If more information on the location of the turtle is provided, the response will be upgraded again.

Other islands projects

- We continued to deliver work across the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. This included:
 - Pest plant control on sites across Waiheke, Rakino, The Noises, Crusoe and Motukaha Islands.
 - Rabbit control on Waiheke Island, along with stoat eradication and rat eradication trials continuing to be delivered with local partners, and public engagement to improve responsible cat ownership.
 - Argentine ant control on Kawau Island with the aim of achieving eradication, and an assessment of the technical feasibility and social acceptance of removing mammalian pests from the island.

Marine and pathways



We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected a total of 853 ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 226 sailings to Aotea / Great Barrier. They identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Port Fitzroy, Tryphena, Blind Bay and Whangaparapara.
- We conducted two snorkeling and dive surveys at Aotea / Great Barrier this year for Mediterranean fanworm and to detect any new marine pest incursions. A total area of 700,000m² of underwater habitat was surveyed and 134 vessel hulls inspected.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.

Marine ecology



We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.

- We continued monitoring of takahikare-moana (white-faced storm petrel) populations on Pokohinu / Burgess Island (Mokohinau Islands) and tāiko (black petrel) and tītī (Cook’s petrel) breeding success on Te Hauturu-o-toi / Little Barrier Island. We also monitored a range of seabirds including tākoketai (black petrel) and tītī (Cook’s petrel) populations within Glenfern Sanctuary. This was the first year of seabird monitoring in Glenfern, in collaboration with trustees, with a plan to build local knowledge and skills for future seabird work.
- We also conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag).

Enabling tools



We’re improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council’s conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

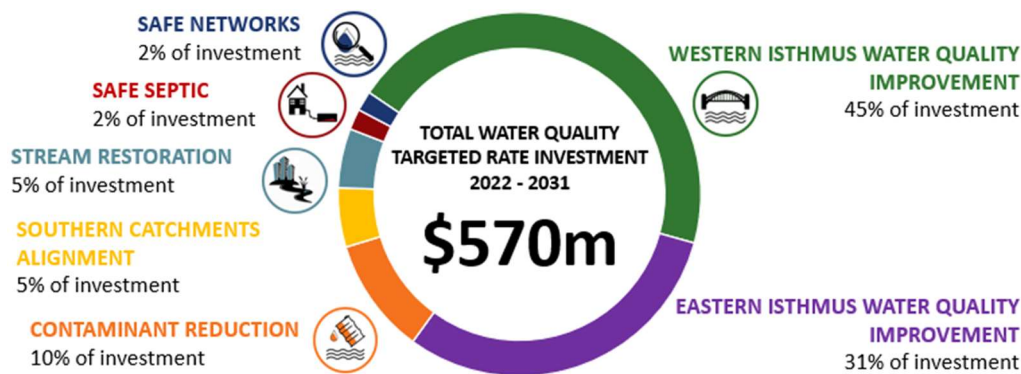


Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

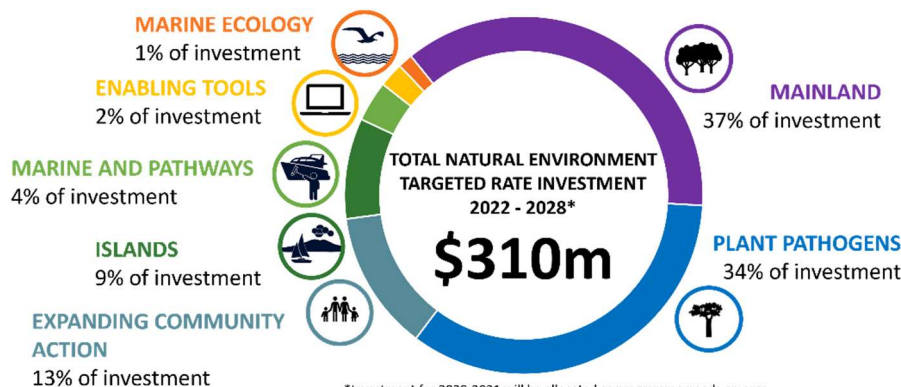
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Wairau Outlet, Takapuna, Mairangi Bay, Castor Bay and Murrays Bay

- Wairau Outlet – water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. The investigation is progressing across this large catchment to determine if there is need to focus on particular areas in more targeted investigations.
- Takapuna Beach – watercare have completed relining the wastewater transmission line that runs the length of the beach. Post resolution sampling at the stormwater outlets discharging to Takapuna Beach is underway to confirm the works were successful.
- Mairangi Bay – repairs to damaged wastewater and stormwater pipes have been effective at reducing the level of contamination at an issue outlet discharging to Mairangi Bay. This was confirmed by post resolution sampling completed this year.
- Castor Bay – detailed drainage investigations were completed in this catchment in 2019, and fixes undertaken subsequently. Post resolution sampling has been underway but since the flooding and landslip events this year there have been further exceedances which are under investigation with Watercare.
- Murrays Bay – water quality sampling from stormwater outlets have identified contamination issues at discharge points to Murrays Bay. Network screening locations for sampling in specific sub-catchments is underway to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including one in the Devenport-Takapuna area. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Anzac Street precinct stormwater extension, flood mitigation and environmental improvement

- This project will install new stormwater infrastructure along Kowahi Street, Killarney Street, Lomond Street, Lake Pupuke Drive, Greydene Place and Patuone Reserve to allow for future growth, resolve flooding, and improve the water quality to Upper Shoal Bay estuary by installing water quality treatment in Patuone Reserve. The project is in detailed design and preparing to lodge resource consent.

Becroft Drive Stormwater Upgrade

- The Becroft drive upgrade includes installing 380m of new stormwater network and upgrading the existing culvert to reduce flooding and erosion issues. This project is being divided into stages due to its complexity. The current priority is to complete design for the extension of the stormwater network, which includes relining 1050mm pipes and reducing flooding risks to 8-10 Becroft Drive. Physical works are planned for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Bracken and Tennyson Avenue network options

- This project has been identified due to the plan change which will allow intensification of development within the area. Up to 31 dwellings are currently using curb discharge for stormwater management as there is no formal stormwater reticulation in the area. There is an opportunity to install water quality treatment devices when installing the new network. A business case will be developed before the project can proceed.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning

to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Huron Street (West) network extension

- This project will extend the existing stormwater network to provide growth and reduce the volume of overflows from the combined network. It is in early design phase.

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 179 site visits were undertaken with a 66 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Stanley Bay Reserve stormwater outlet renewal

- The works will reduce seawater flooding and reduce odour from the open channel by improving the water flow in the existing network. The detailed design has been approved and the project is awaiting resource consent. Construction is planned for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. Currently, completion of stormwater improvement

plans has been accomplished in Glen Innes town centre, Henderson-Massey, Warkworth, Avondale, Wairau, Oakley, and Puhinui stormwater catchment areas.

Wairau Catchment Water Quality Improvements

- We will install a sequence of gross pollutant traps across the Wairau Valley catchment to maximise the capture of contaminants. These locations are located at the bottom of Wairau Valley catchment and have been proposed to capture the additional contaminant loads coming off Milford Town Centre.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Restoring Takarunga Hauraki was allocated \$28,274 for a coordinator and to assist with strategic planning costs, along with \$5000 for pest control tools, complemented by local board funding. They were also provided \$30,000 to undertake a community/neighbourhood engagement and pest management programme aimed at protecting the threatened shell barrier ecosystem at Shoal Bay.
- The Pupuke Birdsong Project was allocated \$19,584 for an ecological halo programme advisor to support the community to continue implementing the Pest Free 2050 goal in backyards. They were also allocated \$5000 for pest control tools, complemented by local board funding.
- Helping Paws was allocated \$5000 for the little blue penguin rehabilitation facility. Volunteers contributed 1092 hours to the group's activities.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- Devonport Primary and Takapuna School both received tracking tunnels and monitoring cards worth \$250.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided governance and leadership mentoring to Restoring Takarunga Hauraki to help lift the quality and effectiveness of community conservation management. We also provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of the Pupuke Birdsong Project to build capacity.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the EnviroSchools kaupapa. This year EnviroSchools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support EnviroSchools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 13 schools are

participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there is one active site that was controlled for low incidence pest plants and three sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries/pet shops, breeders,

florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, one pet store visit and seven nursery visits were conducted.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Islands projects

Over the past year, we continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



Marine and pathways

We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected a total of 853 ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. They identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals. In your area, biosecurity champions were stationed at Bayswater Marina and the Takapuna beach boat ramp.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Bayswater Marina.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.
-

2022/2023

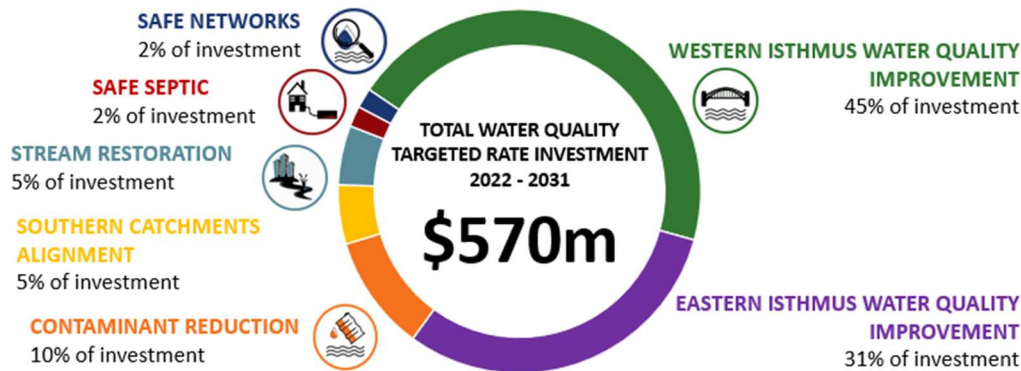


Franklin Local Board

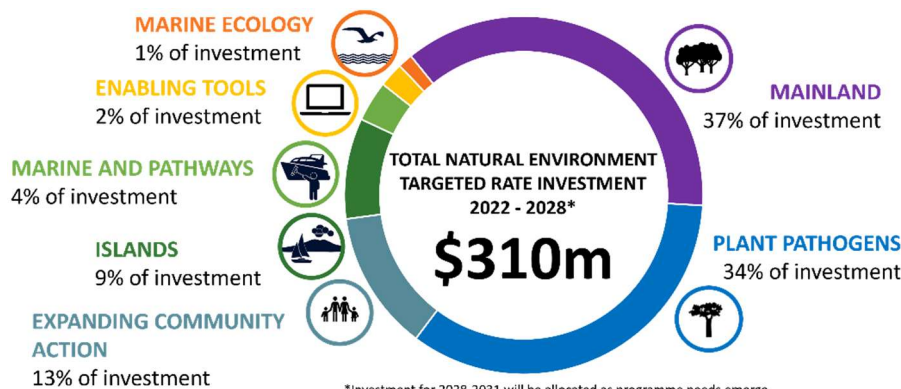
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Orere Point, Sunkist Bay and Glenbrook Beach

- Orere Point – to confirm the sources of faecal contamination in this rural catchment, water quality sampling is underway in the stream to determine where further investigations may be required.
- Sunkist Bay and Glenbrook Beach – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Sunkist Bay and Glenbrook Beach is underway.
- Waitangi Falls – water quality sampling of streams upstream of Waitangi Falls is underway to confirm sources of faecal contamination and whether any further investigations are needed.

Safe Septic



We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 774 in your area. Of these inspections completed in Franklin, 131 were found to require attention and 7 to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.

Urban and rural stream rehabilitation



We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 34 ponds and over 360 raingardens in your area.

Fonterra and Auckland Council Wetland Restoration Project

- This is a joint Auckland Council and Fonterra project to restore wetlands in the Manukau and Wairoa catchments. The areas targeted have been identified by Freshwater Management Tool as yielding high nitrogen contaminants from dairy farming. The project is in design and will see landowners apply for grant funding to deliver wetland restoration on their land.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Regional Waterways Protection Fund

- The Regional Waterway Protection Fund offers co-funding for waterway protection fencing and planting of private rural land. This benefits property owners across Franklin, Papakura, Aotea (Great Barrier Island), and Rodney. Of 64 applications, 42 property owners have been awarded funding to a value of \$698,915.12, to be paid on completion of the projects. \$574,184.86 was awarded in the Franklin Local Board Area to 31 landowners. Landowners are given two years to complete the work. The FY2022/2023 round of funding will deliver 16.5km of fencing, protect 47.5ha of riparian areas, 34km of waterways and 12.6ha of wetlands, and plant approximately 160,000 plants in newly protected areas. Auditing of landowner projects has shown a good level of project delivery. Keeping stock out of waterways by fencing instantly improves water quality, and planting riparian margins and wetlands is transforming these areas. There has also been habitat restoration outcomes including inanga spawning sites and work with local iwi on protection of cultural heritage sites.

Water quality fish passage improvement

- We are approaching landowners in Franklin with identified potential barriers to fish passage that have previously received funding from the Regional Waterways Protection Fund. These land owners have already shown an interest in enhancing their waterways by undertaking riparian planting and/or fencing their streams to exclude stock.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Outfalls Package 4 - Cockle Bay, Māngere Inlet, Slippery Creek and Whangapouri Creek

- Upgrades will be made to a collection of inlets and outlets that currently restrict flows or cause blockages during flood events. The upgrades will reduce the stormwater velocity and reduce erosion. The project is currently in the preliminary design phase and a design consultant is scoping solutions for each outfall in this package.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 1266 site visits were undertaken with an 86 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.

Southern catchments alignment



We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

Manukau Harbour

- The Southern Catchments programme aims to reduce stormwater contaminants entering the Manukau Harbour. It works with large scale growth and roading infrastructure projects to identify contaminant reduction opportunities, and to fund those with the best water quality outcomes. This project is in the planning phase.

Natural environment projects

Expanded support for community-led conservation



We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Āwhitu Peninsula Landcare were provided \$210,000 to continue possum control for two years across the peninsula (FY23 and FY24). They were provided a further \$18,000 for pest control tools and to control mustelids, rats and feral cats to protect threatened freshwater-saline ecosystems at Rangiriri, Āwhitu, and received \$180 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- Te Ara Hikoī was allocated \$23,000 for two coordinators to support community groups across the Franklin district. They supported groups both practically and with advice to ensure more cohesive pest control and restoration efforts across the Franklin landscape. They were allocated \$24,686 for a coordinator, contractor and trapping equipment for the community coastal trapping network along the southern Hauraki Gulf shoreline. They also received funding and equipment for pest control, including traps, bait and weed control gels to distribute to the community, and pest monitoring tools worth a total of \$42,890. This was provided in addition to local board funding. Volunteers contributed 1296 hours to the group's activities.
- Whakaupoko West Franklin Land Care Group was allocated \$20,000 for an administrator and coordinator to continue the roll out of Tāwhiti Smartcages with new auto sensors and auto lures, updating trapping data to Trap NZ, undertaking bat monitoring, and contributing to the new Manukau Lowlands possum control project. They were also allocated \$10,000 for a new technology-based trap library. Volunteers contributed 4000 hours to the group's activities.
- Forest and Bird were allocated \$30,784 for a coordinator to continue engaging land owners in the Southeast Wildlink and received pest monitoring equipment worth \$460. The Wildlink creates an ecological corridor of native bush that provides a safe habitat for native animals and invertebrates across private and council land, and existing Forest and Bird reserves.
- Friends of Te Wairoa was allocated \$18,440 for a communications coordinator and a pest coordinator. They will continue to promote and support pest control on private properties across the Wairoa River catchment through bait and trap lessons. They also received \$560 worth of promotional materials.
- Waiuku Zero Waste, on behalf of Sustainable Waiuku, was allocated \$17,500 for establishing a predator control centre and trap library for the community. Volunteers contributed 2990 hours to the group's activities.
- The C.R.E.S.T. was allocated \$15,000 for pest control tools in addition to local board funding. They also received \$690 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- Matai Kōkako Conservation Project was allocated \$10,000 for the expansions of pest animal and plant control in Kawakawa Bay. Volunteers contributed 1152 hours to the group's activities.
- Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki received pest monitoring and weed control equipment worth \$4150.

- Te Korowai o Papatūānuku received herbicides and planting day materials worth \$2700.
- Pest Free Maraetai Beachlands received pest control tools and monitoring equipment worth \$900.
- The Dotterel Minders Network received \$200 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- \$490 worth of weed control tools was provided directly to landowners in your area.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.

Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land

- We complement work undertaken on public land by engaging with private landowners, providing them with advice and funding to take action to protect and enhance important areas of native biodiversity on their land. We awarded grants to nine landowner-led projects across the region, enabling a range of conservation activities including stock-exclusion fencing, weed and/or pest animal control, and planting of native plants. In your area, three grants totaling \$106,035 were provided to support landowner-led conservation, including contribution towards stock and deer exclusion fencing to protect critically endangered forest and wetland ecosystems on Āwhitu Peninsula and near Whitford.
- QEII National Trust was provided \$75,400 for fencing to protect Biodiversity Focus Areas on two private properties on Āwhitu Peninsula. QEII provided matching funding to complete the works.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area:
 - we provided governance and leadership mentoring to Whakaupoko Landcare and The C.R.E.S.T. to help lift the quality and effectiveness of community conservation management
 - individual leadership and mentoring support was provided to members of Predator Free Beachlands / Maraetai to build capability
 - a Local Conservation Coordinator network in south Auckland was also supported with guidance and advice, including a strategic visioning and planning hui held with local group representatives.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. Events grow the local conservation community and their mahi, and respond to local needs. In your area, we supported Predator Free Franklin to run the Franklin Online Festival in November 2023 which consisted of four evening webinars attended by more than 150 individual viewers. The webinar videos are also hosted permanently online at <https://predatorfreefranklin.nz/news/>.
- The Ngā Tohu Tiaki Taiao a te Koromatua / Mayoral Conservation Awards, held in September 2022, recognised Aucklanders' efforts to protect our native biodiversity across Tāmaki Makaurau. Over 110 people joined elected members at this event to

celebrate the exceptional work happening in the community and recognise environmental champions. At this event, Te Ara Hīkoi were awarded the Innovation Award for their collaboration between the three largest landcare groups in Franklin to develop Tāwhiti SmartCages, live capture traps for pest animals.

Engaging the private sector

- Partnership opportunities are leveraged with external agencies, businesses and philanthropic organisations to grow the funding and resources available for community conservation. The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 19 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans. In your area, we developed an ecological enhancement plan for the Windross Farm Golf Course.
- In partnership with Golf is Green, the Department of Conservation and the World Wildlife Fund, the council also provided a \$25,000 grant for several conservation and partnership initiatives with local communities to support restoration efforts on the golf courses.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Seventeen schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Franklin and fifty-six sites in Franklin were planted by school groups from Franklin and other areas.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association with \$12,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across southern Auckland. In your area, 30 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Ecosystem and species survey

- A survey of pekapeka-tou-roa (long-tailed bats) has been successfully implemented for a second year across Franklin as part of the Finding Franklin Bats project. NETR and Franklin Local Board funding supported Ecoquest to deliver this survey work across privately owned forest fragments, with significant support and input from Te Ara Hikoi (Predator Free Franklin), Ngāti Te Ata, Ngāti Tamaoho and Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki. This work enhances our understanding of bat locations throughout Franklin and the results will be used to prioritise critical habitats for management. A Masters student has also been funded to assess the impact of prey abundance on the use of fragmented habitat by the bats.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.

Threatened ecosystem management

- Targeted delivery is provided to manage site level pressures for high value sites where this are not covered by region-wide biosecurity programmes. In your area, mangrove removal was carried out under resource consent to protect the threatened shell barrier ecosystem at Rangiriri, Āwhitu Peninsula.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network. In Hunua Ranges Regional Park, we completed an upgrade of the Wairoa Cossey Track and the track opened to the public, and we installed one additional bespoke bike hygiene station. .

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.

Kauri dieback surveillance

- Auckland Council is partnering with several ngā iwi mana whenua o Te Ngāherehere o Kohukohunui and the Department of Conservation in conducting a baseline survey of kauri health in Te Ngāherehere o Kohukohunui / Hunua Ranges. It is hoped that the survey will confirm that the forest is still free of the pathogen that causes kauri dieback disease.

Myrtle ora - maintaining and increasing the mauri of the myrtle species

- We are working with mana whenua, Scion Crown Research Institute and Botanic Gardens to develop a protection plan for the remaining rōhutu populations in the Tāmaki Makaurau region. Āwhitu Landcare and Ngāti Te Ata successfully trialed protocols and saw excellent results such as new leaf flush on all treated plants and evidence of fruiting.
- This year, we co-funded a rangatahi internship in partnership with Te Korowai o Papatūānuku, the Ministry for Primary Industries. This initiative provided a Ngāti Te Ata rangatahi with practical experience in nursery production, revegetation, pest control, and mitigation of myrtle rust. The intern will earn a Level 3 Certificate in Nursery Production and gain invaluable expertise in managing threatened species and addressing myrtle rust.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 79 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements. Pest plant control was delivered across 12 of these local parks this year, including Karioitahi Reserve.

Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year. These are very good results given the challenges of an unusually wet summer and autumn, and infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.
- We delivered the following pest control in your area:
 - **Hunua Ranges Regional Park:** feral deer survey and control (on park and on neighbouring land), possums, rats (1080 operation) and pigs across the entire park, possum ground control along the eastern edge, mustelids, rats, possums and cats in the **Kōkako Management Area**, and pest plants in **Mangatāwhiri**.
 - **Whakatiwai:** possums, rats, mustelids, mice, pest plants
 - **Waharau:** mustelids, pest plants
 - **Waitawa Regional Park:** pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land)
 - **Tawhatikino Regional Park:** rats, pest plants
 - **Tāpapakanga Regional Park:** mustelids, pest plants
 - **Duder Regional Park:** pest plants
 - **Omana Regional Park:** pest plants
 - **Āwhitu Regional Park:** mustelids, rats, pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land).

Project Hunua

- We continued to deliver pest control work in the Hunua Ranges with good support and participation from adjoining landowners. Over 21,500 hectares was successfully treated using aerial 1080 in late winter 2022, achieving a significant reduction in possum and rat numbers with post operation monitoring showing extremely low numbers (0.17 per cent possum residual trap catch and 0.83 per

cent rat residual trap index, with targets being < 2 per cent and < 3 per cent respectively). Park-wide control measures, backed by an active buffer control programme, will continue to delay reinvasion of possums into treated parkland between aerial control operations.

- Positive impacts of the three most recent aerial operations in Hunua are evident in the five-yearly kōkako census results. The 2022 count identified 259 kōkako pairs, a remarkable growth from 55 in 2015 and 116 in 2018. The latest census included pairs which are extending their territories and successfully breeding in park areas managed solely through pulsed aerial control. The Hunua Project was recognised by the National Kōkako Recovery Programme as reaching the status of ‘genetically robust’ and is the second kōkako population in the country to reach this milestone. This is a significant contribution to the prosperity of this threatened species nation-wide.

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 14 properties bordering Awhitu and Waitawa Regional Parks, completing work across a total of 88.7 ha and partially completing work across a further 18.0 ha. Climbing asparagus was the most abundant weed species controlled, followed by woolly nightshade.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are 12 active sites that we controlled for low incidence pest plants, six sites we monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and 24 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Ground based possum control

- We control possums across many high priority ecosystems. During the last year, we carried out ground-based possum control across 23,000 hectares of rural land. In your area, this included a new site in the Manukau lowlands to complement the good work being undertaken by the community. Contractor delivered possum control was completed in Kaiaua (3,600ha) and Manukau Lowlands (5,600 ha). Awhitu Peninsula Landcare were also funded to control possums across the Awhitu Peninsula.

Feral deer and goat control

- We implemented large scale aerial survey works for feral deer and goats this year as an efficient and effective tool to detect these pest animals at a landscape level. This has yielded extensive data on the population distribution and density of these species, providing insights far beyond what traditional ground surveillance methods could achieve in both time and costs per hectare.
- In your area, we conducted aerial surveillance for deer and goats within Hunua Ranges Regional Park and surrounding private land. Surveillance work indicated that there were a number of feral deer in private property buffering the park. A Hunua Deer Management Strategy has been developed to bring feral deer back to zero density within the park and work is underway to remove all the animals that were detected in the private property buffer.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted three pet store visits and 22 nursery visits.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Islands projects

Over the past year, we continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



Marine and pathways

We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected a total of 853 ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. They identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals. In your area, biosecurity champions were stationed at Pine Harbour Marina.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.



Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- We conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag).



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

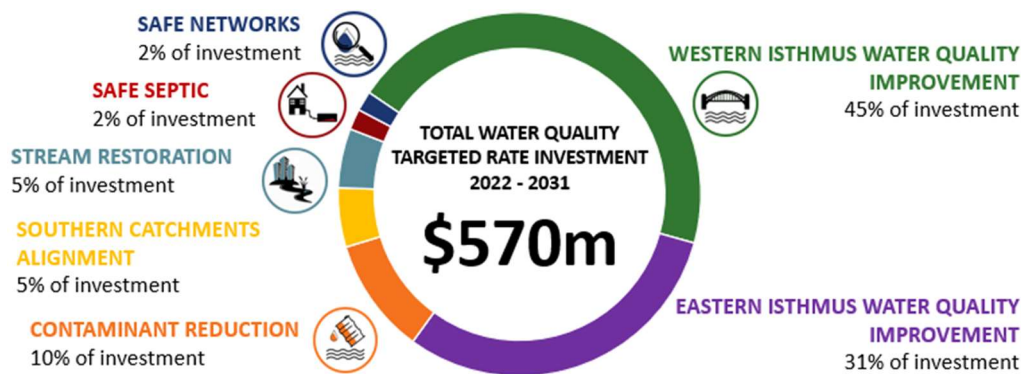


Henderson-Massey Local Board

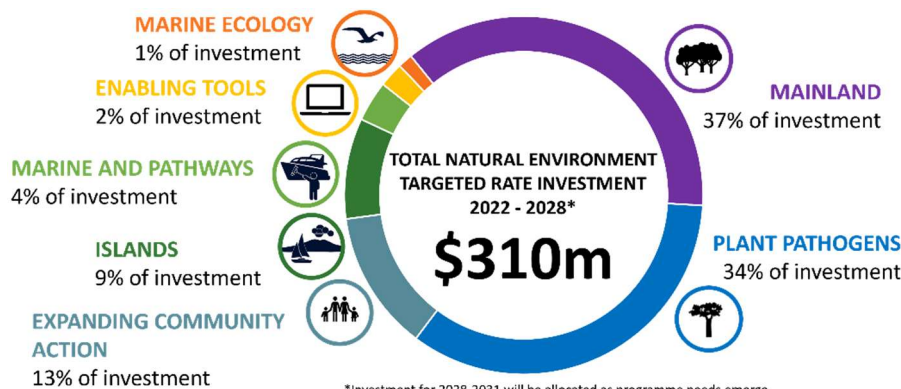
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Te Atatū Beach and Henderson Creek

- Henderson Creek Water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. The investigation is progressing across this large catchment to determine if there is need to focus on particular areas in more targeted investigations.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 4 in your area. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 53 ponds in the Henderson-Massey area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from the Water Quality Targeted Rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13

funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in the Henderson-Massey area.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Mihini Rd Wetland pond renewal and upgrade

- The forebay is intended to provide initial settling of sediments before water enters the wetland to reduce the need for large scale maintenance of the wetland area. However, Mihini Wetland's forebay is undersized and does not perform its intended function. This project will renew and expand the wetland and install gross-pollutant traps to replace the existing forebay's function.

Outfalls Package 2 - Whau and Massey Catchments

- Upgrades have been made to a collection of inlets and outlets that had previously restricted flows and caused blockages during flood events. The upgrades have reduced the stormwater velocity and are reducing erosion. Construction was completed in August 2022.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. The Closing the Gap team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 1326 site visits were undertaken with a 63 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy

Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. Currently, completion of stormwater improvement plans has been accomplished in Glen Innes town centre, Henderson-Massey, Warkworth, Avondale, Wairau, Oakley, and Puhinui stormwater catchment areas. In your area, we are in the design phase of investigations to install devices into Henderson's highest contaminant generating land use types.

Waimoko Stream (Swanson) gross pollutant traps

- This project seeks to improve stream ecological health in Waimoko Stream, reduce blockage risk to improve frequent flooding risk and improve stormwater quality before discharging into Waimoko Stream. A business case is being developed to allow design to progress.

Waitaro Stream, Corban Reserve Culvert Upgrade

- This is a major capital delivery project to alleviate flooding, enable growth, and reduce the health and safety risk posed by the landfill. It will also eliminate the discharge of leachate to the environment and help to improve Opanuku Stream. Stage one construction is underway and is forecast to be completed in November 2023. Stage two is in planning and is forecast to commence in January 2025.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea (NZ falcon) specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.
- Tirimoana School, Pomaria School, Ranui School and Te Atatū Intermediate received native plants, pest control traps, tracking tunnels and monitoring cards, and eDNA stream testing kits worth a total of \$1055.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Two schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Rodney and Waitākere.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the EnviroSchools kaupapa. This year EnviroSchools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support EnviroSchools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 19 schools are participating in EnviroSchools and Massey Kindergarten celebrated 10 years of commitment to the EnviroSchools kaupapa this year. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [EnviroSchools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are six active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, three sites monitored to assess whether has achieved eradication, and 11 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted four pet store visits and 24 nursery visits. .



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.
-

2022/2023

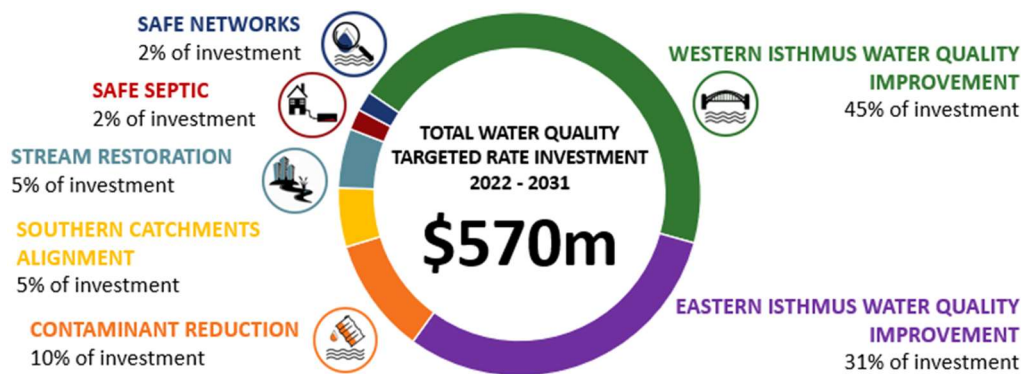


Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

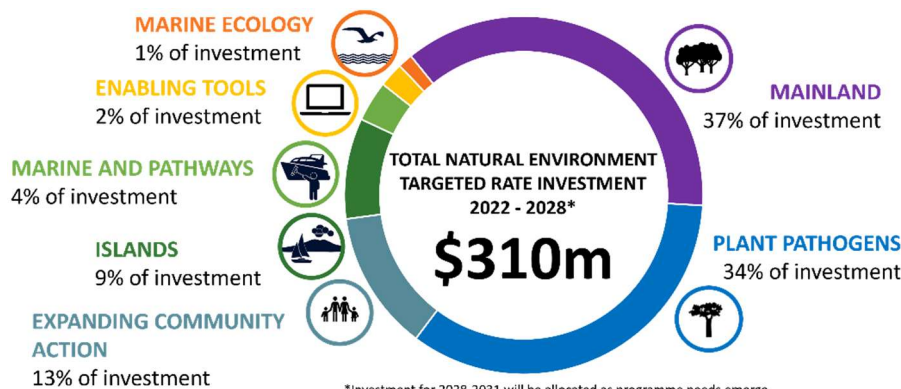
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Waiake Bay, Little Manly, Browns Bay, Red Beach, Matakatia Bay and Rothesay Bay

- Waiake Bay, Little Manly and Browns Bay – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Waiake Bay, Little Manly and Browns Bay are currently underway.
- Red Beach – network screening in specific sub-catchments is underway to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues.
- Matakatia Bay and Rothesay Bay – water quality sampling is underway at stormwater outlets that discharge to the beaches at Matakatia and Rothesay has been completed. No contamination issues were identified that require further investigation. Safeswim will continue to sampling in the receiving environment to validate the Safeswim model.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 4 in your area. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales,

ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 37 ponds and over 50 raingardens in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team

completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 1196 site visits were undertaken with a 72 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.

Natural environment projects

Expanded support for community-led conservation



We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Pest Free Hibiscus Coast was allocated \$42,042 for a project manager to continue their successful efforts in creating safe, healthy habitats for native plants and animals transitioning from nearby open sanctuaries and surrounding areas, and for a number of traplines protecting high biodiversity areas where the groups work. ~~in their role.~~ They are also engaging with Ngāti Manuhiri to incorporate Mātauranga Māori into their project and working with Te Herenga Waka o Orewa Marae on establishing a trapline. In addition, they received \$12,595 worth of indigenous reptile monitoring equipment, pest control traps and bait, pest animal monitoring equipment, and collateral printing to support their work.
- Restore Hibiscus and Bays was allocated \$7,500 for an activator and advisor for the pest animal and pest plant control and monitoring programme, and a further \$7,500 for a schools liaison advisor to grow the number of schools and clubs engaging in restoration of waterways, pest plant control, and restoration plantings. They also received \$5,260 worth of pest plant control equipment, pest animal control and pest animal monitoring equipment, and outreach and advocacy support. Volunteers contributed 9798 hours to the group's activities.
- Forest and Bird was allocated \$17,500 towards the Pest Free Hibiscus Coast project for a Community Hub Activator and trapping equipment to increase community participation in trapping across two new project hubs. Volunteers contributed 29,070 hours to the group's activities.
- Friends of Okura Bush was allocated \$10,000 for a coordinator and delivery costs for the Stillwater to Weiti river predator free programme. They also received \$1720 worth of pest control tools. Volunteers contributed 8220 hours to the group's activities.
- Long Bay College received plants for school planting days worth \$525.
- Helping Paws was allocated \$5000 for the little blue penguin rehabilitation facility. Volunteers contributed 1092 hours to the group's activities.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea (NZ falcon) specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land

- We complement work undertaken on public land by engaging with private landowners, providing them with advice and funding to take action to protect and enhance important areas of native biodiversity on their land. We awarded grants to nine landowner-led projects across the region, enabling a range of conservation activities including stock-exclusion fencing, weed and/or pest animal control, and planting of native plants. In your area one grant of \$8,914 was provided to support

landowner-led conservation to protect critically endangered gumland ecosystem occurring on private land near Hatfields Beach.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided governance and leadership mentoring to Restore Hibiscus and Bays network to help lift the quality and effectiveness of community conservation management.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new ‘group lifecycle’ resource.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Three schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Hibiscus and Bays and Rodney. One site in Hibiscus and Bays was planted.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 21 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).
- We held a Spring Festival and Sustainability Challenge Adventure Race at Long Bay, in partnership with Lactic Turkey Events, in which junior school students completed sustainability challenges including tree planting and pest trap activities. This was attended by 531 students, teachers, and whanau from a range of schools.



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of

conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 79 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements. Pest plant control was delivered across 12 of these local parks this year, including Torbay Heights.

Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2,579ha of weed control this year. These are very good results given the challenges of an unusually wet summer and autumn, and infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. In your area, we controlled mustelids, rats and pest plants within Shakespear Regional Park.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are five active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, a further four sites monitored to assess whether previous control has achieved eradication, and 13 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan.
- In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted one pet store visit and four nursery visits.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Islands projects

- Over the past year, we continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



Marine and pathways

We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- Ongoing engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, is delivered to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected a total of 853 ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. They identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino. In your area, our dog handlers carried out inspections at the Gulf Harbour ferry terminal.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals. In your area, our biosecurity champions were stationed at the Marine Education and Recreation centre in Long Bay and the Gulf Harbour Marina.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Gulf Harbour and Fairway Bay marinas.

- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.

Marine ecology



We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- We conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag).

Enabling tools



We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

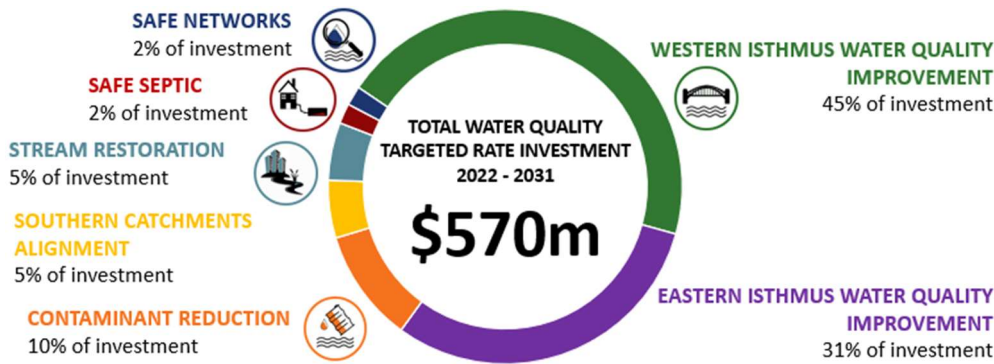


Howick Local Board

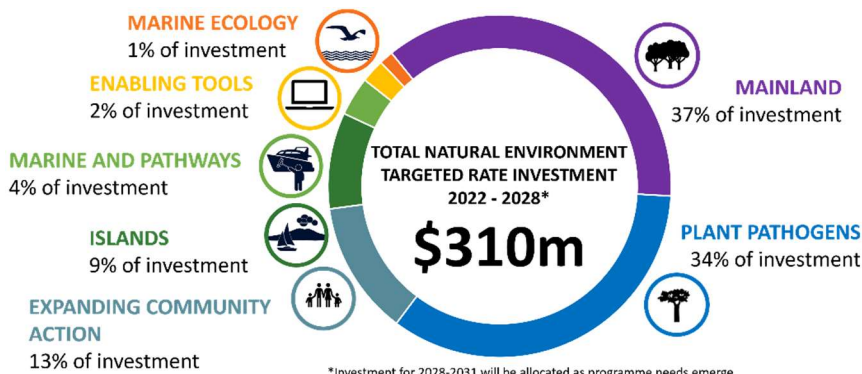
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Big Bucklands Beach

- Big Bucklands Beach – public and private drainage inspections have been completed. A majority of the public and private drainage issues identified during the investigation have been resolved this year and post resolution sampling is underway to confirm the works were successful.
- Mellons Bay – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Mellons Bay is underway.

Safe Septic



We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 119 in your area. Of these inspections, 28 were found to require attention and 1 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.

Urban and rural stream rehabilitation



We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 24 ponds and over 320 raingardens in your area.

Angelo Stream remediation and upgrade, Howick

- This project seeks to remediate stream bank erosion and upsize stormwater culverts that are restricting flow. A business case is being developed.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Macleans Park Stream Protection

- We propose to remediate erosion occurring in the channel that is likely due to upstream land use change and significant stormwater diversion from the nearby development. The project is currently in design.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Akoranga stormwater pond renewal

- The Pond Renewal programme cleans, desilts and renews stormwater ponds around the region. The project for the Akoranga stormwater pond is currently in the preliminary design phase, with construction planned for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Outfalls Package 4 - Cockle Bay, Māngere Inlet, Slippery Creek and Whangapouri Creek

- Upgrades will be made to a collection of inlets and outlets that currently restrict flows or cause blockages during flood events. The upgrades will reduce the stormwater velocity and reduce erosion. The project is currently in the preliminary design phase and a design consultant is scoping solutions for each outfall in this package.

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland’s harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 1885 site visits were undertaken with a 76 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Pest Free Howick was allocated \$15,600 for a conservation coordinator to support conservation assistants and to ensure community engagement through the delivery of a backyard trapping project, schools conservation cadetship programme, targeted moth plant control, and enhanced community pest control in high value parks and reserves. They also received \$6010 worth of pest control tools and promotional materials.
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki received \$15,440 for shipping containers to use as a base for pest control work on Motukaraka Island and store tools. They also received \$590 for public signage and \$4150 for pest monitoring and weed control equipment.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of Pest Free Howick to build capacity. We also supported a Local Conservation Coordinator network in south Auckland with guidance and advice, including a strategic visioning and planning hui held with local group representatives from your area.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Engaging the private sector

- Partnership opportunities are leveraged with external agencies, businesses and philanthropic organisations to grow the funding and resources available for community conservation. The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 19 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans. In your area, an ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the Pakuranga Golf Club.
- In partnership with Golf is Green, the Department of Conservation and the World Wildlife Fund, the council also provided a \$25,000 grant for several conservation and partnership initiatives with local communities to support restoration efforts on the golf courses.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to

size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Fourteen schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Howick and Franklin. One site in Howick was planted.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 32 schools are participating in Enviroschools and we held a series of events including a Caring for Papatuanuku cluster, a pruning workshop, and a festival that 186 people attended. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are five active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, five sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and 11 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area we conducted four pet store visits and five nursery visits.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

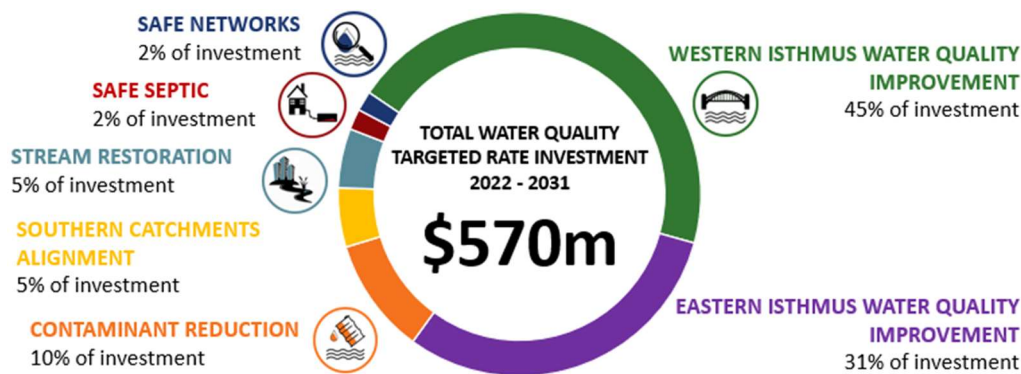


Kaipātiki Local Board

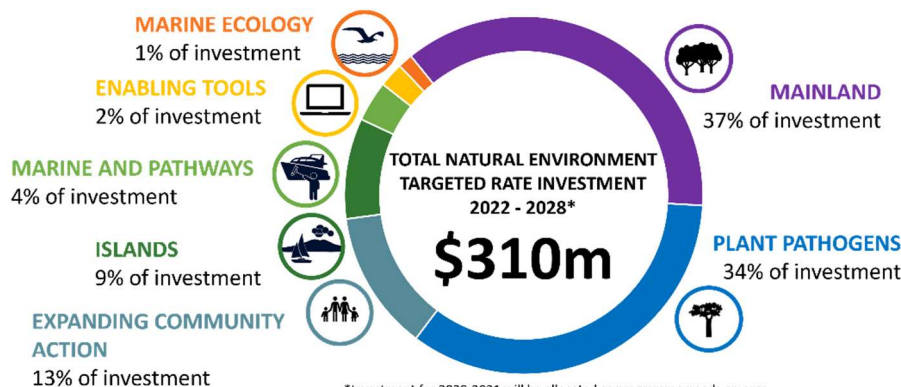
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Hillcrest Creek waterfall and stream channel erosion management

- This project will stabilise the waterfall face and the stream channel above the waterfall to reduce the risk of significant erosion and stream bed destabilisation. It is an early design phase.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

23 Gladys Ave, Glenfield - outfall stabilisation

- This project will stabilise the outfall and stream banks, renew the piped network and restore the stream. The project has been accelerated due to the Auckland

Anniversary storm events significantly damaging the area. Detailed design is complete and construction will start as soon as contractors become available.

