Let's Protect Our Environment

WRITTEN FEEDBACK
Late Submissions Volume 2

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

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:

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

  Organisation name: _____

Important privacy information

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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)

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- ☐ OurAuckland – your weekly guide to what's happening in Auckland
- ☐ Auckland Conversations - free public events offering ideas, inspiration and action for world-class cities

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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.

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

Desexing animals is logical if their over population is a hazard to native wildlife.

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

This is an expensive exercise if you care for multiple cats, not by choice, but by the fact they were abandoned by rental tenants in the neighbourhood.

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

It's totally impractical to expect cats not to roam!

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

What about the removal of living feral cats off the island, do they have to be slaughtered when the population problem is of our (humans) making.

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

The countless number of years we spent not desexing cats is of our own making, of cowse there should be support for those who can't afford it, we left this problem go for too long, together we can fix it.

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

All cats could be registered & desexed 'free of charge' & made compulsory, so that 'bad owners can be fined for non compliance, rather than slaughtering innocent cats that have been abandoned & forced to become feral + education on care of cats!

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?

Please get rid of the rats first!

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

In order to achieve the desired result, we must have a rule to clean anchor chains & other marine gear + a fine for non-compliance.

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

If you can instigate both of the above solutions to marine threat Then do so, NZ has a tourist reputation to protect which brings in $millions / billions of revenue

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

Again the NZ tourist $ is at stake, we must go above & beyond to 'safeguard what tourists want to see & are attracted to => pristine waters etc.

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

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

Recreational boating is also of interest to tourist, so its necessary to be able to have that choice. Could you not provide a mobile dry dock for all boats to be cleaned at before + after use on the lake as well as pushing for other recreational activities eg kayaking, padelle board etc.

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?

Not prioritise, but certainly include it.

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.

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

Tell us why

To limit population growth of domestic, stray and feral cats.

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

Tell us why

So domestic strays can be found and returned safely to their owners before becomming feral.
So animal control officers can know the difference between domestic and feral cats and euthanise only the feral.

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

Our local cats are constantly killing the local birds and are fighting with each other at night and don't seem to get to be taken to the vets very often for check ups.

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

To protect the islands' eco-system and all the work people ~~have~~ have put into restoring the local habitats.

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

There needs to be a little leeway in this because there are some people who will flatly refuse to pay and the problem will continue. Education over time as people get used to the idea.

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

I think cats need to be controlled as dogs are controlled.

Cats are not only a danger to wildlife and young children, (ferals) they ~~are~~ can be a disease vector and who knows what the next pandemic could bring.

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?

Education - starting with children at a young age. Treat pest elimination the way nicotine addiction has been treated. There's still a few smokers around but it's no-where near as socially acceptable as it was 30 years ago.

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.

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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

Our islands rely on the sea. Caurlerpa is just another pest to be controlled and hopefully eliminated in time.

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

We either deal with it or watch more of the sea environment die off.

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 protect N.Z.'s freshwater systems.

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

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

~~Personally~~ Personally I would say ban them but then I do not use motor boats.

~~A~~ ban ~~may~~ may affect local business owners and ~~leisure~~ boaters / leisure

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. Long term thinking is needed. Think longer than the next election

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?

We must raise our children to care - otherwise we are wasting our time.

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Excuse the hand writing
The table was too low and my hand got too tired.

Map 1: Threatened species habitats



Late 8

Let's protect our environment: early consultation

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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
- ☐ 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

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

I think its important to protect Endangered species by desexing cats.

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

I think it is important to do this as people trapping pests can decipher if the cats are domesticated or wild. Also if owners lose thier cats they can be found easier.

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

I think on islands with large populations of endangered wildlife it is important to prioritise the livelyhood of those species. I am conflicted towards places that are larger and have lesser native animals. I think its important to

Protect native species in NZ but in #Late 8
Populated cities like auckland i think it is okay
to let them roam a bit.

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

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

I think this is a good idea as it provides help towards people who are in tricky situations and need support/help to keep their cats and neighbourhood safe.

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

No :)

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.

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

I think this is a good rule as seaweed and pests can have a huge impact on the environment.

