Let's Protect Our Environment

WRITTEN FEEDBACK
Late Submissions Volume 1

Date published: **Friday, 24 January 2025**

2. Pest-free islands

In 2016, the government unveiled a vision to eradicate rats, stoats, and possums nationwide by 2050. Since then, communities across Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa have made significant strides in controlling these introduced predators.

Offshore islands and peninsulas are pivotal in this effort, as once predators have been removed, they are highly defendable against reinvasion.

More than half of the islands in the Tikapa Moana / Moana nui o Toi / the Hauraki Gulf are already free from introduced mammals, serving as sanctuaries for threatened species. Wildlife such as kākā are also increasingly common on islands such as Waiheke, as a result of pest control by mana whenua, communities and agencies. It's essential for all of us to play a part when visiting pest free islands, ensuring we do not inadvertently transport stowaways, like rats or mice, in our vehicles or gear.

We want your feedback on what comes next for our regional contribution towards the national Predator Free 2050 vision.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Support through community work and education programmes with iwi involvement.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

Our marine environment is under pressure from introduced species such as Mediterranean fanworm and Asian paddle crabs. Once established, marine species are very difficult to control, so the best approach is to prevent them reaching new places. We all have a part to play, whether we are using our marine environment for work or play, in making sure we are not spreading marine pests with us as we go. To support this, our current rules / plan require vessel hulls to be kept clean, which reduces the risk of pests moving to new locations.

However, our current approach does not include rules requiring anchors, chains and other gear to be kept clean. In 2021, exotic caulerpa seaweed was discovered at Aotea / Great Barrier Island, the first time it had been found in the country. Caulerpa seaweed is mainly spread by getting tangled on anchor chains and other gear.

We want your feedback on whether we should introduce a rule requiring anchors, chains and other gear to be clean of visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

Future care

We also want your feedback on another approach we could take, which is to identify high value marine ecosystem locations and control a range of invasive marine species at these sites, similar to our approach to protecting high value ecosystems and threatened species on land.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

Future care

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Map 1: Threatened species habitats



Let's protect our environment: early consultation

Feedback must be received by **8 December 2024**

Aotearoa / New Zealand's geographical isolation has created a unique environment, home to many plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Through whakapapa, Māori are intricately linked to the taiao / environment, for which they are kaitiaki / guardians. Our region's economy also strongly relies on, and is connected to, our natural environment, with industries such as farming, forestry, horticulture, aquaculture, and tourism depending on it. We all have a part to play in protecting our environment for our ecological health, cultural and economic well-being.

We want your input on how we, altogether as a region, protect our natural environment and primary industries in the future from introduced plants, animals and diseases that can cause harm. We will use your feedback, as well as feedback from mana whenua, stakeholders, and technical experts, to draft a proposed plan for how we do this from 2030 - 2040. We have focussed on a few key issues here, but you are welcome to let us know anything else you think we should consider.

We encourage you to read the consultation document before answering any of the following questions. You can give feedback online at akhaveyoursay.nz/environment, or:

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protectourenvironment@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Post your completed form to:
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Attention: Let's protect our environment
Freepost Authority 190198
Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street West
Auckland, 1142

Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public documents. All other personal details will not be made available to the public.

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Email or postal address: [redacted]

Your local board or suburb: [redacted]

Are you providing:

- [x] Your **personal** feedback
- [x] Feedback as the official representative of an **organisation**

  Organisation name: X

Important privacy information

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These questions are optional but will help us understand which groups of the community are engaging with us.

What gender are you?

[redacted]

What age group are you?

[redacted]

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply)

[redacted]

Would you like to subscribe to any of the following? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ People's Panel – to take part in council surveys — No thank You
- ☐ OurAuckland – your weekly guide to what's happening in Auckland
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Map 1: Threatened species habitats



6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Limit the number of visitors per day like Tiritiri Island.
People still can come but numbers to be planned & regulated.

