

UPPER WAITEMATĀ REPORTING AREA

Includes Henderson-Massey, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour and Whau local boards

JULY 2014

AREA
GRADE

D

STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD

QUICK FACTS

OVERALL GRADE



LAND COVER



NATIVE PLANTS



BIRDS



PESTS



WEEDS



THE REPORTING AREA IS APPROXIMATELY

21,000
HECTARES IN SIZE

THE KAIPĀTAKI AND UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARDS CONTAIN AROUND

49%

OF ALL THE REMAINING INDIGENOUS FOREST AND SCRUB COVER IN THE TĀMAKI ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

SOLDIERS BAY CONTAINS THE ONLY AREA OF WETLAND WITH INTACT VEGETATION SEQUENCES FROM ESTUARINE TO FRESHWATER TO TERRESTRIAL FOREST REMAINING IN TĀMAKI ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?

The overall grade is made up of five indicators:

Land cover: Based on different ecosystems mapped in NZ Land Cover Database 3 (2008).

Native plants: Average of four sub-indicators which reflect the diversity and biomass of native plants, and the regeneration of native saplings and seedlings.

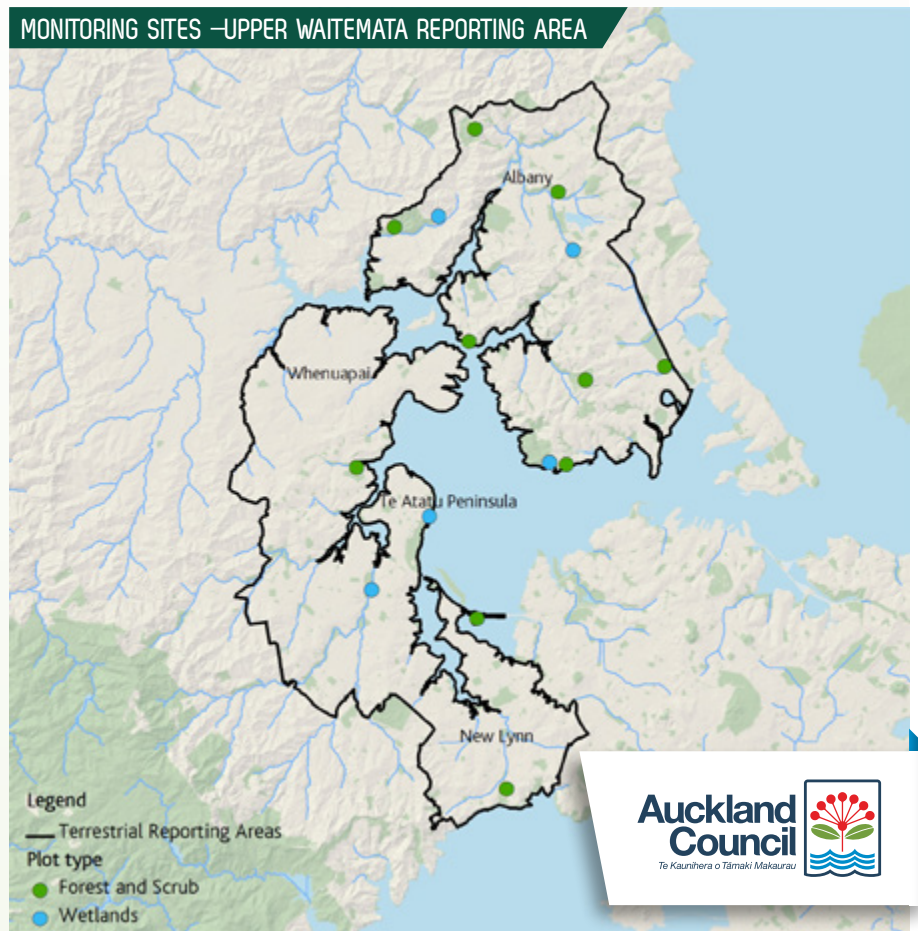
Birds: Average of three sub-indicators which reflect the average diversity and conspicuousness of native birds, and the total number of bird species found within the reporting area.

Weeds: Average of three sub-indicators which reflect the abundance and relative dominance of weedy and exotic trees, saplings and seedlings.

Pests: Average of four sub-indicators which indicate the number of pest-free sites, and presence of rats, mice and possums in the landscape.

Note: Includes forest data only. From 2015 wetland data will also be reported.

MONITORING SITES –UPPER WAITEMATA REPORTING AREA



CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Upper Waitematā reporting area includes Henderson-Massey, Whau, Upper Harbour and Kaipātiki local boards, which collectively comprise all the land surrounding the upper Waitematā Harbour.

The local boards within the reporting area form two clear groupings on the basis of their geology, landform and pattern of development. Whau, Henderson-Massey and the western part of Upper Harbour Local Board(s) mostly comprise low-lying, fertile soils that have been intensively developed for food production, urban or industrial use. However, there is an isolated 'island' of more rugged clay hills around Massey and West Harbour. In contrast, the Kaipātiki and eastern Upper Harbour local boards are dominated by steeper, clayey hills surrounding

an 'island' of more fertile, low-lying sediments in the Albany Basin.

The low-lying western parts of the reporting area have been heavily modified, with almost three quarters (approx 70%) of the total area developed for urban use. Very little native vegetation remains on the land. Native wetlands, forest and scrub comprise only 5 per cent of land cover. Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour local boards have a much lower cover of urban growth (approx 35%), with relatively large areas of indigenous forest and scrub, and farmland. The development approach in these areas has retained many coastal strips and stream gullies in indigenous forest and scrub vegetation.

KEY BIODIVERSITY SITE

POLLEN AND TRAHERNE ISLANDS

Pollen (Motu Manawa) and Traherne (Te Kou) islands are situated in the upper Waitemata Harbour on the eastern margin of the Whau River mouth and are surrounded by the 500 ha Motu Manawa Marine Reserve. Ecologically the islands and their associated shell banks and saltmarsh vegetation are extremely important because they comprise the largest remaining area of this habitat type in the upper Waitemata Harbour. The area supports a range of threatened and unusual bird species such as wrybill, New Zealand dotterel, banded dotterel, Caspian tern, fernbird, banded rail and pied stilt, as well as good populations of more common wetland and wader bird species.

The vegetation on and around the islands is dominated by mangrove and native saltmarsh and freshwater wetland plants. One feature is the naturally uncommon and regionally declining saltmarsh herb *Mimulus repens*, present on Traherne Island and confined to just a few square metres. Invasive weeds (on Traherne) and pest mammal species (on both islands) were formerly common; however, control being undertaken by NZTA, Forest and Bird, DOC and the Auckland Council has dramatically reduced the threats of plant and animal pests to the native flora and fauna.



Fernbird - Photo: Geoff Moon

FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by the Auckland Council's Research, Investigations and Monitoring Unit, which undertakes monitoring and research to provide information and evidence to inform the council's activities and reporting. Auckland's environment must be healthy and resilient in order

to support life and lifestyle. More report cards can be found at: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/stateofauckland. The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

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