95D Hinemoa Street stormwater outfall renewal

- This project will prevent further erosion to the stream banks and improve bank stability while reducing surface flooding to the associated properties. It is in detailed design, with construction planned for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Downing Street water quality improvement

- This project has resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme. The lower Downing Street Reserve adjacent to Westfield Glenfield has been identified as a potential location to install treatment devices to improve water quality and increase the amenity value of the area. The project will soon be assigned a project manager and a business case developed to allow design to progress.

Nutrients control plan in Chelsea Ponds

- This project has aimed to prevent the growth of toxic blue green algae in the ponds by treating them with phoslock, which was applied to the ponds in November 2022. The project is still ongoing and we are monitoring pest fish and the efficiency of the phoslock application.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 332 site visits were undertaken with a 90 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be

made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. Currently, completion of stormwater improvement plans has been accomplished in Glen Innes town centre, Henderson-Massey, Warkworth, Avondale, Wairau, Oakley, and Puhinui stormwater catchment areas. In your area, we are in the design phase of investigations to install devices into Wairau's highest contaminant generating land use types.

Wairau Catchment Water Quality Improvements

- We will install a sequence of gross pollutant traps across the Wairau Valley catchment to maximise the capture of contaminants. These locations are located at the bottom of Wairau Valley catchment and have been proposed to capture the additional contaminant loads coming off Milford Town Centre.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Pest Free Kaipātiki was allocated \$41,302 for a part time finance manager to ensure that the organisation's ecologists and restoration advisors were able to focus on ecological outcomes and community engagement and empowerment. They were also allocated \$25,000 for an activator to coordinator volunteers, work alongside their Te Taiao coordinator on community-based restoration projects led by Māori communities, and to facilitate the establishment of new pest plant control groups. A further \$2500 was allocated to the group for the teaching garden programme and delivery staff. This project will establish and plant small distinct demonstration gardens to educate and inspire locals to plant native species and enhance Kaipātiki's natural heritage. Volunteers contributed 242 hours to the group's activities. They were also allocated \$14,000 for pest control tools, in addition to local board funding, and received \$500 worth of outreach and advocacy support.
- Kaipātiki Project was allocated \$5000 for pest control tools in addition to local board funding, and they received \$500 worth of signage for a new building.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- Helping Paws was allocated \$5000 for the little blue penguin rehabilitation facility. Volunteers contributed 1092 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.
- St Mary's School received plants for school planting days worth \$525 and Northcote Intermediate received an eDNA stream testing kit worth \$265.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided governance and leadership mentoring and individual leadership and mentoring support to Pest Free Kaipātiki to help lift the quality and effectiveness of community conservation management and build capacity.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Engaging the private sector

- Partnership opportunities are leveraged with external agencies, businesses and philanthropic organisations to grow the funding and resources available for community conservation. The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for

looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 19 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans. In your area, an ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the Takapuna Golf Club, Northcote.

- In partnership with Golf is Green, the Department of Conservation and the World Wildlife Fund, the council also provided a \$25,000 grant for several conservation and partnership initiatives with local communities to support restoration efforts on the golf courses.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Two schools in your area grew and planted trees, and one site was planted in Kaipātiki.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 20 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network. Tracks

previously upgraded to protect kauri generally fared well through the January and February storm events, except where there were some major slips in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and the Kaipātiki Local Board areas. In your area, we began physical works on the Chatswood Reserve and Le Roys Bush tracks, both of which were completed in November 2023, and Kauri Glen Stage 3 track, which is scheduled for completion in January 2024. Storm damage meant starting at Glade Valley prior to moving to Le Roys Terrace. A contract was awarded for Birkenhead War Memorial track, subject to consent approval. Weather permitting, works are expected to be completed in March 2024.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 79 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements. Pest plant control was delivered across 12 of these local parks this year, including Birkenhead War Memorial Park, City View Reserve, Fred Anderson Reserve, Kauri Glen Reserve, Kauri Point Centennial Park and Odin Place Reserve.

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 18 properties bordering Le Roys Bush Reserve and Little Shoal Bay, completing work across a total of 2.8 ha and partially completing work across a further 0.4 ha. Climbing asparagus was the most abundant weed species controlled.
- Pest Free Kaipātiki was also funded to conduct engagement with the community about buffer control rules, including education and awareness about pest plants, conducting 'backyard surveys' with people to show them the weeds on their properties and explain how to control them, and linking them with tools and resources to assist them in doing their own weed work.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are six

active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, eleven sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and fourteen sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area we conducted four pet store visits and one nursery visit.

Marine and pathways



We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Little Shoal Bay mooring.

Enabling tools



We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

-
- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.
-

2022/2023

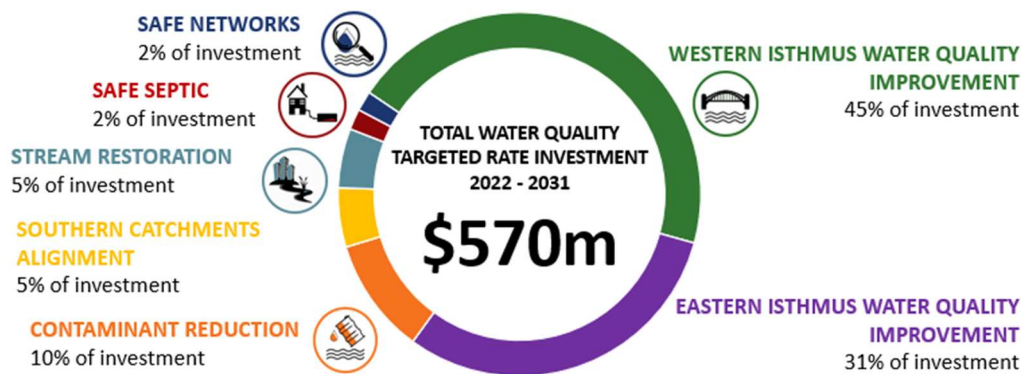


Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

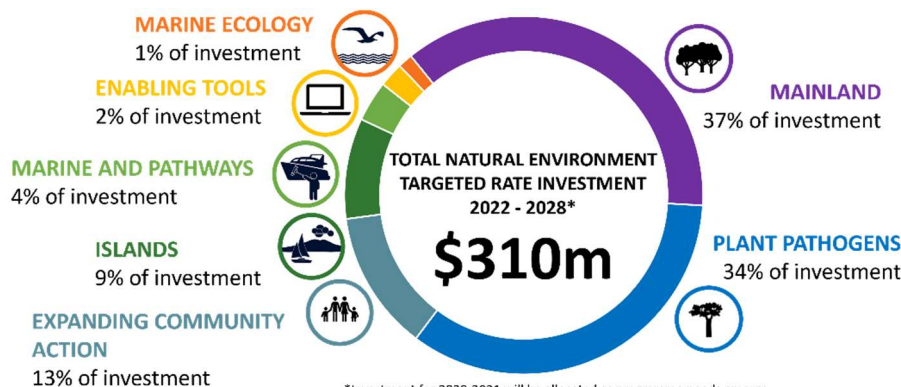
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Te Ara-Rata Stream

- Te Ara-Rata Stream – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Te Ara-Rata Stream is completed. Further investigations are now planned.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 12 ponds in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Oruarangi (Airport Oaks) stormwater treatment wet pond

- A wetland is being constructed to treat stormwater before it is discharged to Oruarangi Awa. The detailed design and associated technical reports are currently in review, in preparation to lodge resource consent.

Outfalls Package 4 - Cockle Bay, Māngere Inlet, Slippery Creek and Whangapouri Creek

- Upgrades will be made to a collection of inlets and outlets that currently restrict flows or cause blockages during flood events. The upgrades will reduce the stormwater velocity and reduce erosion. The project is currently in the preliminary design phase and a design consultant is scoping solutions for each outfall in this package.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 269 site visits were undertaken with an 88 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. In your area, the Māngere Water Quality Improvement Plan is in an early planning stage.



Southern catchments alignment

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

Manukau Harbour

- The Southern Catchments programme aims to reduce stormwater contaminants entering the Manukau Harbour. It works with large scale growth and roading infrastructure projects to identify contaminant reduction opportunities, and to fund those with the best water quality outcomes. This project is in the planning phase.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was allocated \$38,500 to complement local board funding for the Pest Free South Auckland coordinator to support delivery of the annual moth plant pod competition across the Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards, and provide leadership and coordination for the delivery of Pest Free South Auckland. They also received \$3000 for moth plant competition prizes. Pest Free South Auckland received \$7000 worth of tools and resources dedicated to the schools moth plant competition. They also received \$5620 for pest animal and plant control tools, and educational materials.
- Makaurau Marae nursery received materials and tools for nursery maintenance worth \$10,240.
- Pūkaki Crater received \$780 for infill plants lost in the storms.
- The SPCA received \$5000 as part of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Responsible Pet Ownership Programme to offer free cat desexing and microchipping to cat owners living in your local board area. This will complement local board funding for this programme.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of Pest Free South Auckland Māngere-Ōtāhuhu to build capacity.
- We supported a Local Conservation Coordinator network in South Auckland with guidance and advice, including a strategic visioning and planning hui held with local group representatives from your area.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. Events grow the local conservation community and their mahi, and respond to local needs. In your area, we supported the Makaurau Marae roopu to run Te Ahiwaru's 2023 Toituu (A Ngaa Hau o Maangere Festival) on 15 April 2023 at Ihumātao, Māngere, attracting 200 attendees.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Two schools in your area grew and planted trees, and two sites in your area were planted.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Through the Te Aho Tū Roa programme we engage and collaborate with Māori organisations to build Māori capacity and capability, particularly amongst youth, to deliver projects that meet Māori aspirations for enhancing the mauri of our taiao (life force of our natural environment). This past year we led, supported and nurtured 13 projects involving 1081 people, establishing key relationships with 14 other groups and organisations. Activities included kūmara workshops, mahinga kai, composting, and pest animal management and monitoring. In your area, we supported Te Hiaroa Māngere Bridge School in engaging their students in planting native trees and exploring the benefits these provide for our taiao and native birds, studying and producing rongoa Māori (Māori medicine), working with harakeke (flax), installation of artworks and signage to support storytelling in te reo Māori, and planting a māra kai.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association with \$12,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across southern Auckland. In your area, 10 schools are participating in Enviroschools, and we held events such as teachers' clusters and a community tree planting day attracting 155 attendees. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Ecosystem and species survey

- We collaborated with mana whenua to complete a survey of 10 threatened plant species across 30 locations in the Rodney, Upper Harbour, Waitākere Ranges and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu local board areas. As a result of the survey, 1730 new threatened plant records were documented across a number of sites, including a regionally critical species (*Oxybasis ambigua*) being found along the shoreline just south of Ōtuataua Stonefields Reserve.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff,

regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha of weed control this year. These are very good results given the challenges of an unusually wet summer and autumn, and infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. In your area, we controlled rabbits and pest plants on Te Motu a Hiaroa (Puketutu Island) and Ambury Regional Park.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there were no active sites that we needed to control for low incidence pest plants, one site we monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and three sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers

are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted one pet store visit.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

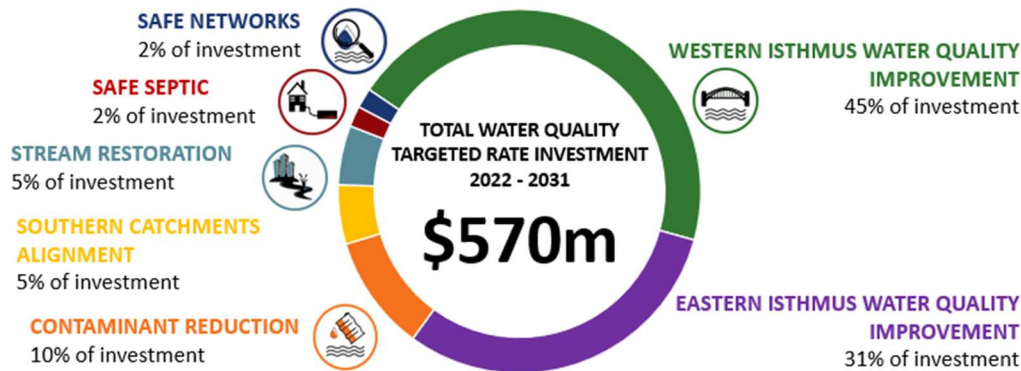


Manurewa Local Board

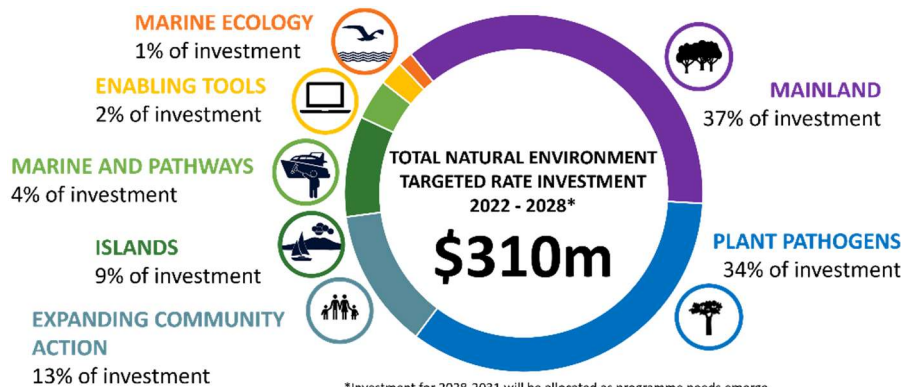
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Weymouth Beach and St Annes Foreshore

- Weymouth Beach – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Weymouth Beach has been completed. Wet weather contamination has been identified and referred to Watercare for resolution. The need for additional network screening is under review.
- St Annes Foreshore – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into St Anne's Foreshore is underway.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 45 in your area. Of these inspections, 12 were found to require attention.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 4 ponds in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding

applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Te Aka Raataa (Te Whakaoratanga i te Puhinui: Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora Stream Restoration)

- This project seeks to restore the awa and improve stormwater through the Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora sites in collaboration with Eke Panuku, who are delivering a shared cycle and pedestrian path alongside the restored stream. A funding agreement is in place for Eke Panuku to lead the delivery of this project. Eke Panuku had a hui with the Manurewa Local Board on 25 May 2023 to provide an update on the concept design. A wananga with key stakeholders and partners (including the local board) was held on 26 June 2023 to present concept progress and gather feedback regarding specific elements of the design.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot uses small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 477 site visits were undertaken with an 89 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. Currently, completion of stormwater improvement

plans has been accomplished in Glen Innes town centre, Henderson-Massey, Warkworth, Avondale, Wairau, Oakley, and Puhinui stormwater catchment areas.

Wattle Farm stormwater pond (Tington Wetlands) improvements

- The pond water quality has deteriorated due to sea water intrusion, siltation and bank erosion. Detailed design has been completed and the project is preparing for tender. The project will be scheduled for construction when budget is available.



Southern catchments alignment

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

Manukau Harbour

- The Southern Catchments programme aims to reduce stormwater contaminants entering the Manukau Harbour. It works with large scale growth and roading infrastructure projects to identify contaminant reduction opportunities, and to fund those with the best water quality outcomes. This project is in the planning phase.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was allocated \$38,500 to complement local board funding for the Pest Free South Auckland coordinator to support delivery of the annual moth plant pod competition across the Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards, and provide leadership and coordination for the delivery of Pest Free South Auckland. They also received \$3000 for moth plant competition prizes. Pest Free South Auckland received \$7000 worth of tools and resources dedicated to the schools moth plant competition. They also received \$5620 for pest animal and plant control tools, and educational materials.
- Manukau Beautification Charitable Trust was allocated \$16,000 for a local Pest Free South Auckland activator. They will continue supporting the community with pest trapping as part of the Pest Free South Auckland initiative in the Manurewa and Papakura local boards.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea (NZ falcon) specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of Tōtara Heights Bush Guardians and Pest Free South Auckland Manurewa.
- We also supported a Local Conservation Coordinator network in south Auckland with guidance and advice, including a strategic visioning and planning hui held with local group representatives from your area.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Three schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Franklin.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association with \$12,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across southern Auckland. In your area, 14 schools are participating in Enviroschools, including Alfriston College who continue their restoration planting and have started their Enviroschools journey. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).
- This past year, we supported 6 year 13 Māori and Pasifika students from South Auckland Enviroschools to engage in Sustainability Career Pathways (SCP). The SCP programme aims to remove barriers, giving students opportunities to explore what a career in sustainability might look like through the provision of high quality work experience opportunities, workshops and mentoring, as well as financial support to assist with course fees, travel, IT equipment and resources. Alfriston College was provided \$5000 to support one student to engage in Sustainability Career Pathways.



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 79 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements. Pest plant control was delivered across 13 of these local parks this year, including at Everglade Drive No 3 and Everglade Drive No 5 in your area.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are two active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, and one site where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants. In your area, mothplant beetle was released at Wiri Maunga / Mountain.

Enabling tools



We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.
-

2022/2023

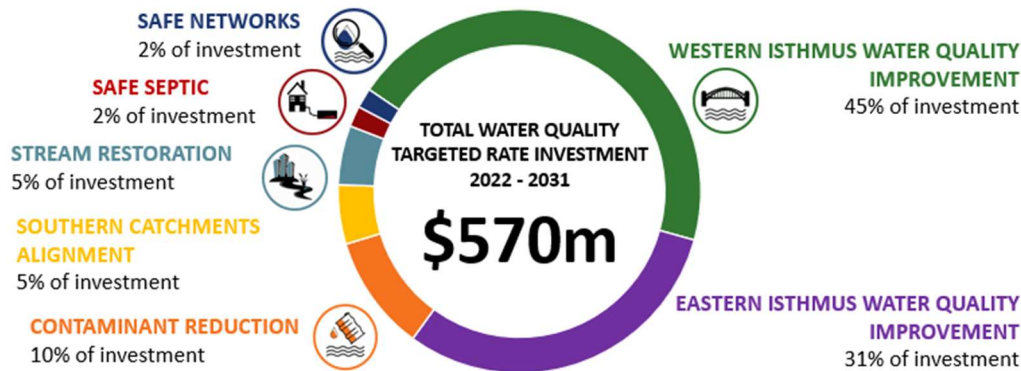


Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

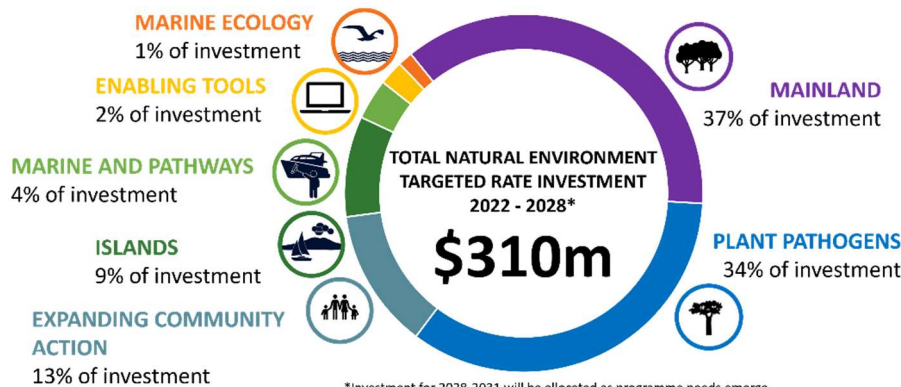
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Wai-o-Taiki Bay

- Wai-o-Taiki Bay – resolution of public drainage issues is currently underway. Post resolution sampling will take place when this work is completed to confirm the works were successful.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 1 pond in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Captain Springs Road, Onehunga renewal

- The Captain Springs Renewal project replaced a section of crushed stormwater pipe through the landfill, restoring capacity to the stormwater network that serves a sizeable upstream catchment and helping to prevent contaminated water from Pikes Point West closed landfill entering the Manukau harbour. Project construction began in February 2022 and was completed in October 2022.