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

1. Responsible cat ownership

Cats are much loved companions and family members in many households. At the same time, they are one of the many pressures facing threatened native species.

Around the region, iwi, hapū, communities and agencies are working hard to protect shorebirds and other threatened species from other threats such as rats and stoats, but cat predation continues to cause harm.

Responsible cat ownership measures such as desexing, microchipping, collars, and keeping cats at home on their property are good for cat welfare, including protecting them from overpopulation, neglect, traffic accidents, dogs and other hazards. These same measures also help protect our wildlife.

We already partner with the SPCA and local vets to provide free desexing and microchipping to communities living near threatened species sites.

We want your feedback on whether we should use rules to require responsible cat ownership measures in certain circumstances, in addition to our current approach to promoting responsible cat ownership. Increasingly, councils across Aotearoa/New Zealand and around the world are putting in place rules to help ensure every cat is well cared for, with owners keeping them safe and happy at home away from threatened wildlife. These measures also make it easier to identify and return lost cats, helping to ensure their safety and well-being.

We also want your feedback on whether council should invest more in providing financial support to assist people who cannot afford to desex their cats.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

What is your opinion on the following potential cat management interventions for the locations identified below?

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Kawau Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Rakino Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☑	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
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Kawau Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Rakino Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☑	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☑	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
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Kawau Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
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Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☑	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☑	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

passive recreation, but motor boating is also a valued recreational experience for the local community and beyond.

We want your feedback on whether we should ban motorised boats from Lake Tomarata, to protect this priority lake that we are already managing for other freshwater marine species - what is the right balance for biodiversity protection and recreation at Tomarata?

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

- ☑ Support
- ☐ Do not support
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unsure

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Extreme weather events cause significant damage to communities and ecosystems, like we saw across Tāmaki Makaurau in 2023. In these conditions, weeds can take advantage of the chaos, spreading to new areas via wind and floodwaters, and quickly dominating areas stripped bare by the storms.

We already contribute to climate resilience and mitigation through a variety of biodiversity protection programmes. And through Te Tāruke a Tawhiri Auckland's Climate Plan, we've also recognised the importance of pest management in both climate mitigation and resilience.

However, as extreme weather events become more frequent, our natural environment is being increasingly impacted by pests and diseases.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

?

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

Our lakes, streams and wetlands face many challenges, such as habitat loss, pollution from excess nutrients like nitrogen, sediment build up, and changes in water levels and flow patterns. On top of these, invaders such as koi carp fish and hornwort weed are also a big problem in our waterways.

Like marine species, introduced freshwater species are very difficult to control once they arrive, so preventing further spread is very important. Whether we are going for a swim, kayaking on a lake, or shooting ducks, we all have a part to play in preventing the spread of freshwater species that can contaminate our gear and the next location we visit.

Currently, we control existing introduced species such as hornwort and rudd at two of the region's highest ecological value lakes, Tomarata and Rototoa, to protect and restore native species such as kākahi / freshwater mussels.

We want your feedback on whether we should also control freshwater pests at more of our region's 72 lakes.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

In 2023, freshwater gold clam was discovered in the Waikato River. These freshwater invaders can spread quickly, able to easily attach to and travel on wetsuits, kayaks and other gear unless the gear is completely dried out and treated.

As wake boats cannot be completely dried, they are an especially high-risk item when moving from gold clam infested areas. In fact, motorised boats in general are difficult to completely dry.

Removing motorised boats from Lake Tomarata would reduce the risk of the lake being invaded by freshwater clams. It would also have a range of wider benefits for the environment, safety and

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
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Rakino Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

NO CATS please –

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

- [ ] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

If you can feed a cat you can de-sex it.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

NO CATS ON the Islands.

2. Pest-free islands

In 2016, the government unveiled a vision to eradicate rats, stoats, and possums nationwide by 2050. Since then, communities across Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa have made significant strides in controlling these introduced predators.

Offshore islands and peninsulas are pivotal in this effort, as once predators have been removed, they are highly defendable against reinvasion.