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

I think this is important and can help minimise threats to already threatened species.

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

I think it is important to protect the ecosystems and species that's living in the lakes and land surrounding them.

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

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?

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

Tell us why

I think this is a good idea as other lakes and places to launch are widely accessible in New Zealand and is banning these types of boats is going to help the environment I don't see why not.

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?

I think this is a good idea as planning for the feature of Aotearoa and how climate change is gonna affect our environment and culture is detrimental to our survival and how we live

as a Society.

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?

No :)

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Map 1: Threatened species habitats



DISCLAIMER:
This map/plan is illustrative only and all information should be independently verified on site before taking any action. Copyright Auckland Council. Land Parcel Boundary information from LINZ (Crown Copyright Reserved). Whilst due care has been taken, Auckland Council gives no warranty as to the accuracy and plan completeness of any information on this map/plan and accepts no liability for any error, omission or use of the information. Height datum: Auckland 1946.

Priority Cat Sensitive Threatened Species Habitat (Indicative)

0 3,000 6,000 9,000
Meters

Scale @ A3
= 1:385,000

Date Printed:
2/10/2024

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

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: _____

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]

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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.

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

Tell us why

WILD CATS ARE A THREAT TO NATIVE BIRDS.

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

THE ISLANDS ORIGNALLY HAD NO CATS

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

CAT OWNERS SHOULD BE MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PETS BEHAVIOUR

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

DONT SUPPORT CATS ON ANY OF THESE ISLAND. IF YOU WANT A PET CAT, DONT LIVE ON THESE ISLANDS

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

BETTER DESEXED THAN RUNNING / REPRODUCING FREELY

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

- CHARGE HIGH FEE TO HAVE/OWN A CAT
- SUGGEST BIRD/BUDGIE INSTEAD

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?

ENGAGE WITH RATEPAYERS WHO BORDER THOSE SANCTUARIES.

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

ITS THE EASIEST WAY TO STOP THE SPREAD
ALL BOATIES SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE

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

PROTECTION OF THE FUTURE
THESE SYSTEMS REQUIRE INTERVENTON NOW
BY COUNCIL

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

2/72 LAKES PROTECTED AT PRESENT
72/72 WOULD BE PREFERRED.

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

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?

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

Tell us why

HAVE TO DO SOMETHING - THIS SEEMS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MOVE.

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

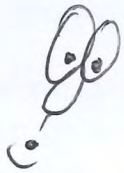
LOOKING AT 3° INCREASE IN AVE. TEMPERATURE BY 2040.

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?

PEST MANAGEMENT - USE CHEMICAL MEANS IF YOU HAVE TOO.

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.



Late 10

Let's protect our environment: early consultation

Auckland Council
16 DEC 2024
CBD - ALBERT STREET

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.

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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.

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

Email or postal address: [redacted]

Your local board or subu [redacted]

Are you providing:

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

Organisation name: _____

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[redacted]

What age group are you?

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

[redacted]

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.

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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

There are stray cat colonies everywhere in Arondale
It's not a nice way for them to live and they predate on
nature - skinks, birds etc.

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

We do it for dogs, why not another predator? Both can kill or injure native species

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

Same as above

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

Probably time to focus on our native species

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

A local cat rescue helped us with a huge cat colony in the house behind us. This could only have happened with council's financial support with ~~vac~~ desexing stray cats.

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

Keep supporting the cat rescues and volunteers to do this amazing, thankless, time-consuming and emotionally difficult work. If not them, who?

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?

This year I haven't seen one monarch butterfly. Bees are less, all butterflies and praying mantis are less. Wasps are destroying our native insect species. It's devastating to witness

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

My understanding is that the Hauraki Gulf, as an ecosystem, is collapsing - it's just we can't see it as it's underwater. Any measure to slow this down, if not stop it, I support.

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

Same as above.