Glen Innes Town Centre water quality improvements

- Five gross pollutant traps were installed across Glenn Innes town centre to improve water quality in Omaru Stream and Tāmaki Estuary. Physical works were completed in May 2023.

Pilkington Road stormwater upgrades

- The proposed project is to renew by upgrading the existing stormwater pipe within Pilkington Road between Stewart Avenue and Boundary Reserve and installation of a proprietary stormwater treatment devices.

Point England Reserve stormwater pond renewal

- This project seeks to renew the stormwater pond to restore water quality treatment functions and create a improved amenity wetland. This project is in detailed design and preparing to lodge resource consent.

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki

Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 379 site visits were undertaken with an 83 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists, such as the recent Glen Innes Town Centre - Water Quality Improvements project. In your area, the Onehunga Water Quality Improvement Plan and One Tree Hill Water Quality Improvement Plan are in early planning stages. As part of the urban contaminant reduction programme, multiple gross pollutant traps have already been successfully installed, including five in Glen Innes.



Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

- The eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme is in the planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme.



Southern catchments alignment

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

Manukau Harbour

- The Southern Catchments programme aims to reduce stormwater contaminants entering the Manukau Harbour. It works with large scale growth and roading infrastructure projects to identify contaminant reduction opportunities, and to fund those with the best water quality outcomes. This project is in the planning phase.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- We allocated \$4000 to Maungakiekie Songbird for pest control tools to complement local board funding. They also received \$490 worth of collateral printing.
- Society Totally Against Moth Plant received weed control gels worth \$805.
- The SPCA received \$5000 as part of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Responsible Pet Ownership Programme to offer free cat desexing and microchipping to cat owners living in your local board area.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Five schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Franklin and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the EnviroSchools kaupapa. This year EnviroSchools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association with \$12,000 to support EnviroSchools initiatives in early childhood education centres across southern Auckland. In your area, eight schools are participating in EnviroSchools including Bailey Road who restored their bush habitat as part of the One Billion Trees project. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [EnviroSchools website](#).
- This past year, we supported 6 year 13 Māori and Pasifika students from South Auckland EnviroSchools to engage in Sustainability Career Pathways (SCP). The SCP programme aims to remove barriers, giving students opportunities to explore what a career in sustainability might look like through the provision of high quality work experience opportunities, workshops and mentoring, as well as financial support to assist with course fees, travel, IT equipment and resources.

Tamaki College was provided \$10,000 to support two students to engage in Sustainability Career Pathways.



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2,579ha of weed control this year. These are very good results given the challenges of an unusually wet summer and autumn, and infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. In your area, we controlled pest plants and carried out monitoring of pest animal species on Mutukaroa / Hamlins Hill Regional Park.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there is one active site that was controlled for low incidence pest plants, three sites being monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and three sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and

tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area we conducted 7 pet store and 13 nursery visits.

Marine and pathways



We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected a total of 853 ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. They identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.

Enabling tools



We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the

public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

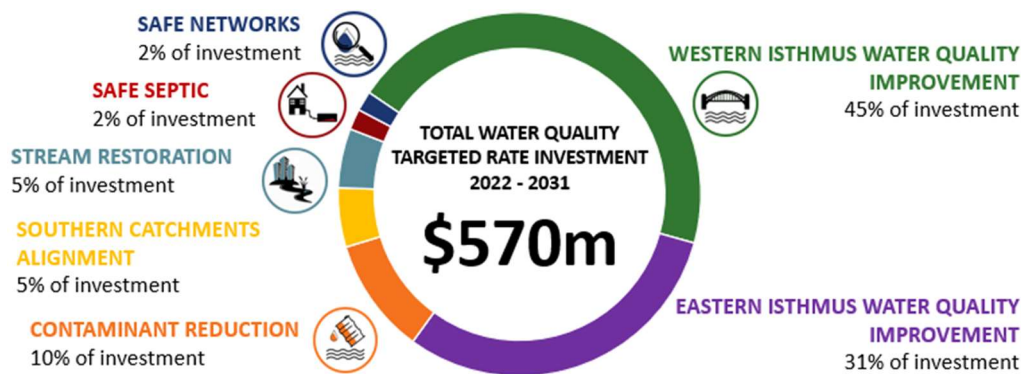


Ōrākei Local Board

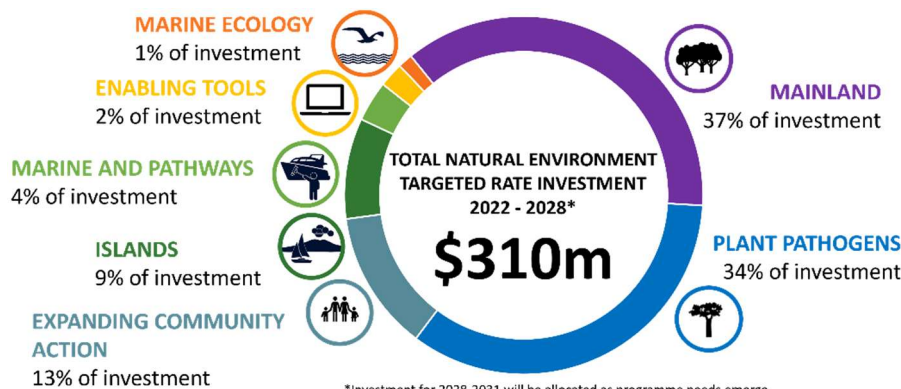
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Pourewa Creek, Mission Bay, St Heliers, Kohimarama, Judges Bay, Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Creek catchments

- Pourewa Creek – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Pourewa Creek is underway.
- St Heliers, Judges Bay, Mission Bay, Kohimarama – public and private drainage investigations are underway in St Heliers, Judges Bay, Mission Bay and Kohimarama. Post resolution sampling will take place in all catchments following resolution of any drainage issues identified.
- Hobson Bay and Ōrākei Creek – catchments water quality investigations are underway across five sub-catchments that discharge into Hobson Bay.
- Investigations across the stormwater network will continue alongside targeted public and private drainage inspections with a focus on improving dry weather water quality in the streams that discharge into Hobson Bay. Water quality sampling will be progressed in sub-catchments of Ōrākei Creek in the coming months.

Safe Septic



We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.

Urban and rural stream rehabilitation



We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The

programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 2 watercourses in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.

Howard Hunter Tributary erosion management

- This project seeks to resolve stream bank erosion and stabilise existing stream banks, improving water quality by reducing sediment loads. Preliminary design is underway.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Ōkahu Bay Outfall Diversion

- Physical works commenced in August 2023 on Ōkahu Bay Outfall Diversion and are expected to issue practical completion in December 2023. The project primarily seeks to resolve the health and safety issues reported by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei associated with a buried stormwater outfall in Ōkahu Bay. Following heavy rain, a hole of approximately 1m deep is often formed at the outlet in the inter-tidal zone in the central section of the beach. The project will improve public safety to beach users and improve network performance by renewing the existing outfall and relocating it to an area that will not create a risk to public safety.

Portland Road Remuera

- This project was designed to provide water quality treatment, minimise minor flooding events, and enhance ecological and amenity values of the area. Construction commenced in September 2021 and was completed in May 2023, with phase two planting completed in September 2023. An area has been left unplanted for Ngati Whatua to complete Harakeke planting in 2024.

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step

forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 333 site visits were undertaken with an 87 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.



Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme

- The eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme is in the planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme.

Lower Khyber Separation

- Formerly known as "University of Auckland Khyber Pass Road" project, new stormwater infrastructure is being planned to reduce flooding and allow for separation of the combined stormwater and wastewater system at the new University of Auckland site at Khyber Pass Road. An urgent stormwater pipe renewal around Kingdon street has been integrated into this project to reduce costs and inconvenience. Following discussions with Auckland Transport, a revised alignment has been programmed to minimise impact on traffic along Khyber Pass Road and Kingdon Street. The resource consent application was lodged in June 2023 and construction is forecast to begin in Autumn 2024.

Natural environment projects

Expanded support for community-led conservation



We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Eastern Bays Songbird Project was allocated \$23,040 for a project manager to amplify council environmental and Enviroschools work. Their project includes and connects several Significant Ecological Areas, creating an ecological corridor as well as being an important mainland connection to the pest free islands. We allocated a further \$10,000 to Eastern Bays Songbird Project for pest animal and weed control tools in addition to local board funding and they received \$500 worth of outreach and advocacy support.
- Recreation Solutions Limited - Pourewa Valley was allocated \$22,260 for a coordinator to support and grow community-led restoration in this important ecological corridor.
- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei received \$2000 for tools for Pourewa nursery.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of the Eastern Bays Songbird Project and Pourewa Valley Guardians.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. Events grow the local conservation community and their mahi, and respond to local needs. In your area, we supported the Eastern Bays Songbird Project to hold a local Festival event in May 2023. Venues included the Pourewa Hub, Ōrākei Community Centre, Kepa Bush Reserve and the Remuera Golf Club, attracting 140 attendees.

Engaging the private sector

- Partnership opportunities are leveraged with external agencies, businesses and philanthropic organisations to grow the funding and resources available for community conservation. The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 19 of the 36 golf courses

in the region having these plans. In your area, funding was provided to Remuera Golf Club and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei who are working in partnership to provide opportunities for rangatahi to play golf as well as to engage in conservation efforts at the club and nearby reserve.

- In partnership with Golf is Green, the Department of Conservation and the World Wildlife Fund, the council also provided a \$25,000 grant for several conservation and partnership initiatives with local communities to support restoration efforts on the golf courses.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with Trees for Survival, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Seven schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Ōrākei, Franklin and Rodney. Two sites in Ōrākei were planted.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 18 schools are participating in Enviroschools and we held a cluster with Pupuke Birdsong which attracted 30 attendees. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.

Threatened ecosystem management

- Targeted delivery is provided to manage pressures for high value sites where this are not covered by region-wide biosecurity programmes. In your area, mangrove removal was carried out under resource consent to protect the threatened shell barrier ecosystem at Tahuna Torea Reserve, Wai-o-Taiki Bay.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 79 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values present, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements. Pest plant control was delivered across 13 of these local parks this year, including Martyn Wilson Fields and Sonia Reserve in your area.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are four active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, four sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and eight sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted one pet store visit and two nursery visits.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Islands projects

Over the past year, we continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems.



Marine and pathways

We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals. In your area, our biosecurity champions were stationed at Okahu Bay 18 times.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Hobson Bay mooring.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.



Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- We conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag).



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

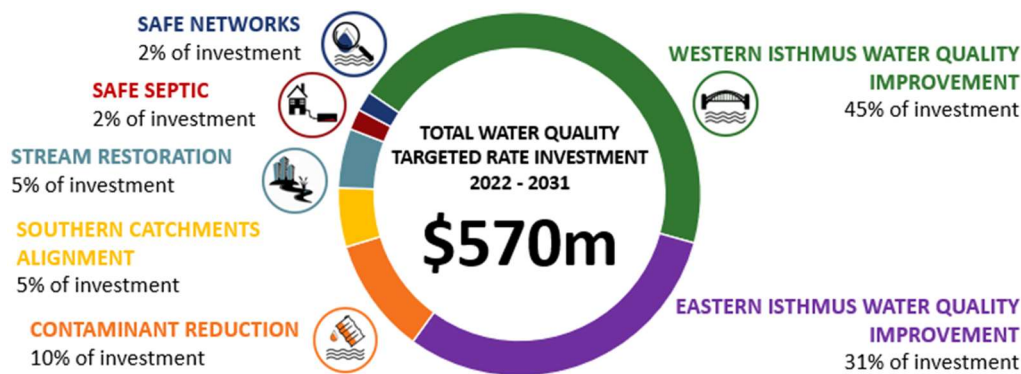


Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

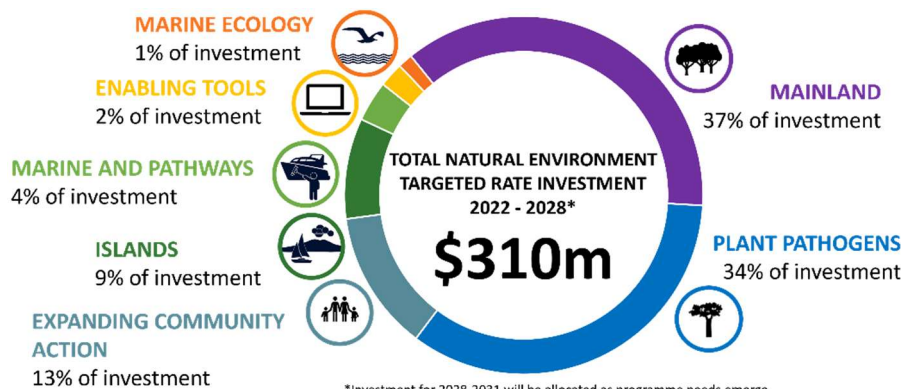
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 9 ponds in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.

Te Aka Raataa (Te Whakaoratanga i te Puhinui: Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora Stream Restoration)

- This project seeks to restore the awa and improve stormwater through the Rata Vine and Te Whatu Ora sites in collaboration with Eke Panuku, who are delivering a shared cycle and pedestrian path alongside the restored stream. A funding agreement is in place for Eke Panuku to lead the delivery of this project. Eke Panuku had a hui with the Manurewa Local Board on 25 May 2023 to provide an update on the concept design. A wananga with key stakeholders and partners (including the local board) was held on 26 June 2023 to present concept progress and gather feedback regarding specific elements of the design.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 456 site visits were undertaken with an 82 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. Currently, completion of stormwater improvement plans has been accomplished in Glen Innes town centre, Henderson-Massey, Warkworth, Avondale, Wairau, Oakley, and Puhinui stormwater catchment areas. In your area, the Puhinui Water Quality Improvement Plan was completed. The next steps are to develop business cases for each opportunity so they can be added to the capital delivery programme.

Southern catchments alignment



We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

Manukau Harbour

- The Southern Catchments programme aims to reduce stormwater contaminants entering the Manukau Harbour. It works with large scale growth and roading

infrastructure projects to identify contaminant reduction opportunities, and to fund those with the best water quality outcomes. This project is in the planning phase.

Natural environment projects

Expanded support for community-led conservation



We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was allocated \$15,000 for the Ōtara Stream restoration project which focuses on pest plant control, restoring remnant patches of indigenous vegetation, and reconnecting ecological linkages. Volunteers contributed 200 hours to the group for this project.
- Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust received \$3000 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was allocated \$38,500 to complement local board funding for the Pest Free South Auckland coordinator to support delivery of the annual moth plant pod competition across the Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards, and provide leadership and coordination for the delivery of Pest Free South Auckland. They received a further \$3000 for Moth plant competition prizes. Pest Free South Auckland received \$7000 worth of tools and resources dedicated to the schools moth plant competition. They also received \$5620 for pest animal and plant control tools, and educational materials.
- Papatoetoe West school received an eDNA stream testing kit worth \$265.
- The SPCA received \$5000 as part of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Responsible Pet Ownership Programme to offer free cat desexing and microchipping to cat owners living in your local board area. This will complement local board funding for this programme.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. A Local Conservation Coordinator network in south Auckland was supported with guidance and advice including a strategic visioning and planning hui held with local group representatives from your area.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- The Ngā Tohu Tiaki Taiao a te Koromatua / Mayoral Conservation Awards, held in September 2022, recognised Aucklanders' efforts to protect our native biodiversity across Tāmaki Makaurau. Over 110 people joined elected members at this event to celebrate the exceptional work happening in the community and recognise environmental champions. At this event, Ōtara based Jah Cameron was awarded the Penny Hulse Supreme Environmental Award and Schools/Youth winner for her initiative running 'Geek Camps' during the school holidays, in which local rangatahi from South Auckland participated in tree planting, pest control and water quality audits, while learning about natural science, ecosystems and the environment. More than 15,000 native trees have been planted in the past five years as a result of Jah's work.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Eight schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Albert-Eden and Franklin. Three sites in Ōtara-Papatoetoe were planted.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Through the Te Aho Tū Roa programme we engage and collaborate with Māori organisations to build Māori capacity and capability, particularly amongst youth, to deliver projects that meet Māori aspirations for enhancing the mauri of our taiao (life force of our natural environment). This past year we led, supported and nurtured 13 projects involving 1081 people, establishing key relationships with 14 other groups and organisations. Activities included kūmara workshops, mahinga kai, composting, and pest animal management and monitoring. In your area, we supported Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Piripono, Te Kura Whakahou ki Otara and Te Kohanga Reo ki Puhinui to engage tamariki in reducing waste and restoring Papatūānuku.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and provided Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association with \$12,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across southern Auckland. In your area, 20 schools are participating in Enviroschools and we provided Te Kohanga Reo Ki Puhinui with \$10,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).
- This past year, we supported 6 year 13 Māori and Pasifika students from South Auckland Enviroschools to engage in Sustainability Career Pathways (SCP). The SCP programme aims to remove barriers, giving students opportunities to explore what a career in sustainability might look like through the provision of high quality work experience opportunities, workshops and mentoring, as well as

financial support to assist with course fees, travel, IT equipment and resources. De La Salle College and Aorere College were both provided \$5000 and \$10,000 respectively for three students to engage in Sustainability Career Pathways.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are zero active sites, and one site being monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted one pet store visit and five nursery visits.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest

search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

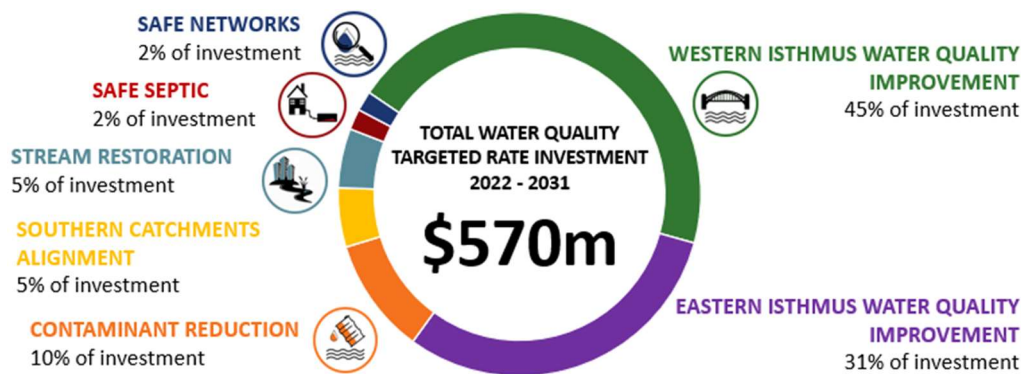


Papakura Local Board

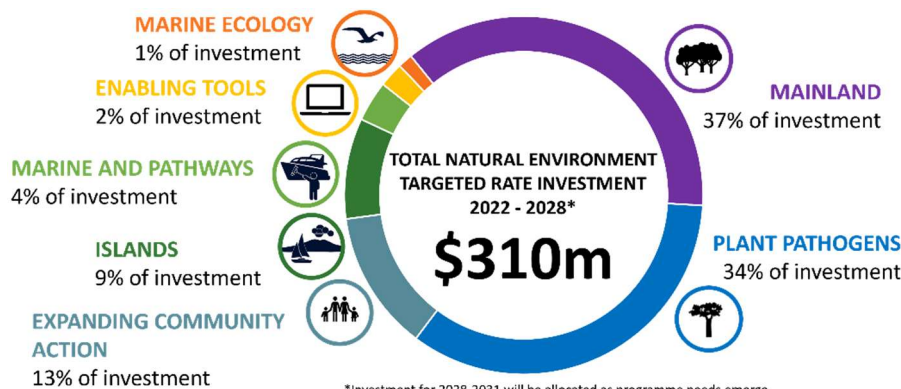
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 36 in your area. Of these inspections, 14 were found to require attention.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 29 ponds and over 100 watercourses in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.

Regional Waterways Protection Fund

- The Regional Waterway Protection Fund offers co-funding for waterway protection fencing and planting of private rural land. This benefits property owners across Franklin, Papakura, Aotea Great Barrier Island, and Rodney. Of 64 applications, 42 property owners have been awarded funding to a value of \$698,915.12, to be paid on completion of the projects. Landowners are given two years to complete the work. The FY22-23 round of funding will deliver 16.5km of fencing, protect 47.5ha of riparian areas, 34km of waterways and 12.6ha of wetlands, and plant approximately 160,000 plants in newly protected areas. Auditing of landowner projects has shown a very good level of project delivery. Keeping stock out of waterways by fencing instantly improves water quality, and planting riparian

margins and wetlands is transforming these areas. There have also been habitat restoration outcomes including for inanga spawning sites and work with local iwi on protection of cultural heritage sites.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 796 site visits were undertaken with a 94 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.

