

Research and
Evaluation Unit

RIMU

Capability Statement 2023



Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU)

Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) undertakes the evidence gathering functions, including research, monitoring, evaluation and reporting to ensure that the council's decision-making is based on robust evidence in the context of growth and change.

RIMU's work underpins and informs the council's core function, which includes planning for growth and meeting legislative requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Acts in relation to social, economic, land use and environmental issues.

RIMU is a multi-disciplinary hub that brings together highly skilled professionals to deliver these requirements. By linking research, policy and implementation, RIMU is uniquely placed to foster innovative and collaborative approaches to the complex issues Auckland faces now and in the future.

Monitoring and reporting on the state and trends of Auckland's environment, RIMU provides an essential node in New Zealand's national monitoring programme. A core responsibility of the council is to manage and develop Auckland in a context of sustained growth, so it is critical that decision-makers have a clear understanding of the implications of this growth and development in the region.

RIMU also provides in-house support for evaluation and quality assurance across Auckland Council. The teams are responsive to the demands of decision-makers throughout the organisation and translate primary and secondary evidence for a variety of end-users and audiences beyond Auckland Council. RIMU supports robust practices and provides the justification and transparency in the council's decision-making that ultimately shapes Auckland and the environment in which we live.

Core Products and Services

RIMU provides a range of products and services including:

- high-quality evidence to assist with strategy and policy development, implementation and evaluation
- advice on research / monitoring priorities and assistance with research design
- scenario modelling (e.g. Capacity for Growth)
- analysis and interpretation of data using statistical techniques
- State of the environment monitoring and reporting
- monitoring of national and international trends, events and government policy developments
- producing reports, articles, technical publications and research papers tailored to a broad range of audiences
- promoting and disseminating Auckland data and reports to the community
- providing 24/7 environmental monitoring services
- peer review of technical publications
- managing the council's Research Ethics Advisory Group
- developing and maintaining websites for easy access to data and reports (e.g. www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz).

For more information, visit our websites:

- www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz
 - <https://environmentauckland.org.nz>
- or email: rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Knowledge Auckland

The Knowledge Auckland website, www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz is managed by RIMU. It provides published research, information, analysis and data about Auckland's social, economic and environmental landscape.

Please also visit RIMU's special websites for expert data and research information:

- **Auckland counts** – for Auckland's census data: www.censusauckland.co.nz
- **Auckland economic profile** – for information about Auckland's economy (provided by Infometrics Ltd): <http://ecoprofile.infometrics.co.nz/auckland>
- **Environmental data** – for environmental data visit our Environment Auckland website: <https://environmentauckland.org.nz>
Data enquiries: environmentaldata@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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Photographs by Ann Jones



RIMU Teams

Jonathan Bengé (PhD) Head of Research, Evaluation and Monitoring
Coral Grant (PhD) Lead Water Scientist
Megan Carbinés (PhD) Lead Environmental Scientist
Tony Edhouse (BSc, DipLibr) Snr Research Information Advisor

Hydrology and Environmental Data Management

Team: Monitors and reports on surface and groundwater quality and leads RIMU's environmental data management

Kolt Johnson (MSc) Team Manager
David Wright (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Freya Green (BSc) Environmental Data Specialist
Georgia Spankie (BSc) Hydrology Specialist
Jade McMurtry (MSc) Senior Environmental Data Specialist
Katie Twentyman (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Kylie Robertson (BSc) Senior Environmental Data Specialist
Matt Brewster (BEng) Freshwater Specialist
Matt Wright (MAsc) Environmental Specialist
Morgan Brockelsby (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Riaan Delpert (BSc) Senior Scientist Hydrogeology
Shane Sullivan (BSc) Senior Freshwater Hydrologist
Simon Jimenez (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Stacey Fraser (MSc) Freshwater Hydrologist
Tom Bailey (BSc) Environmental Specialist

Water Quality Team: Monitors and reports on freshwater and marine water quality

Sietse Bouma (MSc) Team Manager
Chris Drake (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Gina Gascoigne (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Jack Adams (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Jade Kraus (BSc) Environmental Specialist
Jane Groom (PhD) Freshwater Scientist
Janine Kamke (PhD) Scientist Coastal and Freshwater
Jassalyn Bradbury (BSc) Senior Env. Data Specialist
Julia O'Grady (BSc/BBus) Environmental Specialist
Laura Buckthought (PhD) Senior Freshwater Scientist
Natalie Gilligan (BSc) Senior Environmental Specialist
Rhian Ingley (MSc) Senior Scientist Marine
Rose Gregersen (PhD) Scientist
Sheldon Benito (BSc) Senior Environmental Specialist

Air, Land and Biodiversity Team: Monitors and reports on air, land, and terrestrial and marine biodiversity

Jacqueline Lawrence-Sansbury (BSc) Team Manager
Dani Guinto (PhD) Scientist Soils
Gaia Dell'Ariceia (PhD) Senior Scientist Seabirds
Georgianne Griffiths (PhD) Senior Scientist Ecology
Grant Lawrence (MSc) Senior Scientist
Hamish Allen (MSc) Scientist Marine
Jennifer Montañó (PhD) Snr Scientist Coastal Processes
Jonathan De Villiers (BSc) Senior Environmental Specialist
Louis Boamponsem (PhD) Scientist Air Quality
Maira Fessardi (MSc) Snr Environmental Specialist Seabirds
Miriam Ludbrook (MSc) Environmental Specialist
Shanju Xie (PhD) Senior Scientist Air Quality
Tarn Drylie (PhD) Senior Scientist Coastal Processes
Todd Landers (PhD) Senior Scientist Seabirds

Economic and Social Research and Evaluation

Team: Monitors and reports on population growth and change, diversity, equity, social trends and issues, and economic analysis

Alison Reid (MA) Team Manager
Ashleigh Prakash (PhD) Social Researcher
Jesse Allpress (PhD) Principal Social Scientist
Kathryn Ovenden (MA) Senior Social Researcher
Ross Wilson (MCom) Economic Analyst

Spatial Analysis and Modelling Team: Analyses critical issues in relation to housing, land use, planning capacity and infrastructure; oversees the provision of growth information for services and asset planning

Sarah Lomas (MSc) Team Manager
Andrew Price (BA) Senior Spatial Analyst
Brian Osborne (MSc) Senior Statistical Analyst
Chad Hu (MPlan/BSc) Senior Spatial Analyst
Krystal Alferez (MUrbPlan) Spatial Analyst
Kyle Balderston (BSc) Principal Spatial Analyst
Maribeth Todd (MSc) Senior Spatial Analyst
Tim Guo (PhD) Senior Socio-Spatial Researcher
Wali Uzzaman (PhD) Senior Urban Data Scientist