More than half of the islands in the Tikapa Moana / Moana nui o Toi / the Hauraki Gulf are already free from introduced mammals, serving as sanctuaries for threatened species. Wildlife such as kākā are also increasingly common on islands such as Waiheke, as a result of pest control by mana whenua, communities and agencies. It's essential for all of us to play a part when visiting pest free islands, ensuring we do not inadvertently transport stowaways, like rats or mice, in our vehicles or gear.

We want your feedback on what comes next for our regional contribution towards the national Predator Free 2050 vision.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Waste of money until cats are banned.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

Our marine environment is under pressure from introduced species such as Mediterranean fanworm and Asian paddle crabs. Once established, marine species are very difficult to control, so the best approach is to prevent them reaching new places. We all have a part to play, whether we are using our marine environment for work or play, in making sure we are not spreading marine pests with us as we go. To support this, our current rules / plan require vessel hulls to be kept clean, which reduces the risk of pests moving to new locations.

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3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

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Map 1: Threatened species habitats



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Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

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Your feedback (all questions are optional)

1. Responsible cat ownership

Cats are much loved companions and family members in many households. At the same time, they are one of the many pressures facing threatened native species.

Around the region, iwi, hapū, communities and agencies are working hard to protect shorebirds and other threatened species from other threats such as rats and stoats, but cat predation continues to cause harm.

Responsible cat ownership measures such as desexing, microchipping, collars, and keeping cats at home on their property are good for cat welfare, including protecting them from overpopulation, neglect, traffic accidents, dogs and other hazards. These same measures also help protect our wildlife.

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Tell us why

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Tell us why

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Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☑	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☑	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

Will need to support with methodology and behaviour change. How do people keep them in? Perhaps any born from now onwards.

passive recreation, but motor boating is also a valued recreational experience for the local community and beyond.

We want your feedback on whether we should ban motorised boats from Lake Tomarata, to protect this priority lake that we are already managing for other freshwater marine species - what is the right balance for biodiversity protection and recreation at Tomarata?

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- ☑ Support
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Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Extreme weather events cause significant damage to communities and ecosystems, like we saw across Tāmaki Makaurau in 2023. In these conditions, weeds can take advantage of the chaos, spreading to new areas via wind and floodwaters, and quickly dominating areas stripped bare by the storms.

We already contribute to climate resilience and mitigation through a variety of biodiversity protection programmes. And through Te Tāruke a Tawhiri Auckland's Climate Plan, we've also recognised the importance of pest management in both climate mitigation and resilience.

However, as extreme weather events become more frequent, our natural environment is being increasingly impacted by pests and diseases.

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Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

Our lakes, streams and wetlands face many challenges, such as habitat loss, pollution from excess nutrients like nitrogen, sediment build up, and changes in water levels and flow patterns. On top of these, invaders such as koi carp fish and hornwort weed are also a big problem in our waterways.

Like marine species, introduced freshwater species are very difficult to control once they arrive, so preventing further spread is very important. Whether we are going for a swim, kayaking on a lake, or shooting ducks, we all have a part to play in preventing the spread of freshwater species that can contaminate our gear and the next location we visit.

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We want your feedback on whether we should also control freshwater pests at more of our region's 72 lakes.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

- [x] Support
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Tell us why

In 2023, freshwater gold clam was discovered in the Waikato River. These freshwater invaders can spread quickly, able to easily attach to and travel on wetsuits, kayaks and other gear unless the gear is completely dried out and treated.

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Tell us why

Existing animals only.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

Need to support existing pets change.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Education and tools are needed.

2. Pest-free islands

In 2016, the government unveiled a vision to eradicate rats, stoats, and possums nationwide by 2050. Since then, communities across Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa have made significant strides in controlling these introduced predators.

Offshore islands and peninsulas are pivotal in this effort, as once predators have been removed, they are highly defendable against reinvasion.