Wesley Memorial Park Wetland

- This project was identified through a catchment scale stormwater quality study in Te Auaunga Oakley catchment last year for the water quality improvement in Te Auaunga Awa. It seeks to improve the water quality in Te Auaunga Oakley Creek, support development by Kāinga Ora, mitigate the effects from the Ministry of Education new special school and other expansion of impervious surfaces, support provide flood attenuation, and provide amenity value in the park. A business case is being developed.



Southern catchments alignment

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

Manukau Harbour

- The Southern Catchments programme aims to reduce stormwater contaminants entering the Manukau Harbour. It works with large scale growth and roading infrastructure projects to identify contaminant reduction opportunities, and to fund those with the best water quality outcomes. This project is in the planning phase.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was allocated \$38,500 to complement local board funding for the Pest Free South Auckland coordinator to support delivery of the annual moth plant pod competition across the Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards, and provide leadership and coordination for the delivery of Pest Free South Auckland. They received a further \$3000 for Moth plant competition prizes. Pest Free South Auckland received \$7000 worth of tools and resources dedicated to the schools moth plant competition. They also received \$5620 for pest animal and plant control tools, and educational materials.
- Manukau Beautification Charitable Trust was allocated \$16,000 for a local Pest Free South Auckland activator. They will continue supporting the community with pest trapping as part of the Pest Free South Auckland initiative in the Manurewa and Papakura local boards.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea (NZ falcon) specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning.
- We supported a Local Conservation Coordinator network in south Auckland with guidance and advice, including a strategic visioning and planning hui held with local group representatives from your area.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Five schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Franklin.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and we provided Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association with \$12,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across southern Auckland. In your area, 14 schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there were no active sites that required control for low incidence pest plants, one site was monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and three sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders,

florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted two pet store visits and five nursery visits.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

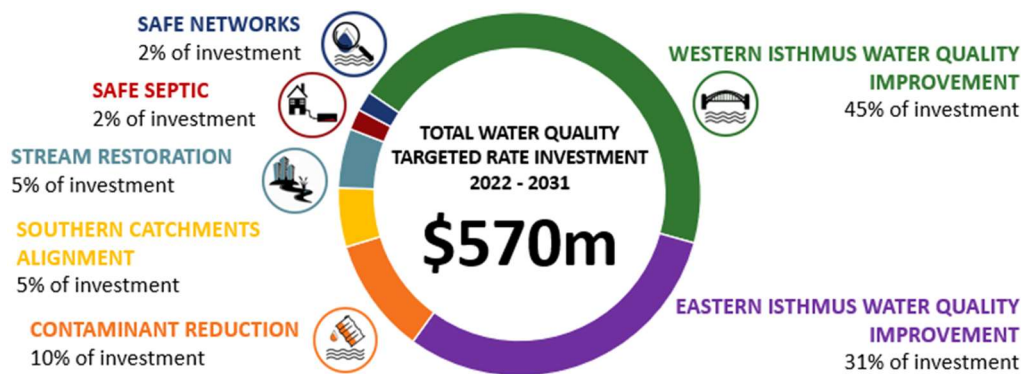


Puketāpapa Local Board

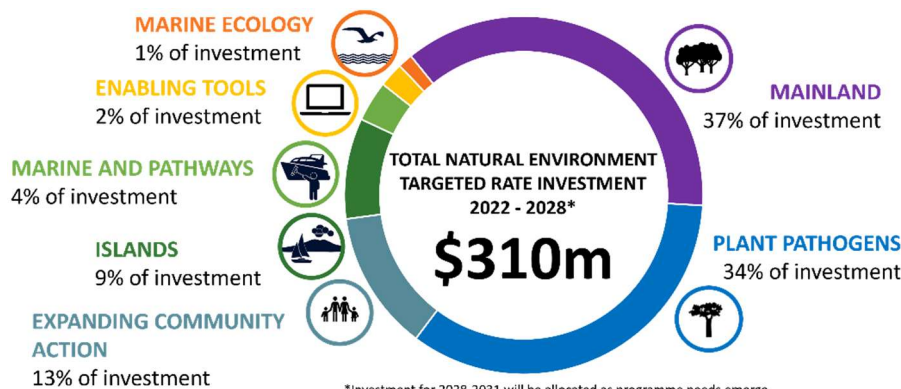
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Grannys Bay

- Water quality sampling is underway at stormwater outlets that discharge to the beaches at Grannys Bay has been completed. No contamination issues were identified, Safeswim will continue to sampling in the receiving environment to validate the Safeswim model.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 2 watercourses in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 204 site visits were undertaken with a 78 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. In your area, the Te Auaunga Water Quality Improvement Plan has been completed and Onehunga Water Quality Improvement Plan is in an early planning stage. The next steps are to develop business cases for each opportunity so they can be added to the capital delivery programme.

Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme



We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

- The eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme is in the planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Tuatara Aotearoa was allocated \$10,000 through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage grant to establish a Taiao School that will provide training for rangitahi and students on pest plant control, pest management and environmental restoration.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Three schools in your area grew and planted trees at sites across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and we provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, six schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 217 properties bordering Underwood and Walmsley Parks associated with Te Auaunga Oakley Creek, Hendry Reserve and all of the local parks from Belfast Reserve to Wairaki Stream Reserve. We completed work across a total of 30.8 ha and partially completed work across a further 2.5 ha. Climbing asparagus was the most abundant weed species controlled, followed by ginger and moth plant.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are four active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, six sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and six sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted three pet store visits and seven nursery visits.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.
-

2022/2023

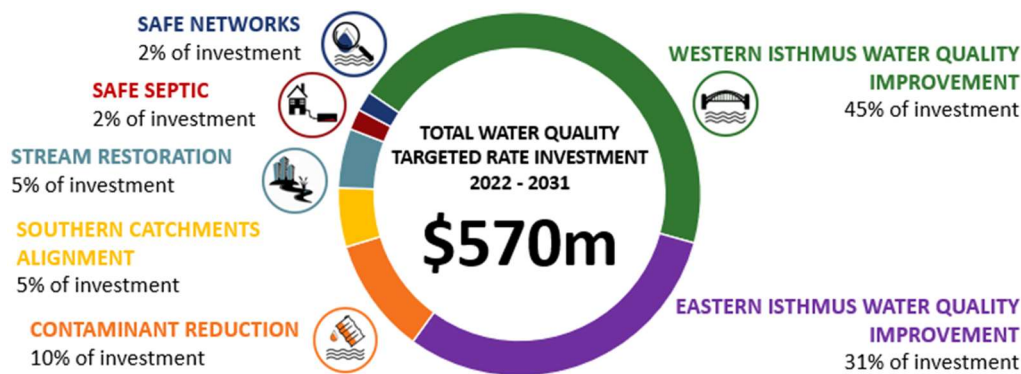


Rodney Local Board

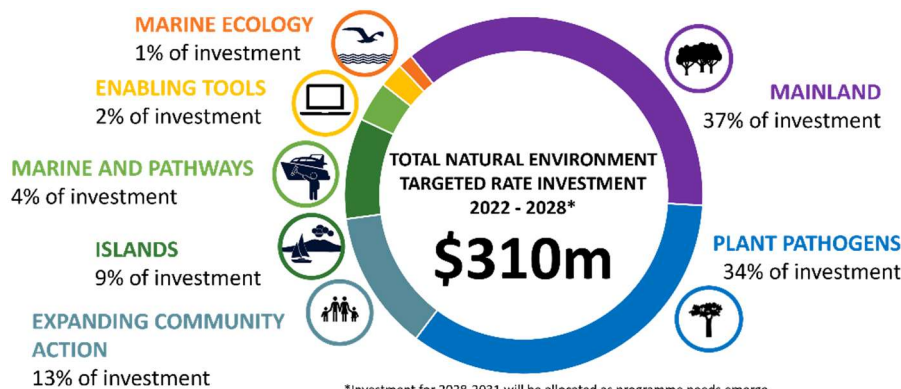
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Snells Beach, Matakana River and Glen Eden Stream

- Snells Beach – public and private drainage investigations have been completed. Post resolution sampling at the stormwater outlets discharging to Snells Beach is underway to confirm the works were successful.
- Matakana River and Glen Eden Stream – water quality sampling is taking place from Matakana River and Glen Eden stream to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. The investigation is progressing across this large catchment to determine if there is need to focus on particular areas in future more targeted investigations.

Safe Septic



We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 469 in your area. Of these inspections, 25 were found to require attention and 1 to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.

Urban and rural stream rehabilitation



We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 3 disposal fields and 8 ponds in your area.

Fish Passage improvement at Te Arai Point Road

- This is a jointly Waka Kotahi, Auckland Transport and Auckland Council funded project to replace the Te Arai Point Road culvert (Coulters No.2 culvert) with a large capacity box culvert with a countersunk floor. This will simulate upstream flow and stream channel conditions and prevent future scour. The current culvert prevents several diadromous fish species (migrate between fresh and saltwater) from reaching Lakes Spectacle and Slipper, of Te Ārai Dune lakes (Tomarata). New Zealand's rarest endemic bird, the tara-iti (fairy tern), forage for fish in the Te Ārai Dune lakes. With only 36 individuals remaining, reinstating this foraging resource for tara-iti is critical.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.

Regional Waterways Protection Fund

- The Regional Waterway Protection Fund offers co-funding for waterway protection fencing and planting of private rural land. This benefits property owners across Franklin, Papakura, Aotea Great Barrier Island, and Rodney. Of 64 applications, 42 property owners have been awarded funding to a value of \$698,915.12, to be paid on completion of the projects. \$106,613.61 was awarded in Rodney Local Board area to 11 landowners. Landowners are given two years to complete the work. The FY22-23 round of funding will deliver 16.5km of fencing, protect 47.5ha of riparian areas, 34km of waterways and 12.6ha of wetlands, and plant approximately 160,000 plants in newly protected areas. Auditing of landowner projects has shown a very good level of project delivery. Keeping stock out of waterways by fencing instantly improves water quality, and planting riparian margins and wetlands is transforming these areas. There have also been habitat restoration outcomes including for inanga spawning sites and work with local iwi on protection of cultural heritage sites.

Te Muri Regional Park stream enhancement

- This project aims to improve stream management by reducing the risk of stream bank collapse through severe bank erosion. The project will also improve water quality, habitat and biodiversity on a stretch of Te Muri Stream in Te Muri Regional Park. 60 per cent of the funding for this project is being contributed by the Mahurangi East Land Restoration programme, a co-governance programme between Auckland Council and Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Alnwick Stormwater Pond Renewal

- The Pond Renewal programme cleans, desilts and renews stormwater ponds around the region. The project for this pond is currently in the preliminary design phase with mana whenua and land owner engagement ongoing.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters

educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Hōteao water quality project

- The project has been working towards developing a cultural monitoring framework with our mana whenua partners and funding restoration activities on the awa. We have finalised the streambank erosion mitigation designs using geomorphically effective management solutions, an approach developed by Auckland Council that works with river processes to address sedimentation issues from rivers into Kaipara Harbour. Due to the storms in the last financial year, construction has been delayed until the 2023/2024 financial year. There are three sites across a 12km stretch where we will be trying novel methods to reduce streambank erosion. The designs are done in partnership with Mana Whenua, and cultural monitoring across the wider catchment is being developed. We have given our iwi partners a 10 year commitment of funding to monitor their awa and rohe as an evolution from this project.

Kaipara Moana Remediation programme

- The Kaipara Moana Remediation programme is a large restoration programme that operates using new models of co-governance, planning and collaboration. In the 2022/2023 financial year, Kaipara Moana Remediation had over 100 landowners commit to new plans or additional grant funded work, including additional 97km of fencing and 436,000 plants for planting. This brings the total over the life of the programme to over 425 landowners who have committed to or have plans currently being developed. Many of whom have returned and committed to second or third-year projects. Kaipara Moana Remediation also hosted several planting days with local schools and community groups around the catchment, highlighting the important mahi that is happening this winter planting season.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tāmaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 1137 site visits were undertaken with an 80 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Tāmata Hills restoration project

- Tāmata Hills planting project finished in June 2023, with 620,000 native plants going into the ground, with the outcome of reducing erosion and sediment going

into the Kaipara Moana. Unfortunately with the severe flooding, the project was impacted and a large number of slips occurred. We have been able to plant these slips with specific types of plant that will help reinforce the land and reduce further damage. However it accepted that this work won't prevent all of the slips continuing if flooding was to reoccur.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. In your area, we are in the design phase of investigations to install devices into Warkworth's highest contaminant generating land use types.

Warkworth retrofit gross pollutant traps

- This project has resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme. A business case is being developed to fund the installation of multiple gross pollutant traps in high-risk contaminant yielding catchments that are discharging into the Mahurangi River.

Natural environment projects

Expanded support for community-led conservation



We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Rodney Pest West was allocated \$35,000 for a coordinator to roll out the recently developed online connectivity tool to schools, iwi/hapū and community. They will continue to support, establish and maintain community action that facilitates habitat connectivity, increases native biodiversity, and removes pests from the environment.
- Takatu LandCare was allocated \$33,592 for a community coordinator to audit existing traps lines on the Takatu Peninsula, to identify gaps, optimise pest control reporting and receive feedback from trap operators. This area is an important buffer for Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary and the threatened species within it. They also received traps, weed control tools and safety vests worth a total of \$2895.
- Pest Free Leigh was allocated \$30,000 for a coordinator to provide support to the volunteer base of street coordinators, individual trappers, trapline monitors and rural landowners, to provide a safe landing spot and corridor for native species to the mainland. They were also allocated \$17,500 for the rural expansion of their predator control programme. This funding will go towards traps, consumables and monitoring equipment. Additionally, they received \$440 worth of promotional flags.
- Pest Free Coatesville was allocated \$24,390 for a coordinator to continue building on successful volunteer growth and community trapping efforts, to complement local board funding for the coordinator. They were also allocated \$20,000 for traps and bait to protect the Nort West Wildlink, a conservation corridor for wildlife. Volunteers contributed 2306 hours to the group's activities.
- The Muriwai Environment Action Community Trust was allocated \$27,500 for the Goldies Halo pest animal control project. This funding will go towards traps and trapping materials. They were also allocated \$14,208 for a coordinator to maintain the coordination of the Muriwai trap lines, protect penguin nesting bays, and lead the group's Goldie's Bush halo project. This is a fast growing and strategically important project across the Muriwai landscape with trapping work important for protecting priority regional biodiversity sites. They also received planting and weed control tools worth \$2000 and \$1790 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- Restore Rodney East, also funded by the Rodney Local Board, was allocated \$17,700 for ecological gap analysis of the Mahurangi Peninsula to be undertaken, a key strategic piece of work supporting over 40 groups to become more tactical in their approach to landscape scale restoration. They also received pest monitoring tools worth \$1480 and \$160 worth of biodiversity outreach and advocacy support.
- Mahurangi West Pest was allocated \$13,500 for a community coordinator to support volunteer efforts to achieve the group's pest control and biodiversity goals. They also received \$3710 worth of bait and bait stations for pest control and \$390 worth of promotional flags. Volunteers contributed 90 hours to the group's activities.

- Pest Free Warkworth was allocated \$10,000 for a part time coordinator to support their expanding urban trapping programme and a further \$3500 for bait stations and bait for their pest control programme. Volunteers contributed 3600 hours to the group's activities.
- The Shorebirds Trust was allocated \$12,500 for trapping along the stream and foreshore at Te Arai Beach to protect the native habitat of threatened and endangered native species whilst allowing Te Uri o Hau to exercise kaitiakitanga within their rohe.
- The Forest Bridge Trust was allocated \$8919 for rat control in the Tāwharanui Open sanctuary buffer zone. This will bring a more targeted approach to specific pest species which otherwise will inhibit the establishment of species beyond Tāwharanui.
- CUE Haven Community Trust was allocated \$5000 for native forest restoration and pest control. Volunteers contributed 1886 hours to the group's activities.
- Motuora Restoration was allocated \$12,500 for transportation costs and pest plant control work to restore the flora and fauna of Motuora Island. Volunteers contributed 1260 hours to the group's activities.
- ReWild the West received traps and bait supplies worth \$18,505.
- Muriwai Weed amnesty received green waste bins worth \$3130.
- Muriwai Nursery received materials for site repairs worth \$1585.
- Wright Road Pest Free received \$1040 for signage.
- Snells Shoreline Conservation Community received traps worth \$620.
- Puhoi Landcare received traps worth \$420.
- A range of community groups across Rodney, Hibiscus and Bays, and Upper Harbour were provided with additional pest control tools worth a total of \$13,175. A further \$6130 of replacement tools were provided following the early 2023 floods.
- We also provided \$1230 worth of traps directly to landowners in your area.
- Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara received traps and pest control tools. worth \$4000.
- Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara received pest control tools worth \$1030.
- Te Aroha marae (Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara) received planting and weed control tools worth \$3500.
- Mahurangi College, Leigh School and Matakana High School received plants for school planting days, lizard shelters, and eDNA stream testing kits worth over \$1300.
- Helping Paws was allocated \$5000 for the little blue penguin rehabilitation facility. Volunteers contributed 1092 hours to the group's activities.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea (NZ falcon) specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Protecting priority biodiversity sites on private land

- We complement work undertaken on public land by engaging with private landowners, providing them with advice and funding to take action to protect and enhance important areas of native biodiversity on their land. We awarded grants to nine landowner-led projects across the region, enabling a range of conservation activities including stock-exclusion fencing, pest plant and/or pest animal control, and planting of native plants. In your area three grants totalling \$74,843 were

provided to support landowner-led conservation including contribution towards stock exclusion fencing to protect endangered and critically endangered forest and wetland ecosystems along the Hotoe River and at the Omaha Estuary.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided governance and leadership mentoring to Muriwai Environmental Action Community Trust, Pest Free Kumeū Huapai and Pest Free Coatesville. We also provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of Restore Rodney East, Rodney West and Pest Free Coatesville.
- We supported a Local Conservation Coordinator network with guidance and advice including a strategic visioning and planning hui held with local group representatives for Rewild the West.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. Events grow the local conservation community and their mahi, and respond to local needs. In your area, we supported South Kaipara to run a 'trap reboot' Festival event on 29 March at the South Head Golf Club, attracting 100 attendees. We also supported Restore Rodney East to run a 'Connect & Inspire' Rodney Festival event and field trip in late April and early May, with the first two days at the Warkworth Town Hall and the final day field trip to Tāwharanui Regional Park. This event attracted 140 attendees across the three days.

Engaging the private sector

- Partnership opportunities are leveraged with external agencies, businesses and philanthropic organisations to grow the funding and resources available for community conservation. The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 19 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans. In your area, we provided funding to the Huapai Golf Club to implement its ecological enhancement plan. They will connect with Pest Free Coatesville and engage the local community to support pest and weed control and restoration efforts at the golf club and to extend these into nearby neighbourhoods.
- In partnership with Golf is Green, the Department of Conservation and the World Wildlife Fund, the council also provided a \$25,000 grant for several conservation and partnership initiatives with local communities to support restoration efforts on the golf courses.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with Trees for Survival, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement.

106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Seventeen schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Rodney. Thirty-seven sites in Rodney were planted by schools from Rodney and other areas.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and we provided the Northern Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$12,000, to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across north Auckland. In your area, 16 schools are participating in Enviroschools and Mahurangi Kindergarten celebrated their ongoing commitment to the Enviroschools Kaupapa. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network. In your area, we completed the Te Muri Laneway track upgrade in Te Muri Regional Park which has now been reopened to the public. In your local parks, track upgrades were completed and tracks re-opened to the public in Sesquicentennial Walkway and Kowhai Park. Physical works were completed in Matheson Bay Reserve in May 2023, and work commenced in Parry Kauri Park in March 2023.
- Staff have been working with Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara to support their aims for Atuanui in terms of kauri-ora and conservation in the ngahere. An integrated site plan has been developed and co-funding secured from Ministry for Primary Industries for ungulate control and fencing. We expect work to commence next year.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha

of pest plant control this year. These are very good results given the challenges of an unusually wet summer and autumn, and infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

- In your area we delivered the follow pest plant and/or animal control:
 - **Pakiri Regional Park:** mustelids, rabbits, pest plants
 - **Atiu Creek Regional Park:** mustelids, rabbits, pigs, pest plants
 - **Te Arai Regional Park:** mustelids, rabbits, pigs, pest plants
 - **Te Muri Regional Park:** mustelids, rats, pest plants
 - **Wenderholm Regional Park:** rats, pest plants
 - **Mahurangi East Regional Park:** mustelids, pest plants
 - **Mahurangi West Regional Park:** pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land)
 - **Tāwharanui Regional Park:** mustelids, rats, rabbits, cats, pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land), low incidence pest plants
 - **Scandrett Regional Park:** pest plants
 - **Scotts Landing:** pest plants
 - **Te Rau Puriri Regional Park:** mustelids, rats, pigs, pest plants
 - **Muriwai Regional Park:** rabbits.

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 20 properties bordering Tawharanui, and Mahurangi West Regional Parks, completing work across a total of 41.9 ha and partially completing work across a further 95.6 ha. Climbing asparagus was the most abundant weed species controlled, followed by woolly nightshade.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are 18 active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, a further 14 sites monitored to assess whether previous control has achieved eradication, and 42 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Ground based possum control

- We control possums across many high priority ecosystems. During the last year, we carried out ground-based possum control across 23,000 hectares of rural land.