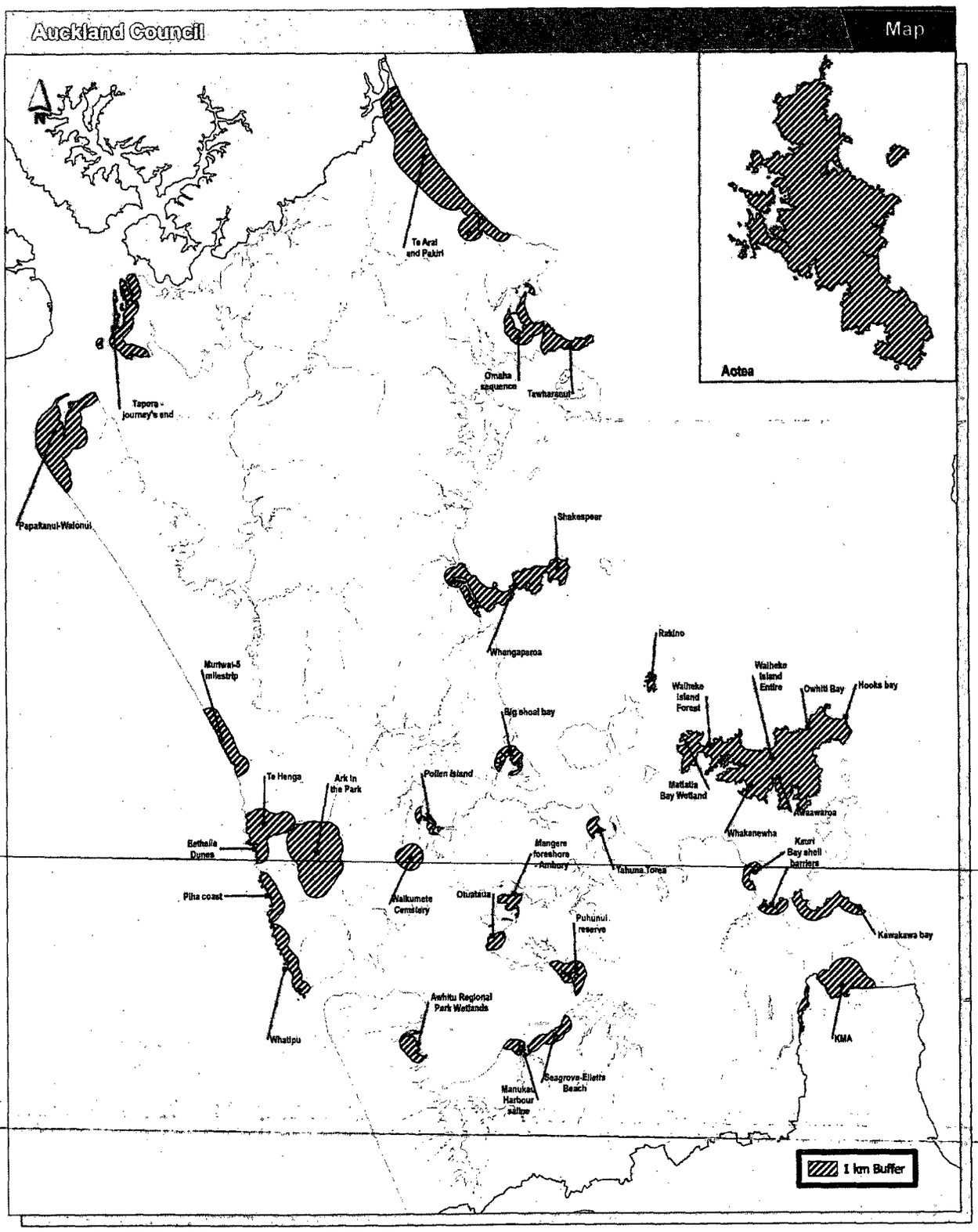
6. Other feedback

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?

Ban all commercial fishing in the Hauraki Gulf for a decade. Give the Gulf a fighting chance to recover. I understand this is a decision at Government level, but perhaps Auckland Council could continue to push for this measure.

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Map 1: Threatened species habitats



DISCLAIMER:
This map/plan is illustrative only and all information should be independently verified on site before taking any action. Copyright Auckland Council. Land Parcel Boundary information from LINZ (Crown Copyright Reserved). Whilst due care has been taken, Auckland Council gives no warranty as to the accuracy and plan completeness of any information on this map/plan and accepts no liability for any error, omission or use of the information. Height datum: Auckland 1946.