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Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Feral cats are a major issue

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

Our marine environment is under pressure from introduced species such as Mediterranean fanworm and Asian paddle crabs. Once established, marine species are very difficult to control, so the best approach is to prevent them reaching new places. We all have a part to play, whether we are using our marine environment for work or play, in making sure we are not spreading marine pests with us as we go. To support this, our current rules / plan require vessel hulls to be kept clean, which reduces the risk of pests moving to new locations.

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Tell us why

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3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

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Tell us why

Late 4

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  Organisation name: _____

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These questions are optional but will help us understand which groups of the community are engaging with us.

What gender are you?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Another gender: _____

What age group are you?

☐ Under 15 ☐ 15-17 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75+

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply)

☐ Pākehā/NZ European ☐ Māori ☐ Cook Islands Māori

☐ Samoan ☐ Tongan ☐ Indian

☐ Chinese ☐ Southeast Asian ☐ Korean

☐ Other (please specify): _____

Would you like to subscribe to any of the following? (tick all that apply)

☐ People's Panel – to take part in council surveys

☐ OurAuckland – your weekly guide to what's happening in Auckland

☐ Auckland Conversations - free public events offering ideas, inspiration and action for world-class cities

You can also visit AK Have Your Say at akhaveyoursay.nz to find out about, or register to receive regular updates on, consultation activities happening across Auckland

Map 1: Threatened species habitats



- more funded weed ammegtied
- support for landowners to control invasive weed species like moth plant
- restore & natural waterflows
- increased funds for community funding eg weed & riparian workshops

* Protective & regenerating wetlands is climate mitigation & resilience

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Our Marine environment & freshwaters environment
Wetlands are a taonga for Maori & a place of connection & learning for all people
Wetlands are a significant carbon sink to mitigate climate change.
They need to be protected to maintain a balance in our environment
Continuing to eradicate pest animals & plants from our environment as well as supporting native planting will mean our biodiversity will be improved and will also support itself to improve naturally.

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Our native species cannot survive on their own without our committed support & action. We need to invest in actively remove pest plants & animals from the marine freshwater riparian & terrestrial environments in order for our native species to flourish.
Our biodiversity in ballance is the best way we can mitigate climate change & remain climate resilient.

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

1. Responsible cat ownership

Cats are much loved companions and family members in many households. At the same time, they are one of the many pressures facing threatened native species.

Around the region, iwi, hapū, communities and agencies are working hard to protect shorebirds and other threatened species from other threats such as rats and stoats, but cat predation continues to cause harm.

Responsible cat ownership measures such as desexing, microchipping, collars, and keeping cats at home on their property are good for cat welfare, including protecting them from overpopulation, neglect, traffic accidents, dogs and other hazards. These same measures also help protect our wildlife.

We already partner with the SPCA and local vets to provide free desexing and microchipping to communities living near threatened species sites.

We want your feedback on whether we should use rules to require responsible cat ownership measures in certain circumstances, in addition to our current approach to promoting responsible cat ownership. Increasingly, councils across Aotearoa/New Zealand and around the world are putting in place rules to help ensure every cat is well cared for, with owners keeping them safe and happy at home away from threatened wildlife. These measures also make it easier to identify and return lost cats, helping to ensure their safety and well-being.

We also want your feedback on whether council should invest more in providing financial support to assist people who cannot afford to desex their cats.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

What is your opinion on the following potential cat management interventions for the locations identified below?

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Kawau Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Rakino Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☑	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☑	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

If we begin with management on our islands and close to threatened areas we may be successful Then we can focus on all of Auckland.
If we start too big too soon we will spread our limited resources too thinly Then

we can focus on Greater Auckland
Now cats everywhere should be desexed

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Kawau Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Rakino Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☑	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☑	☐	☑	☐

Tell us why

As above. Focus on islands first, achieve success, then address effort across Greater Auckland.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Kawau Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rakino Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☐	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

This is very difficult to do and not all cats will be trained to do so. Maybe new cats ie stating from kittens. It would be stressful

passive recreation, but motor boating is also a valued recreational experience for the local community and beyond.