In your area, possum control was completed in Dome Valley (5900ha) and Tokatū Peninsula (3200ha). Tapura Landcare were also funded to control possums, mustelids and feral cats across the Okahukura Peninsula.

Feral deer and goat control

- We implemented large scale aerial survey works for feral deer and goats this year as an efficient and effective tool to detect these pest animals at a landscape level. This has yielded extensive data on the population distribution and density of these species, providing insights far beyond what traditional ground surveillance methods could achieve in both time and costs per hectare.
- In your area, we surveyed the northern Rodney area bordering the Northland region using aerial thermal imaging to detect any deer that may pose a risk to maintaining the feral deer-free status of Northland. This included Tapura Peninsula and Mangawhai Forest. The majority of this area is feral deer free, however a small population of animals were detected near Tapura and we engaged the Department of Conservation to remove these.
- We carried out additional feral goat surveillance between Waimauku and Silverdale and across the middle of South Head.

Regional wallaby exclusion

- Incursion response systems continue to be maintained to ensure any wallabies that are reported are prevented from establishing in the region, with proactive surveillance of 'high risk areas' to be developed in the coming financial year. The main wallaby threats are from natural spread or deliberate, human-mediated movement from Kawau Island or neighbouring regions where wild wallaby populations exist. In your area, two reports of wallabies were responded to in the last year in Woodhill Forest and Goodall Reserve, Snells Beach. Trail cameras and detection dogs were deployed, but these investigations concluded that wallaby presence at each of the locations was unlikely.

Freshwater pest control

- Auckland Council, with assistance from University of Waikato, have been removing pest fish (rudd and tench) from Lake Tomarata. Ngāti Manuhiri support the pest fish removal and have given cultural inductions to all staff working on this project. Gill nets were deployed every 50m across the lake over two weeks in August 2022 and one week in April 2023. The total catch comprised of 198 tench and 904 rudd. Statistical modelling shows that netting is starting to have a significant impact on the pest fish numbers and population dynamics. The fishing team were back at the lake in August 2023 to remove more pest fish before they were able to spawn in spring. Monitoring will be conducted over summer to see if the fish removals are helping the recovery of native aquatic plant and kākahi (native freshwater mussel) communities.
- At Lake Rototoa, an artificial spawning habitat trial is also underway for perch, a introduced pest fish species present. Perch are very hard to control in this deep lake where netting is not effective. The project team are trialling the use of kanuka branches as artificial spawning habitat to see if perch lay their eggs on these and the eggs can then be removed from the lake to reduce the population. A 70m long barrier has been placed across one arm of the lake where multiple rigs of artificial substrate have been placed. These rigs will be checked for eggs on a weekly basis over the spawning season to assess the effectiveness of the measure.
- We controlled hornwort, a rapidly spreading freshwater pest plant that smothers and outcompetes native plant communities, in Lake Rototoa with post-control monitoring showing excellent results.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted one pet store visit and 26 nursery visits.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Kawau Multi Species Predator Eradication

- An assessment was carried out on the technical feasibility and social acceptance of removing mammalian pests from Kawau Island. The proposed eradication project would work with iwi and the community to find solutions to the challenge of removing mammalian pests from a residential island and keeping them off.

Pest Ant Eradication

- After 10 years of control and monitoring, this was the first year we didn't detect Argentine ants within the 23ha infestation site at Vivian Bay on Kawau Island. A small population south of this area is now being targeted for eradication.

Other islands projects

- Over the past year, we continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. This included:
 - Pest plant, rabbit, rat, unowned cat and Argentine ant control on Aotea / Great Barrier Island.
 - Pest plant control on sites across Waiheke, Rakino, The Noises, Crusoe and Motukaha Islands.
 - Rabbit control on Waiheke Island, along with stoat eradication and rat eradication trials continuing to be delivered with local partners.
 - Public engagement on both Aotea / Great Barrier and Waiheke Islands to improve responsible cat ownership.

Marine and pathways



We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests. We identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals. In your area, our biosecurity champions were stationed at the Sandspit boat ramp.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity

requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Leigh Harbour, Whangateau Harbour and Mahurangi Harbour moorings.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.



Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- We conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag). As a result of this survey, two colonies of kawau tūi (little black shag) were recorded at Spectacle Lake and Lake Kawaupaku. These are the first colonies of this species ever recorded in the region.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex

areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land. Environmental Services drone pilots also supported Auckland Emergency Management and other storm recovery teams to collect digital surface information for large areas of Muriwai, which enabled the response teams and community to take informed action quickly.

2022/2023

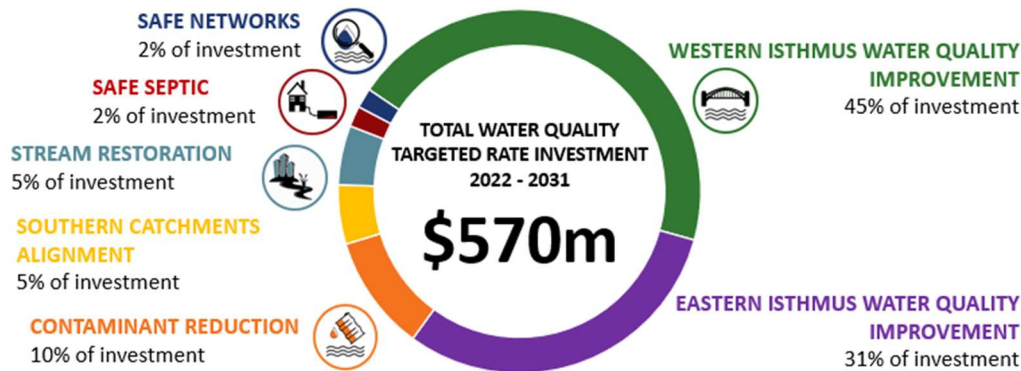


Upper Harbour Local Board

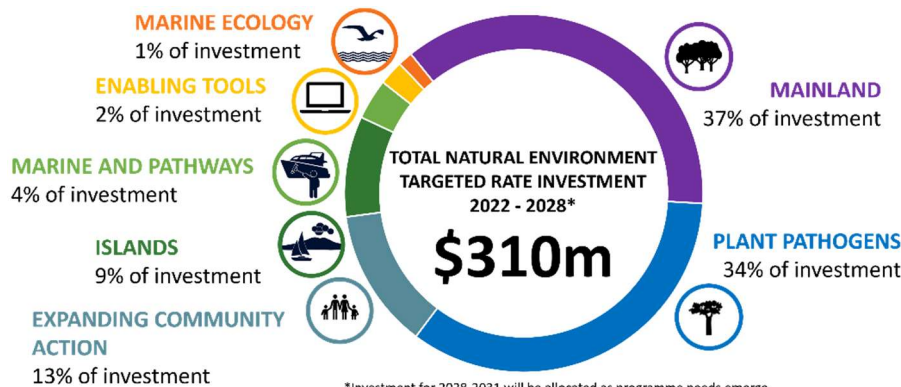
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Whenuapai

- Whenuapai – Safe Septic compliance inspections of onsite wastewater systems have been completed in the sub-catchment of Waimarie Beach. Post resolution of any identified compliance works is complete, post resolution sampling will take place. A review will be completed to decide if further investigation is required.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 469 in your area. Of these inspections, 25 were found to require attention and 1 to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.

Urban and rural stream rehabilitation



We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding

applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Hugh Green 95 Pond Renewal

- This pond provides a combined water quality and peak flow capacity for the surrounding residential area. The investigation and potential design options for the renewal of the existing pond has commenced, with consideration to the construction timing of a nearby closed landfill project to upgrade the Rosedale Closed Landfill Pond. The Rosedale Closed Landfill Pond was built to attenuate peak flow running-off the landfill only and currently has steep banks and a deep pool which poses a health and safety risk as well as maintenance issues. There is an opportunity to work collaboratively with the Closed Landfills team to desilt/renew the Hugh Green 95 pond and improve the Rosedale Closed Landfill Pond simultaneously, which will provide multiple benefits such as cost savings, optimising functionality between the two interconnected pond systems, and improved water quality outcomes from both the upstream urban catchment and the landfill site.

Rosedale East Pond upgrade

- This project aims to fully restore treatment and attenuation functionality while increasing the life of the pond and associated assets. It will also install improved access for pond maintenance. It is in preliminary design with the aim to start construction by October 2025.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tamaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 650 site visits

were undertaken with an 86 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- The Upper Waitematā Ecology Network was allocated \$40,040 for a work plan manager and network manager to continue support for the network's conservation work. This includes working with and supporting mana whenua interests in the area, becoming an organisation with charitable status, and continuing their landscape-scale approach to restoration practice. They also received \$700 worth of outreach and advocacy materials.
- Kaipātiki Project was allocated \$25,000 for pekapeka-tou-roa (long-tailed bat) radio tracking in the north-west Waitematā harbour. The project will support gathering accurate information on roosting sites for ongoing, community-led animal pest control and habitat restoration. Volunteers contributed 2000 hours to the group's activities.
- A range of community groups across Rodney, Hisbiscus and Bays, and Upper Harbour were provided with additional pest control tools worth a total of \$13,175. A further \$6130 of replacement tools were provided following the early 2023 floods.
- Albany Senior High received \$610 worth of pest control traps, tracking tunnels and monitoring cards, and Westminster school received an eDNA stream testing kit worth \$265.
- Helping Paws was allocated \$5000 for the little blue penguin rehabilitation facility. Volunteers contributed 1092 hours to the group's activities.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spans multiple local boards and works towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea (NZ falcon) specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided governance and leadership mentoring and individual leadership and mentoring support to the Upper Waitematā Ecology Network to help lift the quality and effectiveness of community conservation management and build capacity.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Engaging the private sector

- Partnership opportunities are leveraged with external agencies, businesses and philanthropic organisations to grow the funding and resources available for community conservation. The council has partnered with golf clubs across the

region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 19 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans. In your area, an ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the North Shore Golf Club.

- In partnership with Golf is Green, the Department of Conservation and the World Wildlife Fund, the council also provided a \$25,000 grant for several conservation and partnership initiatives with local communities to support restoration efforts on the golf courses.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Five schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Upper Harbour and Rodney. Four sites in Upper Harbour were planted.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- Through the Te Aho Tū Roa programme we engage and collaborate with Māori organisations to build Māori capacity and capability, particularly amongst youth, to deliver projects that meet Māori aspirations for enhancing the mauri of our taiao (life force of our natural environment). This past year we led, supported and nurtured 13 projects involving 1081 people, establishing key relationships with 14 other groups and organisations. Activities included kūmara workshops, mahinga kai, composting, and pest animal management and monitoring. In your area, we supported Te Kohanga Reo o Nga Whare Maha and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Raki Paewhenua to work together to create a circular economy in waste, develop māra kai (food gardens) and revive the practice of tiro tiro taiao (investigation of the natural world) within our hāpori Māori to help tamariki understand and connect with the oro oro (energies) of the natural world.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and we provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 13 schools are participating in Enviroschools and Kristin School held a planting day at Rosedale Park. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network. In your area, track upgrades in Paremoremo Scenic Reserve had to be paused due to storm damage and loss of bridge access, while physical works were completed in Gills Reserve, hygiene stations were installed, and the track reopened to public.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are five active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, one site monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and 11 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted six pet store visits and 44 nursery visits.



Marine and pathways

We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals. In your area, our biosecurity champions were stationed at Hobsonville Marina.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Hobsonville Marina and Greenhithe mooring.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

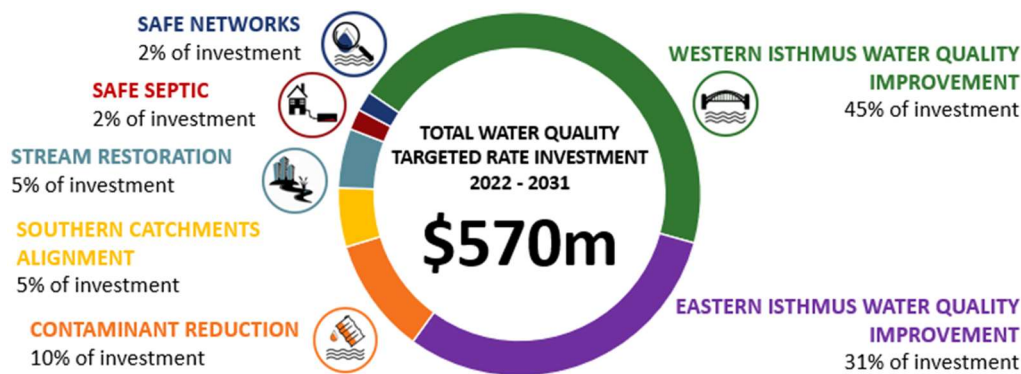


Waiheke Local Board

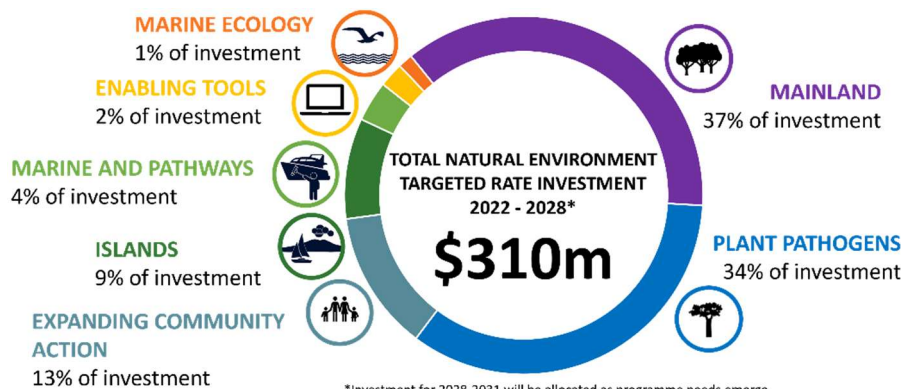
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Surfdale Beach, Matiatia Bay and Onetangi Stream

- Surfdale Beach – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Mitchells Stream, Surfdale is underway due to concerns raised by the community about the water quality of impounded water.
- Matiatia Bay and Onetangi Stream – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge to Matiatia Bay and Onetangi Stream is underway.

Safe Septic



We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 2543 in your area. Of these inspections, 62 were found to require attention.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.

Urban and rural stream rehabilitation



We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding

applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 2 projects in your area.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tamaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 29 site visits were undertaken with a 100 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Wilma Road - Waiheke Island

- This project is to reduce runoff that is impacting the local community and currently flows to wastewater disposal fields. The resource consent application has been lodged and construction is forecast to commence in November 2023.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- The Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust was allocated \$35,000 for weed control work and materials for the Te Matuku and Awaawaroa bays forest restoration project. Volunteers contributed 500 hours to this project. They were also allocated \$12,500 for the mana whenua- and community-led Waiheke Marine Project. It will be used to upskill the group in diving practices to enable data collection and monitoring that will inform evidence-based decisions around marine care actions. Volunteers contributed 1200 hours to this project.
- The Motutapu Restoration Trust was allocated \$25,000 for weed control contractors to undertake control in restored forest areas planted by volunteers over the last 28 years. Volunteers contributed 9405 hours to this project.
- Awaawaroa Bay Limited was allocated \$6000 for a weed eradication worker as part of their long term restoration plan for the bay and nearby wetland. Volunteers contributed 1660 hours to this project.
- The Waiheke Resources Trust received \$3000 towards advertising and collateral for events.
- Forest and Bird was allocated \$900 for weed control in Onetangi reserve to support the protection and restoration of the site. This is part of the Waiheke Ngahere Taonga project. Volunteers contributed 1360 hours to this project.
- We provided \$20,000 for pest control tools to local conservation groups including Rat Busters, Forest and Bird, and Predator Free Waiheke.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, group coordinators from the Motutapu Restoration Trust were supported to attend a leadership conference to grow their leadership skills.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- Local Festival events provide an opportunity to network, collaborate, share knowledge, tackle local challenges and celebrate the great conservation work going on in our communities. Events grow the local conservation community and their mahi, and respond to local needs. In your area, we supported the Waiheke Collective to run a Waiheke 'Festival Day' on 2 April 2023 at the Waiheke Sustainability Centre, Oneroa, attracting 250 attendees.

Engaging the private sector

- Partnership opportunities are leveraged with external agencies, businesses and philanthropic organisations to grow the funding and resources available for

community conservation. The council has partnered with golf clubs across the region to develop ecological enhancement plans which provide a road map for looking after their land. Ecological enhancement plans were developed for five golf courses across the region this year, bringing the total to 19 of the 36 golf courses in the region having these plans. In your area, an ecological enhancement plan has been developed for the Waiheke Golf Club.

- In partnership with Golf is Green, the Department of Conservation and the World Wildlife Fund, the council also provided a \$25,000 grant for several conservation and partnership initiatives with local communities to support restoration efforts on the golf courses.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades. In your area, four schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Local parks ecological restoration

- NETR funds the expansion of ecological restoration on local parks to restore and enhance native biodiversity. Sites are prioritised for management based on the native ecosystem and species values present. 79 parks across the region have been identified for this additional pest plant and/or animal control due to the biodiversity values, with surveys of each site being conducted to inform management requirements. Pest plant control was delivered across 13 of these local parks this year, including Onetangi Sports Park in your area.

Regional parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2579ha

of weed control this year. These are very good results given the challenges of an unusually wet summer and autumn, and infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

- Pest control we delivered in your area:
 - **Whakanewha Regional Park:** mustelids, rabbits, rats and pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land)
 - **Motukōrea / Browns Island:** pest plants.

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 10 properties bordering Whakanewha Regional Park and Te Matuku Esplanade Reserve, completing work across a total of 69.8ha. Climbing asparagus was the most abundant weed species controlled, followed by woolly nightshade and moth plant.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, nine sites are active (including one at Home Bay on Motutapu) that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, five sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and one site where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants. In your area, Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly was released at Oneroa.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted four nursery visits.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Predator Free Waiheke

- 1650 traps continue to be managed across Waiheke in partnership with Te Korowai o Waiheke charitable trust and partners. Over the course of the programme, over 9200 pests have been eliminated, 180 of these being stoats, with the remainder being hedgehogs and rats. Eradication is progressing well with genetic analysis indicating that only two to four breeding female stoats remain on the island. On-island conservation dog and handler capacity to detect stoats is in development.
- Rat operational trials were undertaken in Ostend and Kennedy Point in 2022 and at Oneroa this year. The community has been extremely supportive with over 95 per cent of residents signing up to host traps or bait stations. An annual community survey showed that over 96 per cent of respondents support stoat and rat eradication on the island.
- We provide partial funding for a Waiheke Collective Coordinator and the operational costs of delivering Te Korowai o Waiheke Project to enable this work.

Waiheke Pig Eradication

- While surveillance and communication with landowners and residents has suggested success in feral pig eradication on Waiheke, a recent report of a pig damaging vineyards initiated a pest incursion response. As a result, we removed one feral pig. Further reports are being investigated. We will continue to follow up to prevent feral pigs from damaging Waiheke's natural environment and agricultural production.

Rabbit Control

- We continued to control rabbits on Waiheke and found populations had significantly declined this year as a result of ongoing control. Ecosystems such as dunelands and vulnerable plant populations will benefit from this regular and ongoing control.

Moth plant compliance

- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) requires land occupiers on Waiheke and Rakino to destroy all moth plant on their land. To support compliance with this rule, we conduct property inspections to assess levels of infestation. We visited 156 of 166 priority properties identified to have moth plant present over the past year, with control being completed for 76 and a further 79 partially completed. We provided an additional 435 properties on Waiheke and Rakino Islands with information and advice of their obligations to control the highly invasive plant at their cost.

Site led pest plants on the Inner Hauraki Gulf Islands

- Over the last year, we delivered pest plant control in Awaawaroa catchment, Te Matuku Forest, Omaru Bay and Park Point on Waiheke, as well as control across Rakino, The Noises, Crusoe and Motukaha Islands.

Other islands projects

- Over the past year, we continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. This included:
 - Pest plant, rabbit, rat, unowned cat and Argentine ant control on Aotea / Great Barrier Island, along with public engagement to improve responsible cat ownership.
 - Argentine ant control on Kawau Island with the aim of achieving eradication, and an assessment of the technical feasibility and social acceptance of removing mammalian pests from the island.



Marine and pathways

We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected a total of 853 ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. This included 484 sailings to Waiheke and 64 sailings to Rakino. They identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino.
- Solar-powered trail cameras have been strategically deployed on pest-free Motukorea and Rakino Islands within the Hauraki Gulf. These cameras capture real-time images, which are quickly analysed by specialised AI software to detect and alert council staff of the presence of unwanted pest animals.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard.
- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.



Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- In your area, we obtained the first ever population size estimate of takahikaremoana (white-faced storm petrels) on Ruapuke / Maria Island (The Noises). Our data showed that over 7000 birds have made Ruapuke their home. The population appears unstable, however, with large fluctuations between years in nest occupancy and breeding success. The Auckland floods in January struck right after the egg hatching period, when the chicks are most vulnerable, and only one quarter of chicks were still alive before the arrival of Cyclone Gabrielle in February. These findings highlight the importance of creating and maintaining a healthy environment both on land and at sea to keep this population safe and thriving.
- We conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag).
- Kawau tikitiki (spotted shags) were monitored on Tarahiki / Shag Island and at Anita and Hooks Bays on Waiheke Island over the winter breeding season. A tracking study is in progress to better understand threats to this declining species. A range of seabirds breeding on Ōtata, in The Noises island group, were also monitored in both natural nests and artificial nest boxes. New artificial nest boxes for kororā (little penguins) were installed with the aim to increase the breeding population on the island.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

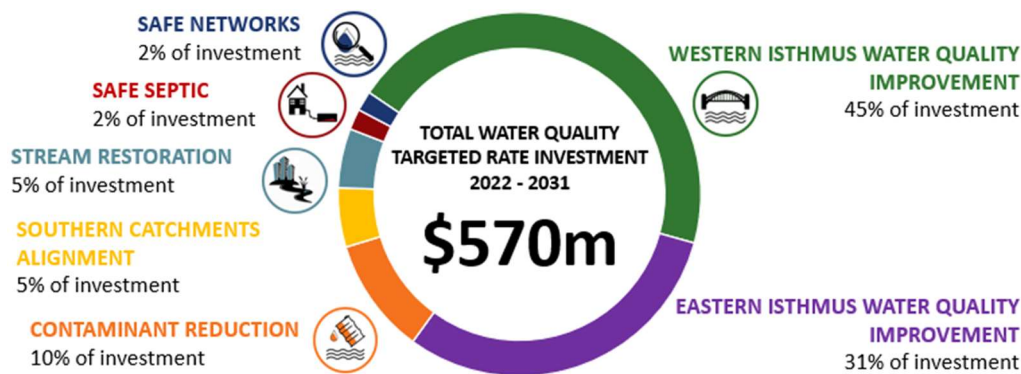


Waitākere Ranges Local Board

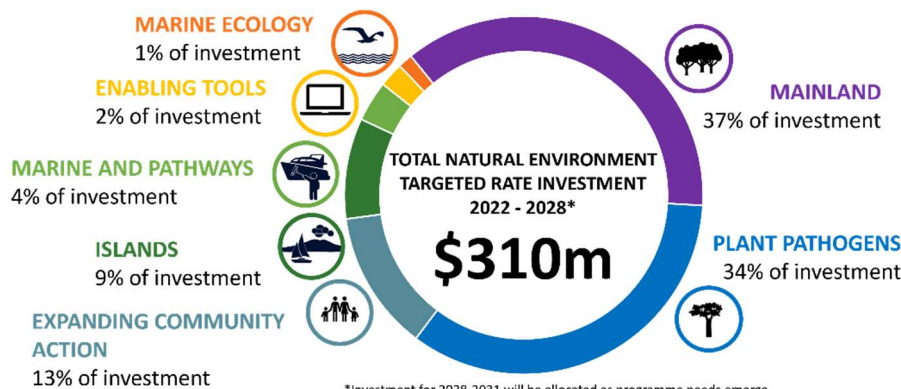
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Green Bay, Wood Bay, French Bay and Amrou Bay

- Green Bay, Wood Bay and French Bay have all had private drainage investigations completed with a majority of the public and private drainage issues identified during the investigation being resolved this year. Post resolution sampling is underway to confirm the works were successful.
- Armour Bay Outlet – screening investigations and water quality sampling was completed in 2020 and did not identify faecal contamination issues. Additional screening locations have been scoped and water quality sampling is underway further up the catchment.
- Fosters Bay – water quality sampling of stormwater networks that discharge into Fosters Bay is underway to isolate contamination issues prior to referring to the Safe Septic programme.



Safe Septic

We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners, including 765 in your area. Of the total inspections, 88 were found to require attention and a further 6 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.

Urban and rural stream rehabilitation



We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and

requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 19 disposal fields and 16 ponds in your area.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.

Piha Stream improvements, erosion and flow conveyance

- This project is to protect public infrastructure from being damaged by erosion of the streambank, including the West Coast Art Gallery, Ministry of Education land, Piha Mill Camp and Glenesk Road. It will also reduce sedimentation from bank erosion which is causing degradation of instream habitat and accumulation of fine sediment downstream at Piha Lagoon. A business case is being developed to allow design to progress.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Piha wetland improvements

- This proposed project will provide a solution to the issues arising from the wetland not functioning or providing storage. This will support biodiversity, reduce maintenance costs, and improve water quality.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tamaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project – Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 275 site visits

were undertaken with a 68 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.



Southern catchments alignment

We're improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour by aligning the timing of stormwater improvements with other scheduled major infrastructure projects.

Manukau Harbour

- The Southern Catchments programme aims to reduce stormwater contaminants entering the Manukau Harbour. It works with large scale growth and roading infrastructure projects to identify contaminant reduction opportunities, and to fund those with the best water quality outcomes. This project is in the planning phase.

Natural environment projects

Expanded support for community-led conservation



We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- The South Tiritangi Neighbourhood Network was allocated \$20,000 for a project coordinator and a communications coordinator for the urban sanctuary project. Volunteers contributed 12,410 hours to the group's activities. They were also allocated \$15,120 for a coordinator to increase neighbourhood engagement in the network's activities and expand the participation of residents. A further \$5000 was allocated for pest control tools.
- The Kauri Rescue Trust was allocated \$30,000 to engage with the community to increase understanding of kauri dieback and enable community participation in protecting trees across Tāmaki Makaurau. Volunteers contributed 1766 hours to the group's activities.
- The Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance was allocated \$42,335 for a coordinator to support and facilitate the work of 27 environmental volunteer groups across the Waitākere Ranges. They are building capacity within the groups to further bolster volunteer numbers and undertake pest control.
- Project Piha Heritage was allocated \$28,560 for an operations manager to support the work of restoring bait and trap lines lost and restoring planting sites damaged in the early 2023 storm events.
- Matuku Reserve Trust was allocated \$10,000 for biodiversity monitoring costs for Taupuhipuhi, monitoring mauri. The project will develop monitoring plans for threatened native species. Volunteers contributed 16,624 hours to the group's activities.
- Save Cornwallis Old Wharf was allocated \$10,395 for lures and trapping materials for Project Wētā, a predator trapping programme that covers Cornwallis Peninsula (Karanga-a-Hape) and aims to protect grey faced petrels (Ōi). Volunteers contributed 891 hours to the group's activities.
- Birdsong Opanuku received \$8100 for pest control tools, workshops, and resources.
- Matuku Link received \$5000 for pest control tools and resources.
- Forest and Bird received \$5000 for pest control tools for Matuku Reserve.
- Karekare Landcare was allocated \$5512 for a part time coordinator to oversee two predator control programmes and a pest plant group in Karekare. They will also lead two new projects related to Cyclone Gabrielle damage, including supporting properties beside the stream in Karekare valley to remove weeds and plant suitable natives to allow the stream to flow freely. They also received \$400 to support the development of promotional and educational materials.
- Karekare Residents and Ratepayers received \$2000 for pest control tools and resources.
- Kauwahaia Charitable Trust was allocated \$7500 for a trapping contractor and project manager. The trust is expanding and improving predator control at Te

Henga to protect seabird habitat and population growth. Volunteers contributed 153 hours to the group's activities.

- Community Waitākere received \$6530 for bat monitoring tools.
- Pest Free Piha received \$5000 for pest control tools and resources.
- Predator Free Waitākere / Swanson received traps worth \$2110.
- We also provided other community groups, landowners and schools in your area with pest control tools to maintain trap lines worth \$10,000.
- A kārearea specialist was allocated \$5000 for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, we provided individual leadership and mentoring support to members of Pest Free Piha to build capability.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for other groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Reaching a diverse range of Aucklanders

- The Ngā Tohu Tiaki Taiao a te Koromatua / Mayoral Conservation Awards, held in September 2022, recognised Aucklanders' efforts to protect our native biodiversity across Tāmaki Makaurau. Over 110 people joined elected members at this event to celebrate the exceptional work happening in the community and recognise environmental champions. At this event, the Matuku Link were awarded the Collaboration Award for their work protecting wetlands in the Te Henga valley.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Two sites in the Waitākere Ranges local board area were planted by schools from Whau and Waitemata.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the EnviroSchools kaupapa. This year EnviroSchools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and we provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support EnviroSchools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 14 schools are participating in EnviroSchools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [EnviroSchools website](#).



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network. Tracks previously upgraded to protect kauri generally fared well through the January and February storm events, except where there were some major slips in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and the Kaipātiki Local Board areas.
- In the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park:
 - We completed upgrades to the Fenceline and Long Road tracks in Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and the tracks reopened to the public.
 - The Kuataika-Houghton tracks and Auckland City Walk were also completed, but opening has been delayed due to storm damage affecting access to Kuataika-Houghton track and damage to the bridge foundation at Auckland City Walk.
 - Track upgrades nearing completion include the Upper Kauri, Maungaroa Lookout and Fairy Falls tracks.
 - Upgrades to the Zion Hill track were underway but were paused due to storm damage affecting access to Karekare Road.
 - Gibbons, Muir and Zig Zag tracks were damaged in the storms and will need further investigation or repairs before reopening.
- Across local parks in your area:
 - Physical works were completed in Arama, Arapito Plantation and Kaurimu Reserves, with a hygiene station installed in Arapito Plantation Reserve.
 - Rahui Kahika has since re-opened to the public, with most of the work completed by June 2023. Some wash-out repairs were completed, but these works have been impacted by delays to aggregate sourcing.
 - Physical works are now complete for Titirangi War Memorial Reserve which re-opened in September 2023.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions, including kaimahi from Te Kawerau ā Maki, engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.

Kauri Dieback Surveillance

- We are continuing to work in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki to give effect to kauri ora in Te Wao Nui o Tiriwa / Waitākere Ranges. Te Kawerau ā Maki have employed two rangatahi to help deliver the programme.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Regional Parks integrated site management

- Integrated management of pest plants and pest animals is delivered across the regional park network. The Regional Parks team and contractors delivered 2,579ha of weed control this year. These are very good results given the challenges of an

unusually wet summer and autumn, and infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

- Pest control we delivered in Waitākere Ranges Regional Park included:
 - Entire park: feral deer survey (none found in the park), pigs, low incidence pest plants
 - West: possums, pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land)
 - East: possums
 - Whatipū: mustelids, cats, rabbits, pest plants
 - Huia: mustelids, rats, pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land)
 - Ark in the Park: mustelids, rats, possums, pest plants (on park and on neighbouring land).

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 448 properties bordering Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and Piha Domain, completing work across over 200 ha and partially completing work across a further 100 ha. Climbing asparagus was the most abundant weed species controlled, followed by ginger and woolly nightshade.
- Karekare Landcare was also funded to conduct engagement with the community about buffer control rules, including education and awareness about the pest plants, conducting ‘backyard surveys’ with people to show them the weeds on their properties and explain how to control them, and linking them with tools and resources to assist them in doing their own weed work.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are eight active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, 10 sites monitored to assess whether previous control had achieved eradication, and 10 sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants. In your area, tradescantia leaf beetle was released at two properties in Huia and one property along Steam Hauler Track adjacent to Waitoru Reserve.

Ground based possum control

- We control possums across many high priority ecosystems. During the last year, we carried out ground-based possum control across 23,000 hectares of rural land. In your area, possum control was completed in south-east Waitākere (5000 ha).

Feral deer and goat control

- We implemented large scale aerial survey works for feral deer and goats this year as an efficient and effective tool to detect these pest animals at a landscape level. This has yielded extensive data on the population distribution and density of these species, providing insights far beyond what traditional ground surveillance methods could achieve in both time and costs per hectare. In your area, both ground based and drone surveillance was carried out to detect deer and goats in areas north of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. A number of feral deer and goats were detected in Goldies Bush and follow up control was carried out to cull these animals to protect the deer and goat free status of the Waitākere Ranges.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted three pet store visits and two nursery visits.



Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year. In your area, we continued with ōi (grey-faced petrel) and animal pest monitoring in the Waitākere Ranges to inform future pest control.
- We conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag). As a result of this survey, two colonies of kawau tūi (little black shag) were recorded at Lake Kawaupaku and Spectacle Lake. These are the first colonies of this species ever recorded in the region.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.
-

2022/2023

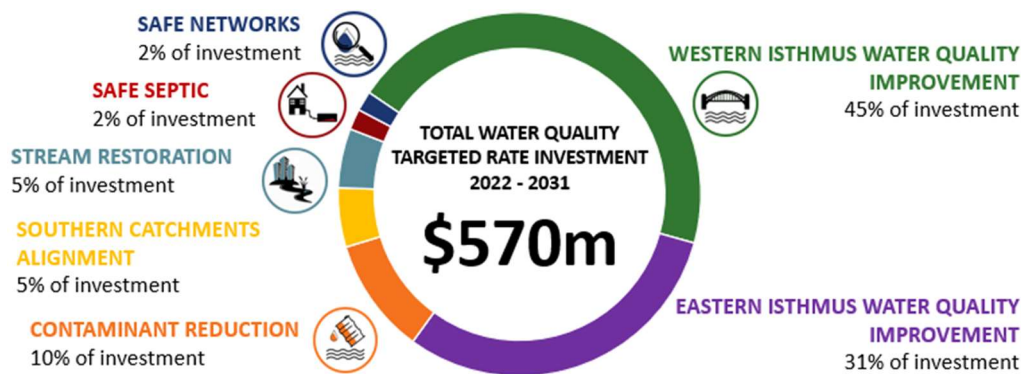


Waitematā Local Board

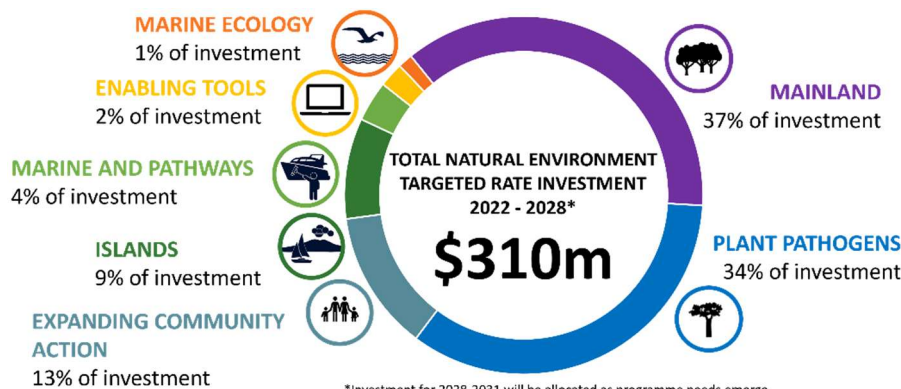
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wet weather overflows into waterways and the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.2 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$412 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

Projects in your local board area:

108-152 Fanshawe Street stormwater upgrade, Lighter Quay Basin outfall

- The project aims to mitigate existing and potential future flooding in Fanshawe Street. Two significant combined network overflows are also connected to the existing pipeline resulting in a high risk to public health of contaminated flooding in heavy rainfall events.

339-359 Great North Road (Northland St to Commercial Road)

- Works to remove stormwater from the combined network by extending the stormwater network from Northland Street to Great North Road, Grey Lynn are now in progress alongside the Auckland Transport cycle and bus lane project. The project was delayed due to a review by Auckland Transport of its proposed cycle and bus lane projects. Auckland Transport approved the project to commence in June 2023 and construction commenced in August 2023.

Central Interceptor Extension - Point Erin Tunnel

- The project is a contribution to Watercare to fund the design of the Pt Erin Tunnel into the Central Interceptor. The business case has been signed off and the funding agreement with Watercare is being finalised. This confirms Healthy Waters' commitment to funding the design of the extension of the Central Interceptor through to Point Erin. The extension will reduce engineered-overflows to a target of no more than 2 spills per year, improve water quality to 90 per cent or greater (Safe Swim), address cultural value effects, and protect the inner harbour marine ecosystems.

Grey Lynn catchment upgrades - Branch 6 separation

- This project will seek to separate stormwater flows from the combined network by installing new stormwater public pipes and manholes in the Grey Lynn area. The project is in the early planning stage.

Grey Lynn Cox's Bay targeted stormwater separation

- A business case is being developed to improve water quality in the Cox's Bay, Grey Lynn, area by separating combined stormwater and waste water networks.

Morningside Drive - 580 New North Road stormwater extension

- This project will be delivered under an infrastructure funding agreement with the developer to enable growth and reduce flooding at 580 New North Road, the rail corridor and 33 Rossmay Terrace. It is intended to be a collaborative project with Auckland Transport and KiwiRail, though is subject to land owner approvals from KiwiRail and private land owners. The project will also separate the combined systems and reduce overflows.

Picton Street - Stage 2

- Separation of the combined wastewater and stormwater network was completed during the FY2020/2021 but the installation of the stormwater treatment gross

pollutant trap had to be postponed due to COVID-19 budget constraints. Physical works on Stage two started in June 2022 but was delayed substantially after an archaeological find was encountered during service relocation works. After obtaining archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand, construction was able to be restarted at the end of January 2023 and was completed in September 2023.

Potatau Street, 199 Great North Road stormwater upgrade

- Works to remove stormwater from the combined network by extending the stormwater network from Potatau Street to Great North Road, Grey Lynn are now in progress alongside the Auckland Transport cycle and bus lane project. The project was delayed due to a review by Auckland Transport of its proposed cycle and bus lane projects. Auckland Transport approved the project to commence in June 2023 and construction commenced in August 2023.

Westmere catchment upgrades

- This project will seek to separate stormwater flows from the combined network by installing new stormwater public pipes and manholes in the Westmere area. The project is in the early planning stage.

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Masefield Beach and CBD

- Masefield Beach – water quality sampling of stormwater outlets and streams that discharge into Masefield Beach is underway including key points in the stormwater network.
- Central city – water quality sampling is taking place from stormwater manholes in sub-catchments to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues. The investigation is progressing across this large catchment to determine if there is need to focus on particular areas in future more targeted investigations.

Water quality improvement projects – minor cross connection projects

- This programme aims to deliver minor capital works to remove wastewater to stormwater cross-connections, which will improve water quality in their receiving areas. A project on Ponsonby Road has been completed and a project on Karangahape Road is currently undergoing landowner consenting. Additionally, a separation project was completed in Sussex St, Grey Lynn by Watercare through a cost-share agreement.

Safe Septic



We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain green infrastructure across all of Auckland, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Koraha Reserve stream daylighting and naturalisation

- This project will daylight more than 160m of piped channel and naturalise the remaining open channels by introducing vegetation and other features to bring them to a more natural state. This will provide amenity value, reduce maintenance requirements, increase the extent of available aquatic habitats, and enhance the existing instream and riparian habitat diversity. It is in early planning phase.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Faulder Avenue and Fife Street stormwater upgrade

- To reduce flooding in the area and the amount of contaminants entering Cox's Bay we have installed new stormwater pipes and upgraded the existing infrastructure. The project was completed in May 2023.

Great North Road and Cartwright Road pipe renewal stage 1

- The project will upgrade the existing stormwater network and work to mitigate stream bank erosion and land instability by enhancing the stream bed. The detailed design is forecast to be completed by October 2023 and construction will be forecast when resource consent is granted.

Revive our gulf: Mussel reef project

- Funding is provided to support the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust to establish mussel reefs throughout the Hauraki Gulf. The trust achieved a significant milestone for the project when it convened a joint hui with all three Tangata Whenua partners in early July 2023. This was the first time all three partners had come together to discuss the project holistically, marking an important step forward. They have initiated detailed planning with each of the three Tangata Whenua partners for the restoration activities planned for the 2023/2024 financial year. Significant progress has been made in the site selection process with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and the programme has now entered the detailed planning phase for restoration activities. Throughout the reporting period, there has been active participation in various events and conferences across Auckland to further engagement and collaboration across a range of communities.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminants from the marine and estuarine environments across Tamaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 20 site visits were undertaken with an 87 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Stanmore Road to Fife Street stormwater upgrade - Larchwood section

- This project will deliver the renewal of existing stormwater main line in order to mitigate risk and increase life of critical assets. The project is being expedited so it can be delivered soon after the emergency works at Stanmore section are completed, pending availability of the lining material and business case sign off.

Stanmore Road to Fife Street stormwater upgrade - Stanmore section

- A new stormwater pipe is being installed for flood mitigation and to allow for future separation of the combined wastewater and stormwater system. Construction on the Stanmore Road section commenced in January 2023 and is progressing with five shafts of six being completed. The tunnel boring machine is established on site and three drives of four have been completed. Works have also

started on the renewals of existing road drainage. Physical works are expected to be complete in January 2024.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas.



Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme

We're investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve water quality from Hobson's Bay to St Heliers.

Eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme

- The eastern isthmus water quality improvement programme is in the planning phase. Network and property inspections are underway to determine the staged separation programme.

