

# MAHURANGI REPORTING AREA 2018

Includes Rodney Local Board

## STATE OF AUCKLAND FRESHWATER REPORT CARD

### WATER QUALITY



### HYDROLOGY



### HABITAT QUALITY



### BIODIVERSITY



The grades are made up of the following indicators:

**Water quality:** Water samples are tested for a range of parameters including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, nutrients and E. coli. The results for each site are compared against reference sites for Auckland to produce a water quality index.

**Hydrology:** Stream reaches are assessed for how well connected they are to upstream and downstream reaches, and the floodplain.

**Habitat quality:** The diversity and quality of habitats both in the streams and in the riparian margins is assessed.

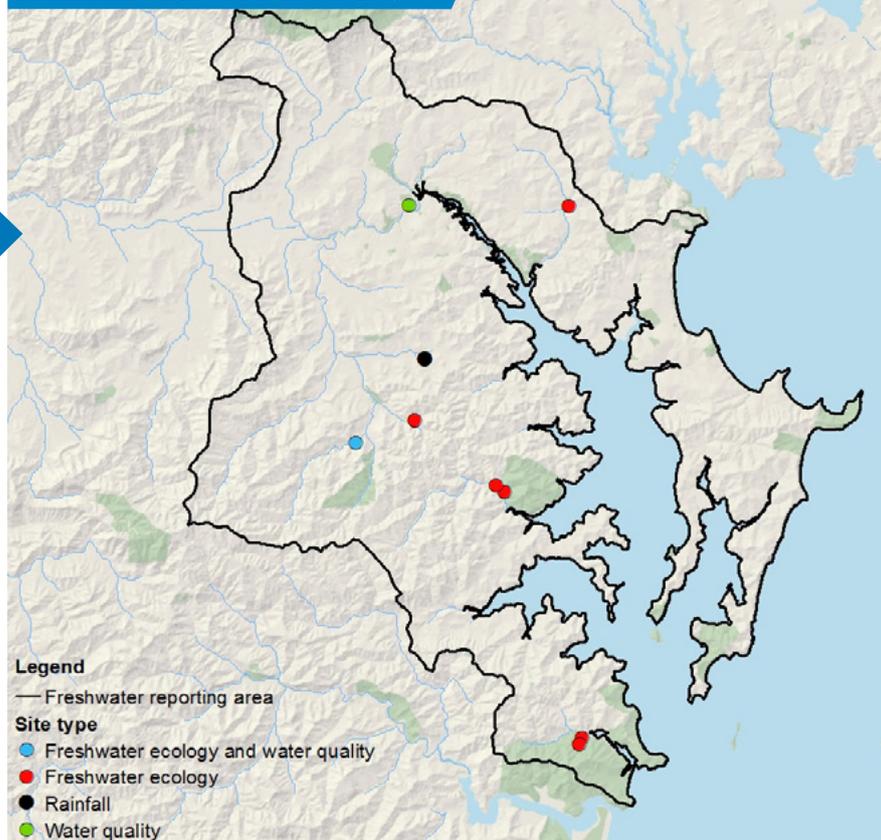
**Biodiversity:** Field assessments are made to determine the type and amount of native plants and animals. Stream macroinvertebrate samples are also collected to assess the diversity and tolerance levels of the macroinvertebrate community.

Each indicator is made up of several parameters. These grades represent a summary of indicator results from 2016 and 2017 from individual sites which are amalgamated for each reporting area to provide an indicator grade.

