

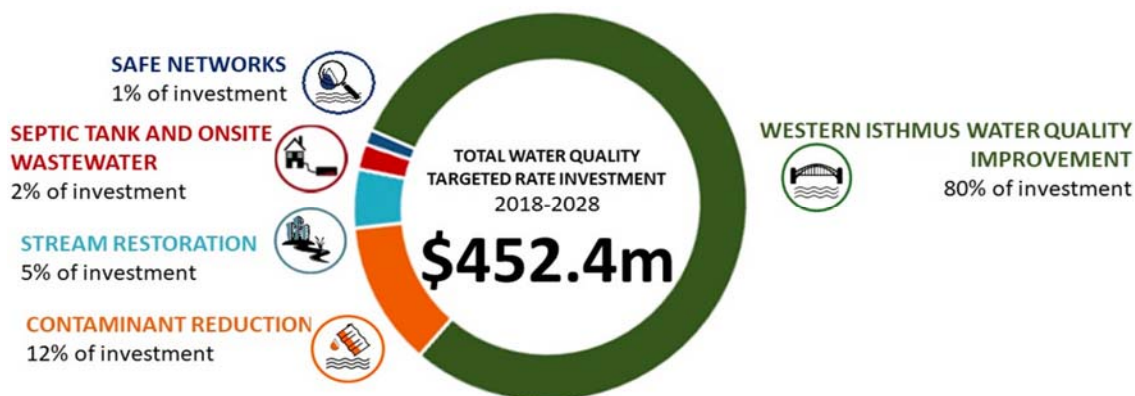
August
2020

Rodney Local Board

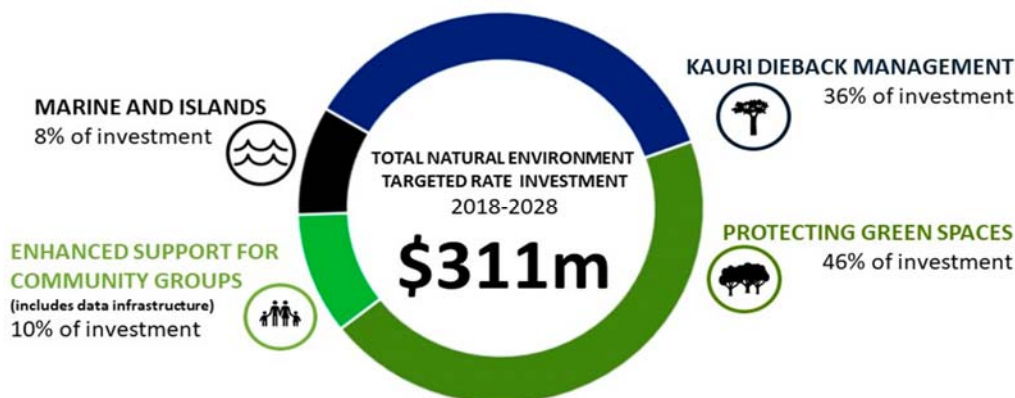
Water quality and natural environment targeted rates 2019-2020

Protecting our natural environment and waterways is a priority for Aucklanders. Auckland Council's 10-year budget (2018-2028) ring-fences \$311 million through a natural environment targeted rate for projects that restore native ecosystem health through council and community-led restoration and pest plant, animal and disease control. Another \$452 million from a water quality targeted rate is being invested in cleaner beaches, streams and harbours. This document is a 'snapshot' of work delivered this year. Please note that physical works stopped in COVID-19 Alert Level 4, but most resumed in Level 3, and good progress was made for water quality projects, pest animal and plant control and track upgrades to manage kauri dieback.

Water Quality Targeted Rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural Environment Targeted Rate 10-year investment breakdown



Natural Environment Projects



Protecting green spaces

We're increasing pest plant and pest animal control in and around public parks.