We want your feedback on whether we should ban motorised boats from Lake Tomarata, to protect this priority lake that we are already managing for other freshwater marine species - what is the right balance for biodiversity protection and recreation at Tomarata?

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

- ☑ Support
- ☐ Do not support
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unsure

Tell us why

Allow only passive boats which can be properly cleaned on lake Tomarata.

5. Climate resilience

Extreme weather events cause significant damage to communities and ecosystems, like we saw across Tāmaki Makaurau in 2023. In these conditions, weeds can take advantage of the chaos, spreading to new areas via wind and floodwaters, and quickly dominating areas stripped bare by the storms.

We already contribute to climate resilience and mitigation through a variety of biodiversity protection programmes. And through Te Tāruke a Tawhiri Auckland's Climate Plan, we've also recognised the importance of pest management in both climate mitigation and resilience.

However, as extreme weather events become more frequent, our natural environment is being increasingly impacted by pests and diseases.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Yes, this is going to become more impactful with climate change
- Increase funding for wetland & riparian restoration
- Prioritise pest & weed control as an effective form of

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

Our lakes, streams and wetlands face many challenges, such as habitat loss, pollution from excess nutrients like nitrogen, sediment build up, and changes in water levels and flow patterns. On top of these, invaders such as koi carp fish and hornwort weed are also a big problem in our waterways.

Like marine species, introduced freshwater species are very difficult to control once they arrive, so preventing further spread is very important. Whether we are going for a swim, kayaking on a lake, or shooting ducks, we all have a part to play in preventing the spread of freshwater species that can contaminate our gear and the next location we visit.

Currently, we control existing introduced species such as hornwort and rudd at two of the region's highest ecological value lakes, Tomarata and Rototoa, to protect and restore native species such as kākahi / freshwater mussels.

We want your feedback on whether we should also control freshwater pests at more of our region's 72 lakes.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

We need to stop pest species before they become established. Transfer of dive/swim/boat gear needs to be done with care and cleaning before shifting locations

In 2023, freshwater gold clam was discovered in the Waikato River. These freshwater invaders can spread quickly, able to easily attach to and travel on wetsuits, kayaks and other gear unless the gear is completely dried out and treated.

As wake boats cannot be completely dried, they are an especially high-risk item when moving from gold clam infested areas. In fact, motorised boats in general are difficult to completely dry.

Removing motorised boats from Lake Tomarata would reduce the risk of the lake being invaded by freshwater clams. It would also have a range of wider benefits for the environment, safety and

to try to contain an older cat. However kittens should be trained from birth

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Kawau Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Rakino Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☑	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

Only cats belonging to registered islanders can be taken by their owner to an island. Not 'just' holiday makers. These cats need to be contained, desexed & kept indoors at night, wear ruffs & bells

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

It will only work if everyone does the same. Not desexing some cats will mean numbers will still increase. If we want it to work we have to prioritise by subsidising

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Keep indoors in the evening until dawn
Wear ruffs & bells
Create runs (catio) to keep your cats contained from roaming
It would be best not to have pet cats, however they are a proven benefit for mental health

2. Pest-free islands

In 2016, the government unveiled a vision to eradicate rats, stoats, and possums nationwide by 2050. Since then, communities across Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa have made significant strides in controlling these introduced predators.

Offshore islands and peninsulas are pivotal in this effort, as once predators have been removed, they are highly defendable against reinvasion.

More than half of the islands in the Tikapa Moana / Moana nui o Toi / the Hauraki Gulf are already free from introduced mammals, serving as sanctuaries for threatened species. Wildlife such as kākā are also increasingly common on islands such as Waiheke, as a result of pest control by mana whenua, communities and agencies. It's essential for all of us to play a part when visiting pest free islands, ensuring we do not inadvertently transport stowaways, like rats or mice, in our vehicles or gear.