Priority Cat Sensitive Threatened Species Habitat (Indicative)

0 3,000 6,000 9,000 Meters

Scale @ A3 = 1:385,000

Date Printed: 2/10/2024

Auckland Council

Let's protect our environment: early consultation

Late 11

Auckland Council
16 DEC 2024
CBD ALBERT STREET

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 [redacted]

Are you providing:

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

Organisation name: _____

Important privacy information

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at **aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy** and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 2020. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.

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?

[redacted]

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

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

DESEXED CATS WILL ~~HELP~~ HELP CAT POPULATION IN CONTROL AND AVOID UNWANTED KITTENS/CATS BECOMING FERAL ANIMALS.

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

IF DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED, WHY DOES NOT THE SAME APPLY TO CATS. CATS ALSO CAN BE PESTS.

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

HAVE HAD A CAT USING MY PROPERTY AS A TOILET. AS WITH DOGS, I CONSIDER THIS UNHYGENIC

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

BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING OF NATIVE SPECIES OF THE ISLANDS, IDEALLY THE ISLANDS BECOME CAT-FREE.

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 OWNERS CAN'T AFFORD TO DESEX ANIMALS, THEN MAYBE THEY SHOULD HAVE ONE. ALSO IN THE FUTURE THE ANIMAL WILL BE DESEXED WHEN IT IS OBTAINED

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

I GREW UP IN AN AREA WHERE THERE WERE FERAL CATS. FROM WHAT I SAW/REMEMBER, THEY HAD A MISERABLE LIVES.

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?

NOT MENTIONED THE REMOVAL OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE MAMMAL — HUMANS.
& ALL FOR PEST-FREE 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.

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

WHO EVER SET UP THE CURRENT RULES, DIDN'T THINK THE PROBLEM THROUGH. OF COURSE IT MUST INCLUDE, ALL EQUIPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS ATTACHED OR IN THE BOAT.

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

REALLY THE WHOLE GULF SHOULD BE CLEARED OF INVASIVE SPECIES BUT AS THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE AREAS OF ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE GET PRIORITY. HOWEVER IF A SMALL AREA OF INFESTATION IS FOUND, AND THEN CLEARED, THIS WILL SAVE TIME + MONEY IN THE LONG TERM.

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

Are you advocating some lakes mostly "clean" and others filled with invasive species? I hope that all waterways are not invaded by unwanted species.

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

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?

- [x] 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?

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.

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.

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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]

Email or pos

Your local b

Are you providing:

- [x] 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.



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?

Please see letter attached

Need more room? You can attach extra pages.

Can I also add that this document is completely inadequate as it does not provide a space to talk about pest plants.

6 December 2024

[redacted]

To Auckland Council

Attention Lets protect our environment

Plant Pests

I have submitted on the Cat policy separately but couldn't find where I could submit on a proposal to make a plant a pest.

I am particularly concerned about **Monstera Deliciosa** which is sold in plant shops for a considerable amount of money. While it looks nice as an indoor pot plant when it is small, it doesn't stay small and when it gets larger people put it outside where it begins to spread.

This plant is now spreading through our reserves and has become difficult to remove as it has large trunks and it moves across the ground using aerial roots and possibly through the seeds as well. After being cut it is extremely heavy to move,

I am attaching photos which relate to an extensive area that North Shore Forest and Bird are in the process of eradicating at Heath Reserve in Northcote and I am aware of other groups who are also having to deal with it on the North Shore.

I have not had the time to canvas other areas of Auckland, in relation to this plant, but I believe that it is likely that others are having issues with it as well.

What I can say is that in my work with a Moth plant removal group, that we have been to several private properties where this plant is out of control.

Please find attached photos hat I have taken of the plants that we have been dealing with in Heath Reserve.

Proposed solution: ban the sale and distribution of this plant in the Auckland region.

[redacted]


#Laïc_2


Late 12


Late


Late 12


#Late 12