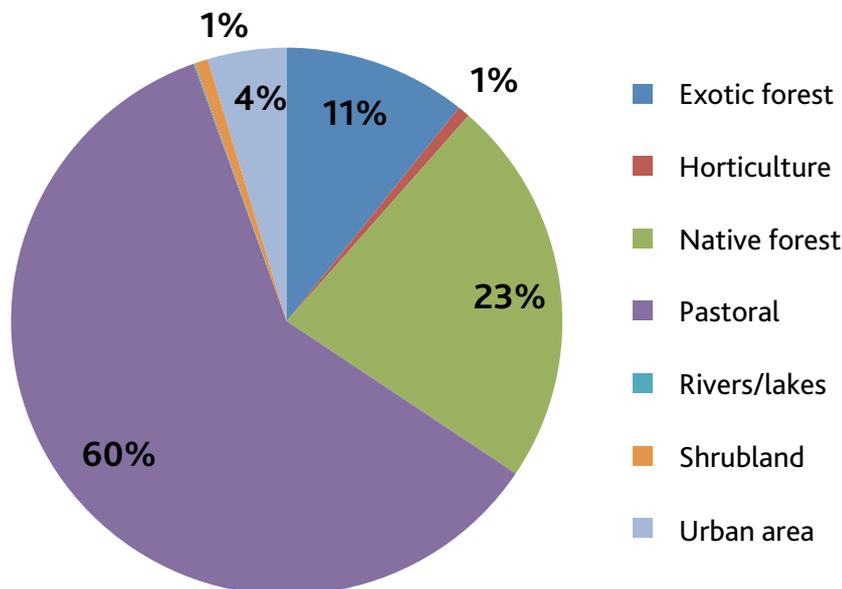
These report cards are not designed to track trends or report on National Policy Statement for Freshwater (NPS-FM) attributes which relate to specific parameters and bands. Note that grades given to amalgamated results or indicators here do not relate to the grades assigned to individual parameters in the NPS-FM.

More detailed analyses on sites and trends are presented in technical reports available on Knowledge Auckland.

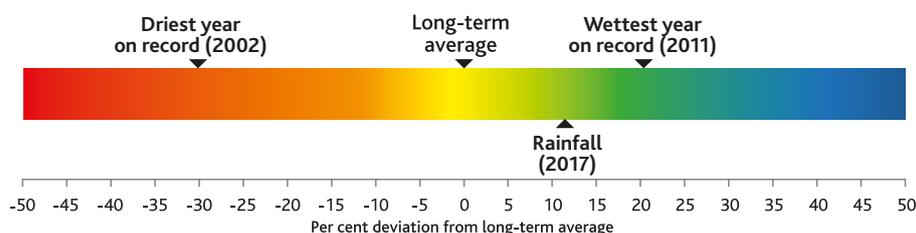
### MONITORING SITES – MAHURANGI 2018



### MAHURANGI LAND COVER



### MAHURANGI RAINFALL



Mean rainfall in 2017 (1693 mm) was 13 per cent greater than the long-term average (1502 mm). The longest rainfall record in the Mahurangi reporting area is 23 years at the Mahurangi satellite dish site.

## MONITORING BACKGROUND AND INTERPRETATION

Auckland Council's State of the Environment (SoE) monitoring has been building a record of Auckland's environment for more than 25 years. This information is critical to the effective management of Auckland's natural environment.

The monitoring programme shows there is a strong relationship between the health of the rivers and the type of land cover in the surrounding catchment. Rivers that drain forested catchments (particularly native forests) typically have excellent water quality and ecological health, while rivers that drain urban catchments generally have poor water quality and ecological health.

The Mahurangi reporting area is predominantly pastoral land, but large forested areas still remain. As a result, the health of the rivers in this reporting area is average to good. Rivers in this area tend to have riparian margins with some trees and bush, which provide shade, leaf litter and woody debris. The debris enhances the habitat quality for flora and fauna, although some of the original riparian vegetation has been removed to allow more intensive use. Lower levels of urban development means there is little channel modification or pollution from discharges or stormwater. However, there may be diffuse sources of contaminants from pastoral land use and physical damage from stock.

### SPOTLIGHT ON MAHURANGI

Environmental Services and Parks staff are working together with Mahurangi College and the wider community to restore the Falls Road River Reserve and View Road Bush Reserve. The students hope one day the reserve will be used for teaching and learning and as an outdoor classroom. The restoration is also being documented in film by a group of student film makers.

The students have been divided into different action groups, including bird monitoring, pest management and waicare. The waicare students have attended two training workshops, learning how to carry out water testing and health and safety in the field.



Mahurangi River



Students creating a vision for the reserve

### FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by the Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit, which undertakes monitoring and research to provide information and evidence to inform the council's activities and reporting. More report cards can be found at: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment). The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

For more information: e-mail [rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or call us on 09 301 0101.

### GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council provides more than 20 environmental programmes across the region that you can get involved in. To find out more on how you can help visit: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)