Lower Khyber Separation

- Formerly known as "University of Auckland Khyber Pass Road" project, new stormwater infrastructure is being planned to reduce flooding and allow for separation of the combined stormwater and wastewater system at the new University of Auckland site at Khyber Pass Road. An urgent stormwater pipe renewal around Kingdon street has been integrated into this project to reduce costs and inconvenience. Following discussions with Auckland Transport, a revised alignment has been programmed to minimise impact on traffic along Khyber Pass Road and Kingdon Street. The resource consent application was lodged in June 2023 and construction is forecast to begin in Autumn 2024.

Natural environment projects



Expanded support for community-led conservation

We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community initiatives

- We allocated \$4,000 to Urban Ark Manawa Taiao for strategic plan implementation in addition to local board funding for tools and resources. They also received \$500 worth of collateral printing.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 for a cat de-sexing project that spanned across multiple local boards and worked towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.

Coordinating conservation efforts

- A strategic support package has been created to enable the development of, and connections between, community conservation leaders and groups, and to support effective organisational structure and functioning. In your area, group coordinators from the Upper Waitematā Ecology Network were supported to attend a leadership conference to grow their leadership skills.
- Self-help tools have also been made available via the Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau conservation portal for groups to use in planning how they manage and develop, including a new 'group lifecycle' resource.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Seven schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Kaipātiki, Rodney and Franklin.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and EnviroSchools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the EnviroSchools kaupapa. This year EnviroSchools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and we provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support EnviroSchools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, 13 schools are participating in EnviroSchools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [EnviroSchools website](#).



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are five active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, five sites monitored to assess whether eradication has been achieved, and six sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area, we conducted four pet store visits and four nursery visits.



Islands

We're taking action to reduce pest plants and pest animals to protect unique island ecosystems and native species.

Islands projects

- Over the past year, we continued to deliver work on the Hauraki Gulf islands to control pests and protect native species and ecosystems. This included:
 - Pest plant, rabbit, rat, unowned cat and Argentine ant control on Aotea / Great Barrier Island.
 - Pest plant control on sites across Waiheke, Rakino, The Noises, Crusoe and Motukaha Islands.
 - Rabbit control on Waiheke Island, along with stoat eradication and rat eradication trials continuing to be delivered with local partners.

- Public engagement on both Aotea / Great Barrier and Waiheke Islands to improve responsible cat ownership.
- Argentine ant control on Kawau Island with the aim of achieving eradication, and an assessment of the technical feasibility and social acceptance of removing mammalian pests from the island.

Marine and pathways



We're preventing the spread of pests in the marine environment and to pest free islands within the Hauraki Gulf through surveillance of pathways, incursion response, and public education and engagement.

Te Wharekura

- The heritage B category kiosk on Quay Street along Auckland's waterfront has been repurposed into Te Wharekura, a cultural and environmental digital storytelling place through a co-design and co-delivery process with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, and through them other iwi in the Auckland Region. Interactive screens, audio and written media encourage visitors to reflect critically on how they engage with, and are connected to, their local environment. Te Wharekura is a contemporary expression of ahikā for iwi (the deep relationship that mana whenua have with the land) and is a place that provides both te ao Māori and western science perspectives to environmental education on the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi for Aucklanders and visitors alike.

Hauraki Gulf island pest prevention

- We continued to carry out engagement, awareness raising and compliance activity, as well as pest incursion monitoring and response, to maintain the pest free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf, prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the islands, and mitigate the risk of spread of marine pests.
- Our dog handlers and their pest and pathogen detection dogs inspected a total of 853 ferry sailings looking for signs and traces of pests such as rodents, Argentine ants, plague skinks and plant pathogens. They identified 125 risk goods, intercepted four high risk items and detected a rat in the engine bay of a truck destined for Rakino. In your area, our dog handler did inspections at the Wynyard Quarter ferry terminal and the Westhaven Marina.
- Our biosecurity champions were stationed at key entry points to the Hauraki Gulf, such as marinas and boat ramps, to raise awareness of biosecurity risks, and our summer biosecurity awareness campaign succeeded in reaching over 507,000 individuals. In your area, our biosecurity champions were stationed at the Westhaven Marina.
- To date, a total of 85 operators have attained a Pest Free Warrant which confirms they apply appropriate biosecurity measures and communicate biosecurity requirements to their customers. An additional 17 operators became warranted this year, with another 21 operators in the process of obtaining their warrants.

Marine biosecurity

- We carry out regular hull inspections to check boats in the Auckland region are meeting the requirements designed to reduce the spread of marine pests. We inspected 1383 vessels across a number of marinas and moorings in the region, with 63 per cent found to be compliant with allowable hull biofouling standards. The most prevalent pest species found on vessels were the Mediterranean fanworm, clubbed tunicate, and lightbulb ascidian. The team follow up with non-compliant boat owners to ensure they bring their boats up to standard. In your area, we undertook surveillance of boat hulls at Westhaven marina.

- Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, was detected off the coast of Aotea in July 2021 and has since been discovered at additional sites around the Hauraki Gulf. We're supporting Biosecurity New Zealand with their response and contributing to a Technical Advisory Group tasked with identifying strategic response options and potential methods to control the spread of the seaweed.



Marine ecology

We're conducting research into marine habitats and seabirds so we can better protect them.

Marine habitat protection

- Expanded spatial habitat information is being gathered to inform management, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We completed mapping of seafloor features of Tāmaki Strait (351 km²), Kawau Bay (188 km²) and an area of the central Hauraki Gulf (1260 km²).

Seabird protection

- We are monitoring and doing research of seabirds to fill in the many knowledge gaps about seabird populations and ecology to inform management and improve the conservation status of these species. 16 seabird species were successfully monitored across Tāmaki Makaurau this year.
- We conducted a survey of potential and known shag colony sites across the region to complete distribution maps for kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kawau paka (little shag), māpunga (black shag) and kawau tūi (little black shag).



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.

2022/2023

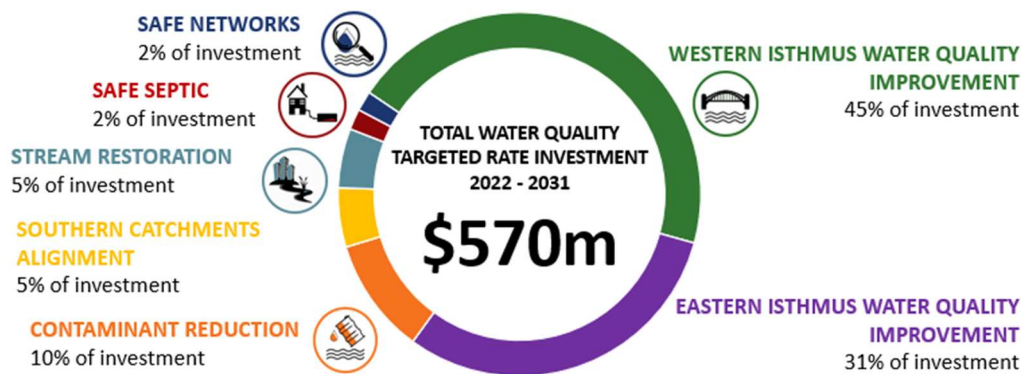


Whau Local Board

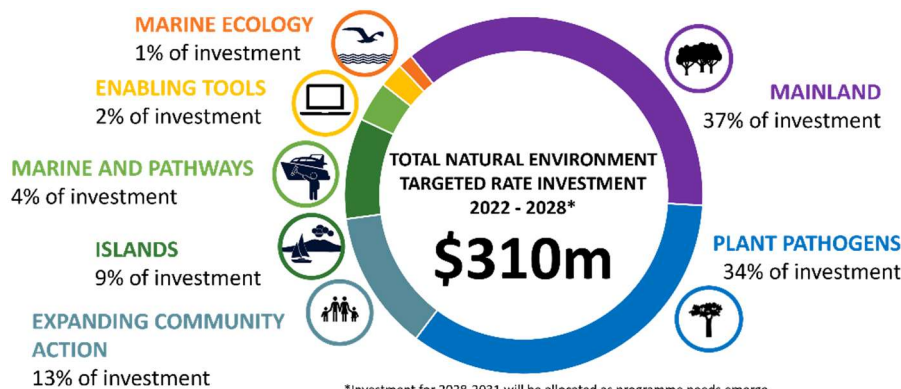
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates snapshot

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. In 2018 we introduced the natural environment and water quality targeted rates. The natural environment targeted rate supports community-led conservation and projects that tackle pest animals, weeds and pathogens that threaten our native species and ecosystems. The water quality targeted rate provides increased investment for projects that will result in cleaner harbours, beaches, and streams. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered in the fifth year of the targeted rates.

Water quality targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural environment targeted rate 10-year investment breakdown



*Investment for 2028-2031 will be allocated as programme needs emerge

Water quality projects

Western isthmus water quality improvement programme



Investing in infrastructure projects to reduce wet weather overflows into waterways and the Waitematā Harbour.

Watercare is also investing in infrastructure to improve water quality, including:

- \$1.2 billion into the Central Interceptor programme
- \$412 million into the Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme.

Projects in your local board area:

Blockhouse Bay Separation

- Designs are underway to build new stormwater network and to separate the combined networks of properties in this area, which will reduce wastewater overflows into the Whau river and improve water quality of both the river and Waitematā harbour. Preliminary design is received and under review. Specialist inputs have been completed and are being reviewed in preparation to apply for resource consent.

Oakley Bollard Methuen Stormwater Separation

- Resource consent has been lodged on this project. Property owner consultation and detailed design is in progress ahead of planned construction in the 2024/2025 financial year. The Oakley Bollard Avenue Separation project is a priority one separation project included under the joint Watercare/ Healthy Waters Western Isthmus Water Quality Improvements Programme. The main objective of this project is to improve the water quality in Oakley Avenue by reducing the frequency of uncontrolled overflow from the engineered overflow point. This is expected to be achieved by separating the properties' stormwater from discharging into the wastewater network and installing new public stormwater network at Bollard Avenue.

Safe Networks



We're investing targeted rate funding to investigate faecal contamination issues within our streams, watercourses and stormwater networks to identify where and how contamination reaches our beaches. Where contaminated water samples are collected, we direct monitoring, investigations and appropriate interventions to reduce faecal contamination.

Lynfield Cove

- Lynfield Cove – water quality sampling from stormwater outlets have identified contamination issues at discharge points to Lynfield Cove. Network screening in specific sub-catchments is underway to find and resolve any wastewater contamination issues.

Safe Septic



We're introducing a regional inspection and maintenance regime for properties with onsite wastewater systems.

Onsite wastewater system development programme

- Over 6000 properties across Auckland received inspections by a local service company to check their onsite wastewater systems were working and discuss ongoing maintenance with the property owners. Of the total inspections, 491 were found to require attention and a further 17 found to have a critical failure.

Regional communications

- The multi-media communications campaign continues to raise awareness for the impact of failing to maintain onsite wastewater systems. The campaign includes radio, newspaper print, social media and video awareness. The collateral for this campaign continues to embed brand identification of 'Poodini the Houdini', the mascot whose 'great escapes' from septic tanks are being used to maximise public engagement. Our communication to property owners both requests the maintenance requirements and highlights the importance of regular maintenance for preventing harm to the environment and supports them in resolving any post-flood issues.



Urban and rural stream rehabilitation

We're investing to restore local waterways across the region, and to support the work of local communities.

2 in a Ute

- We are working in partnership with Citycare Water to maintain Auckland's water sensitive infrastructure, whilst delivering social and community outcomes. The programme offers employment and training opportunities for locals to manage naturalised assets in their communities. Much of the work is labour intensive and requires small, agile units to work on streams, raingardens, tree-pits, swales, ponds and wetlands. Our team maintains 2 ponds and 2 wetlands in your area.

57A Godley Road stream bank stabilisation

- The objective of this project is to support and protect the stream bank through erosion remediation and stabilisation of 30 square metres of stream bank at 57A Godley road. A business case is being developed to allow design to progress.

Funding for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant

- Due to demand for the Community Conservation and Facilitation Grant, additional funding was awarded from water quality targeted rate to fund a larger number of projects that specifically target water quality outcomes. In total, 13 funding applications were awarded from Healthy Waters budget in the 2022/2023 financial year, including 1 project in your area.

Stream Restoration 203 and 211 Richardson Road

- The re-alignment of the stream at 203-211 Richardson Rd is funded by the Healthy Waters Biodiversity Offset Bank to improve ecosystem health and to improved public amenity. We are developing preliminary design so that resource consent can be lodged.



Contaminant reduction projects

We're investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

99 to 113 St Georges Road, Avondale stormwater extension

- This project will extend the existing stormwater network to provide growth and reduce the volume of overflows from the combined network. It is in early design phase.

Avondale retrofit gross pollutant traps

- This project has resulted from investigations undertaken as part of the Urban Contaminant Reduction programme. The project will install multiple gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices around Avondale's industrial and commercial areas reducing contaminants from entering the Whau River Estuary

and the Waitematā Harbour including coarse sediment, gross pollutants, and hydrocarbons.

Camera contaminant reduction pilot

- The Camera Contaminant Reduction pilot use small, inexpensive cameras trained at the kerbs and channels downstream of building sites and industrial areas to identify any discharges and send an alert to Regulatory staff and Healthy Waters educational staff to prioritise a site visit. This assists regulatory staff in targeting their daily compliance visits to sites which have shown poor discharge quality and where they can have the most impact. This project will also use machine learning to train the computer on when to alert staff, using a library of images with different sediment and contaminant discharges. This initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Waters (Wai Ora Partnerships team), the Natural Environment Strategy Team and the Proactive Compliance Team (Closing the Gap.)

Outfalls Package 2 - Whau and Massey Catchments

- Upgrades have been made to a collection of inlets and outlets that had previously restricted flows and caused blockages during flood events. The upgrades have reduced the stormwater velocity and are reducing erosion. Construction was completed in August 2022.

Porters Stream flood conveyance, pipe renewal and environmental improvements stage 2

- This project was formerly named Great North Road and Cartwright Road Flood Conveyance, Pipe Renewal and Enviro Improvement Stage two, but was changed for greater clarity of the works involved. It plans to deliver stormwater network upgrades to reduce the flood risk to several private properties. The design contract has been awarded and concept design is anticipated to be completed by November 2023.

Sea Cleaners Trust

- Sea Cleaners Trust work with the community and volunteers to remove rubbish and contaminates from the marine and estuarine environments across Tamaki Makaurau. In 2023 they removed close to 1.5 million litres of rubbish from Auckland's harbours and waterways.

Sediment Project - Closing the Gap

- The Closing the Gap initiative aims to improve erosion and sediment controls on small construction sites. The initiative currently funds Proactive Compliance officers to undertake targeted site visits and issue abatement notices when issues are identified and not rectified. They also issue congratulatory letters for sites exceeding expectations that result in no sediment loss. These compliance officers are a reliable conduit with the industry building relationships with their continuous presence. The team completed a total of 11,040 site visits across Auckland in the 2022/2023 financial year. In your area, a total of 420 site visits were undertaken with an 81 per cent pass rate versus a regional pass rate of 80 per cent.

Urban contaminant reduction programme

- Planning is underway to identify retrofitting opportunities across Auckland for gross pollutant traps and other treatment devices to be installed into the existing network. This targeted approach focuses on areas where significant gains can be made where minimal or no water quality treatment currently exists. Healthy Waters has made significant progress in implementing stormwater improvement plans across various key areas. In your area, the Te Auaunga Water Quality

Improvement Plan has been completed. The next steps are to develop business cases for each opportunity so they can be added to the capital delivery programme. We are in the design phase of investigations to install devices into Avondale's highest contaminant generating land use types.

Natural environment projects

Expanded support for community-led conservation



We're investing to support community-led conservation, environmental innovation and Māori-led projects to enable communities to restore and protect their local ecosystems and species.

Supporting local community-led conservation initiatives

- We provide funding and resources to empower Aucklanders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of Tāmaki Makaurau through projects that have local impact and benefit, but are of regional significance.
- Blockhouse Bay Primary received pest control traps worth over \$350
- Kelston Intermediate received native plants for school plantings worth \$300.
- The Community Cat Collective was allocated \$5000 through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage grant for a cat de-sexing project that spanned across multiple local boards and worked towards improving animal welfare outcomes. Volunteers contributed 46,140 hours to the group's activities.
- A kārearea specialist was allocated \$5000 through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage grant for a pilot kārearea population survey across Tāmaki Makaurau to identify population size and breeding habitats and success.

Trees for Survival

- Through our partnership with the Trees for Survival Trust, Healthy Waters and sponsors, students are supported to get actively involved in conservation through growing and planting native trees and learning about the importance of restoration and protecting stream health. Local schools get involved by growing seedlings to size and then planting them at sites across the region that are identified as important for biodiversity enhancement. 106 schools are now involved in the programme, planting a total of 89,300 native trees in 2022/2023. Four schools in your area grew and planted trees across sites in Rodney and Waitākere.

Growing conservation capability and knowledge

- NETR helps to fund the Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools programmes which, in partnership with the Toimata Foundation, focus on engaging young people across Tāmaki Makaurau in environmental action.
- 228 schools and 94 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres are currently engaged in the Enviroschools kaupapa. This year Enviroschools supported 42 events and cluster workshops on the natural environment that were attended by over 2200 people. We also supplied a range of tools to schools to support and enable conservation action including lizard shelters, gloves, traps, chew cards, rat traps, binoculars, safety glasses and spades, and we provided the Auckland Kindergarten Association with \$15,000 to support Enviroschools initiatives in early childhood education centres across Auckland. In your area, nine schools are participating in Enviroschools. The full list of participating schools in your local board can be found on the [Enviroschools website](#).



Biodiversity Focus Areas

We're increasing our knowledge of native species and ecosystems to guide effective management of conservation activities.

Threatened species prioritisation

- Over the last two years, we completed regional conservation threat assessments for reptiles and amphibians (FY22), and vascular plants and bats (FY23) that are native to Tāmaki Makaurau. These assessments are carried out by a panel of staff, regional specialists and academic experts and involves compiling information from a wide range of sources. This aids us to identify and prioritise species of conservation concern and will inform our approach to habitat management and species recovery.



Plant pathogens

We're investing to reduce the risk of spreading pest pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback infrastructure

- This year we upgraded 12.1km of tracks in regional parks, 4.7km of tracks in local parks, and installed 12 new hygiene stations across the track network.

Kauri dieback engagement, behaviour change and compliance

- A team of Biosecurity Champions engaged with park visitors at select sites known for their biodiversity values and high visitation rates. They encouraged responsible exploration of the ngahere (forest) and adherence to essential biosecurity measures, such as avoiding soil transportation and following the 'scrub, spray, and stay on track' guidelines.



Protecting green spaces on the mainland

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks and in important habitats on private land.

Pest plant control on land buffering parks

- We manage highly invasive pest plants in buffer zones surrounding ecologically important parkland to reduce or prevent reinvasion into the parks. Implementation of buffer rules involves substantial community engagement and education with land occupiers to recognise and remove pest plants. Initial control is funded by council for the most difficult to manage species with follow-up control carried out by land owners. In the last year, we undertook surveys, initial control measures and landowner engagement on 470ha of land across 1700 properties to protect 45 regional and local parks. In your area, we carried out initial control on 340 properties bordering Te Auaunga Oakley Creek, Craigavon Park, Taunton Terrace, Blockhouse Bay Reserve and Gittos Domain, completing work across a total of 28.9 ha and partially completing work across a further 12.3 ha. Climbing asparagus was the most abundant weed species controlled, followed by ginger and moth plant.

Low incidence pest plant control

- Eradicating pest plants before they become widespread is an extremely cost-effective way to prevent future impacts and control costs. We control around 30 low incidence pest plant species across the region. In your area, there are nine active sites that were controlled for low incidence pest plants, six sites monitored to assess whether control has achieved eradication, and two sites where eradication has been confirmed.

Pest plant biocontrol

- Biocontrol agents are organisms, such as insects or plant diseases, that are used to suppress widespread pest plant species. Effective biocontrol agents will naturally disperse among sites and slowly reduce or eliminate the host plant coverage, reducing the reliance on herbicide. Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus and tradescantia leaf beetle have been released and monitored across the region and have been observed to be spreading naturally. Moth plant beetle and Japanese honeysuckle Honshū white admiral butterfly have also been released and are being monitored to assess their establishment and impact on the host plants. In your area, we released tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus at Te Auaunga Oakley Creek.

Pest plants and animals banned from sale

- The sale of plants and animals that can escape from homes to become pests in the wild is prohibited under the Regional Pest Management Plan. In the last year we made over 580 inspection and educational visits to nurseries, pet shops, breeders, florists, markets, and companies providing online sales to ensure sellers are aware of, and compliant with, the RPMP rules. In your area we conducted 29 nursery visits.



Enabling tools

We're improving data management and developing digital tools for connecting Aucklanders with conservation activities.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau

- The Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland website has been developed as the council's conservation portal for community groups and members of the public to access current best practice conservation information and data. Pest search and the interactive Tiaki conservation map are hugely popular. Our current priority is realising mana whenua aspirations for Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau.

Unmanned aerial vehicle applications

- We are introducing drone technology to support environmental management via remote image and video survey. Drones allow for the survey of large and complex areas that are usually challenging to assess and navigate safely. Over the past year, the programme has supported ecological survey and monitoring on regional and local parkland, maunga and Department of Conservation land.