We want your feedback on what comes next for our regional contribution towards the national Predator Free 2050 vision.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

We need to maintain efforts on islands currently predator free
We need to make our other gulf islands predator free
so they are not a source of pest species that
might reinvade other islands, especially rats & stoats
We need to continue to focus on predator free
mainland Auckland, especially possums, rats & stoats.
There is good evidence of increased kaka numbers
following the decline of stoat numbers on Waiheke.
However, if predators are eliminated the biodiversity
on some of our larger islands ie Waiheke will support
visitors, birds to become habituated, the birds will
spread themselves.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

Our marine environment is under pressure from introduced species such as Mediterranean fanworm and Asian paddle crabs. Once established, marine species are very difficult to control, so the best approach is to prevent them reaching new places. We all have a part to play, whether we are using our marine environment for work or play, in making sure we are not spreading marine pests with us as we go. To support this, our current rules / plan require vessel hulls to be kept clean, which reduces the risk of pests moving to new locations.

However, our current approach does not include rules requiring anchors, chains and other gear to be kept clean. In 2021, exotic caulerpa seaweed was discovered at Aotea / Great Barrier Island, the first time it had been found in the country. Caulerpa seaweed is mainly spread by getting tangled on anchor chains and other gear.

We want your feedback on whether we should introduce a rule requiring anchors, chains and other gear to be clean of visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

This is a simple blanket rule that should apply to commercial & recreational boaties / fishermen. It should apply to marine & freshwater locations. for all caulerpa weed & golden clam transfer

We also want your feedback on another approach we could take, which is to identify high value marine ecosystem locations and control a range of invasive marine species at these sites, similar to our approach to protecting high value ecosystems and threatened species on land.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Do not support
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Unsure

Tell us why

Absolutely vital. The marine ecosystem is vital to the balance of our planet. The invasive species are largely unseen compared to the terrestrial environment, so we need to be even more vigilant than on land with invasive species control.

Let's protect our environment: early consultation

Feedback must be received by **8 December 2024**

Aotearoa / New Zealand's geographical isolation has created a unique environment, home to many plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Through whakapapa, Māori are intricately linked to the taiao / environment, for which they are kaitiaki / guardians. Our region's economy also strongly relies on, and is connected to, our natural environment, with industries such as farming, forestry, horticulture, aquaculture, and tourism depending on it. We all have a part to play in protecting our environment for our ecological health, cultural and economic well-being.

We want your input on how we, altogether as a region, protect our natural environment and primary industries in the future from introduced plants, animals and diseases that can cause harm. We will use your feedback, as well as feedback from mana whenua, stakeholders, and technical experts, to draft a proposed plan for how we do this from 2030 - 2040. We have focussed on a few key issues here, but you are welcome to let us know anything else you think we should consider.

We encourage you to read the consultation document before answering any of the following questions. You can give feedback online at akhaveyoursay.nz/environment, or:

Scan and Email your completed form to:
protectourenvironment@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Post your completed form to:
Auckland Council
Attention: Let's protect our environment
Freepost Authority 190198
Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street West
Auckland, 1142

Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public documents. All other personal details will not be made available to the public.

First name: [redacted] Last name: [redacted]

Email or postal address: [redacted]

Your local board or suburb: [redacted]

Are you providing:

☑ Your **personal** feedback

☐ Feedback as the official representative of an **organisation**

Organisation name: _____

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These questions are optional but will help us understand which groups of the community are engaging with us.

What gender are you?

[redacted]

What age group are you?

[redacted]

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply)

[redacted]

Would you like to subscribe to any of the following? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ People's Panel – to take part in council surveys
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Map 1: Threatened species habitats



6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

1. Responsible cat ownership

Cats are much loved companions and family members in many households. At the same time, they are one of the many pressures facing threatened native species.

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What is your opinion on the following potential cat management interventions for the locations identified below?

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Waiheke Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☐	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
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Rakino Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☑	☐	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☐	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	Support	Do not support	Other	Unsure
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Rakino Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☐	☑	☐	☐
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	☐	☐	☐	☐
All of Auckland	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

I can't imagine how I would do that + I don't want a cat locked inside.

passive recreation, but motor boating is also a valued recreational experience for the local community and beyond.