The natural environment targeted rate has funded pest plant control, in the following local parks:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birds Beach Recreation Reserve• Brick Bay Drive – Puriri Place Reserve• Constable Road Muriwai• Kowhai Park• Mahurangi River Sandspit Road• Mcelroy Reserve• Omaha Beach Reserve• Omaha South Quarry Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parry Kauri Park• Sandspit Road – Brick Bay Drive• Slipper Lake Reserve• South Head Road Waioneke• Thomas Grace Scene Reserve• Tomarata Dune Lakes Reserve• Whangateau Harbour Esplanade• Whangateau Recreation
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We are supplementing pest animal control not already delivered under ecological restoration contracts in areas with high biodiversity value. We are also prioritising the management of low incidence pest plants. These are pest plants that occur in low numbers and can therefore be targeted for eradication.

The natural environment targeted rate has funded increased pest plant control in the following regional parks in Rodney:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Te Arai• Atiu Creek• Mahurangi East• Te Muri• Wenderholm• Scandrett	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muriwai• Pakiri and Tāwharanui dune ecosystems• Te Rau Puriri• Dome Valley
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The following conservation work is ongoing:

- Possum control at Takatu Peninsula and Dome Valley
- Feral goat surveillance work in the lower part of Rodney from Whangaparaoa Peninsula across to Helensville
- Lake restoration is happening at Rototoa and Tomarata
- Feral deer release response work occurred in Leigh/Tamahanga area and is ongoing
- Feral deer control on Te Rau Puriri regional parkland.



Kauri dieback management

We're investing to reduce the risk of spread of plant pathogens threatening native species, in particular kauri dieback.

Some track upgrades and other activities to manage kauri dieback have already been completed in the Rodney area. Others are planned for future years as outlined below:

- **Couldrey House** – two hygiene stations have been installed, and 1.65km of tracks upgraded and open.
- **Puhoi Track, Wenderholm** – one hygiene station has been installed, and 0.6km of track upgrades and open.
- **Martins Bay Recreational Reserve and Holiday Park** – physical works were completed and barrier fencing installed.
- **Tāwharanui Ecology Trail** – 3.8km of track upgrades previously forecast for completion this year were delayed by COVID-19.
- **Currys Bush Reserve** - design for track upgrades is complete, and physical works are planned to commence in 2020/2021.

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- **Kowhai Park** – construction is underway for stage one works however stage two has been deferred to 2021/2022, due to budgetary constraints.
 - **McElroy Reserve** - work to install barrier fences was completed.
 - **Parry Kauri Park** – Design was completed and consent has been granted for upgrades at the park entrance. Physical works are planned for 2021/2022.
 - **Omeru Scenic Reserve** – design has been completed for mitigation work on tracks, with stage one planned to commence in 2020/2021. This involves protecting kauri in the open grass area and re-routes the track to provide temporary access to the waterhole. Stage two has been deferred to 2021/2022 due to budgetary constraints. This stage will involve upgrading and reinstating the bridge to a kauri-safe standard to allow waterhole access.



Marine and islands

We're taking action to manage and reduce marine pests and pest plants and animals on islands to protect native species and ecosystems.

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- **Kaipara Harbour** – A survey was completed in May 2019 to understand the current distribution of marine pests.
 - **Kawau Island** – The latest Argentine ant monitoring on Vivian Bay has shown no further sign of ants. Preliminary planning and consultation was undertaken with Department of Conservation, iwi and other partners on a multi-species pest animal eradication on the island. Council staff provided support to Pōhutakawa Trust with their pest control programme.

Other regional projects are underway that will benefit Rodney including:

- **Inter-Regional Marine Pest Pathway Management Plan:** A Top of the North marine biosecurity partnership working group was formed and worked through options analysis. Staff are now developing a formal proposal for a regional marine pest pathway plan.
- **Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Biosecurity Management Plan:** This plan is currently being drafted and will cover the new Regional Pest Management Plan requirements. This substantially increases the number of pests that cannot be moved to, from or between the Hauraki Gulf islands. The new requirements also include mandatory Pest Free Warrants for all transport operators, and increased penalties for non-compliance.



Enhanced support for community groups

We're investing to significantly increase support for community-led action to protect and restore local ecosystems and threatened species.

Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants¹: Natural environment targeted rate funding was used in 2019/2020 to increase the value of grants given out through the grant scheme. The following groups in Rodney received grants from the targeted rate:

- Motuora Restoration Society – \$5,000
- The Forest Bridge Trust – CatchIT Schools - \$17,000
- CUE Haven Community Trust – native forest reserve restoration - \$20,000
- New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust – drone vegetation mapping - \$5,000
- Gecko New Zealand Trust – South Rodney Joined Up Action Project - \$5,000
- Pest Free Kaukapakapa - \$5,000.

Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant²: This is a new grant scheme to support community conservation groups. The following groups were funded in Rodney:

- Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group - \$33,500
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¹ The Regional Environment and Natural Heritage fund is an established grant that received a top up of \$440,000 in 2019/2020.

² The Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant is a natural environment targeted rate-administered initiative which distributed \$775,000 to groups in 2019/2020, of which \$150,000 was funded by the water quality targeted rate for landowners and groups helping to protect and restore urban and rural waterways.

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- Shorebirds Trust - \$12,000
 - The Forest Bridge Trust - \$26,200
 - Northern New Zealand Seabird Charitable Trust – Takatu Landcare Group - \$28,000
 - Mahurangi College - \$20,000
 - Leigh Community Club – \$13,100
 - The Helping Paws Charitable Trust - \$8,000
 - Pest Free Warkworth - \$8,000.

Individual grants were also provided to the following groups:

- Ōtakanini Tōpū Fencing - \$47,000
- Forest Bridge Trust Hōteō Protection - \$74,000.

Other regional groups have also received funding for environmental projects that will be delivered across Auckland, but will also benefit Rodney:

- Northwest Wildlink Partnership Group - \$7,000
- EcoTrack database and application - \$30,000
- Community Cat Coalition – de-sexing project - \$10,000
- Biosense – virtual reality experience of a kauri dieback affected forest - \$20,000
- Sir Peter Blake Trust – virtual reality in schools - \$15,000
- Southern Seabirds Solution Trust - \$10,000.

In addition, the natural environment targeted rate has allowed for significant region-wide investment in community-led conservation. This includes:

- A one-stop shop conservation portal has been developed in 2019/2020 to provide pest control reference material, maps of high value ecological sites across the region, information on events and links to other partner websites such as the Department of Conservation
- Supply of tools and equipment for conservation activities
- Regional events and support including Festivals, Pest Free Auckland newsletters and Pest Liaison Group meetings.

Water Quality Projects



Western isthmus water quality improvement programme

Investing \$361 million in infrastructure projects over 10 years to reduce overflows into 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.
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Stream restoration projects

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

In your area:

- **Riparian root tensile strength project:** This involves collecting data on 10 of our most common riparian species root structures to identify most suitable plants to prevent erosion.
- **Hōteō Sediment Reduction Project:** This is a jointly-funded, five year, \$2 million project that is 50/50 cost shared with Ministry for the Environment. A 'Geomorphically Effective Management Solutions' (GEMS) monitoring framework is being developed. The monitoring includes paid work for local kaitiaki alongside technical experts, with three surveys undertaken this year.



Contaminant reduction projects

Investing to reduce the amount of urban pollutants and sediment entering our waterways.

- **Te Rau Puriri Wetland Restoration:** Stage one of this project was completed and involved fencing 13 hectares of natural wetland, allowing the wetland margins to re-establish and filter out sediment and contaminants.
- **Small Site Sediment Compliance:** Our small site compliance team has targeted 152 high-risk development sites in Huapai to ensure good practices around site management and sediment control are in place. Across Auckland over 5,000 sites have been visited and 342 fines have been issued.
- **Ngaroto Lakes groundwater model:** Water quality monitoring in the Ngaroto Lakes and ground water continued in 2019/2020. Options for a co-management approach for the management of lakes in collaboration with Ngāti Manuhiri have been scoped.
- **Warkworth Industrial Estate:** A feasibility report assessing water quality treatment options for the existing stormwater network has been completed to inform a business case.



Septic tank and onsite wastewater

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

In your area:

- **Compliance investigations in Point Wells and Muriwai:** We are undertaking active onsite wastewater system compliance investigations in Point Wells and Muriwai.
- We are providing educational material to property owners on swimmability and the potential impact of septic tanks on water quality as part of our onsite wastewater programme.

Find out more:

For queries about the water quality targeted rate:

HWcustomerandcommunity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

For queries about the natural environment targeted rate:

Pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