We want your feedback on whether we should ban motorised boats from Lake Tomarata, to protect this priority lake that we are already managing for other freshwater marine species - what is the right balance for biodiversity protection and recreation at Tomarata?

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Do not support
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unsure

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Extreme weather events cause significant damage to communities and ecosystems, like we saw across Tāmaki Makaurau in 2023. In these conditions, weeds can take advantage of the chaos, spreading to new areas via wind and floodwaters, and quickly dominating areas stripped bare by the storms.

We already contribute to climate resilience and mitigation through a variety of biodiversity protection programmes. And through Te Tāruke a Tawhiri Auckland's Climate Plan, we've also recognised the importance of pest management in both climate mitigation and resilience.

However, as extreme weather events become more frequent, our natural environment is being increasingly impacted by pests and diseases.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

Our lakes, streams and wetlands face many challenges, such as habitat loss, pollution from excess nutrients like nitrogen, sediment build up, and changes in water levels and flow patterns. On top of these, invaders such as koi carp fish and hornwort weed are also a big problem in our waterways.

Like marine species, introduced freshwater species are very difficult to control once they arrive, so preventing further spread is very important. Whether we are going for a swim, kayaking on a lake, or shooting ducks, we all have a part to play in preventing the spread of freshwater species that can contaminate our gear and the next location we visit.

Currently, we control existing introduced species such as hornwort and rudd at two of the region's highest ecological value lakes, Tomarata and Rototoa, to protect and restore native species such as kākahi / freshwater mussels.

We want your feedback on whether we should also control freshwater pests at more of our region's 72 lakes.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Do not support
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unsure

Tell us why

In 2023, freshwater gold clam was discovered in the Waikato River. These freshwater invaders can spread quickly, able to easily attach to and travel on wetsuits, kayaks and other gear unless the gear is completely dried out and treated.

As wake boats cannot be completely dried, they are an especially high-risk item when moving from gold clam infested areas. In fact, motorised boats in general are difficult to completely dry.

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Rakino Island	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waiheke Island	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us why

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

- ☐ Support
- ☑ Do not support
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unsure

Tell us why

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

I can't imagine not having a cat. If we have to lock them inside, I would probably move. As a companion animal they are important to me.

2. Pest-free islands

In 2016, the government unveiled a vision to eradicate rats, stoats, and possums nationwide by 2050. Since then, communities across Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa have made significant strides in controlling these introduced predators.

Offshore islands and peninsulas are pivotal in this effort, as once predators have been removed, they are highly defendable against reinvasion.

More than half of the islands in the Tikapa Moana / Moana nui o Toi / the Hauraki Gulf are already free from introduced mammals, serving as sanctuaries for threatened species. Wildlife such as kākā are also increasingly common on islands such as Waiheke, as a result of pest control by mana whenua, communities and agencies. It's essential for all of us to play a part when visiting pest free islands, ensuring we do not inadvertently transport stowaways, like rats or mice, in our vehicles or gear.

We want your feedback on what comes next for our regional contribution towards the national Predator Free 2050 vision.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

Our marine environment is under pressure from introduced species such as Mediterranean fanworm and Asian paddle crabs. Once established, marine species are very difficult to control, so the best approach is to prevent them reaching new places. We all have a part to play, whether we are using our marine environment for work or play, in making sure we are not spreading marine pests with us as we go. To support this, our current rules / plan require vessel hulls to be kept clean, which reduces the risk of pests moving to new locations.

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We want your feedback on whether we should introduce a rule requiring anchors, chains and other gear to be clean of visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location.

For more information on this topic, read our full consultation materials.

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Do not support
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unsure

Tell us why

We also want your feedback on another approach we could take, which is to identify high value marine ecosystem locations and control a range of invasive marine species at these sites, similar to our approach to protecting high value ecosystems and threatened species on land.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Do not support
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Unsure

Tell us why