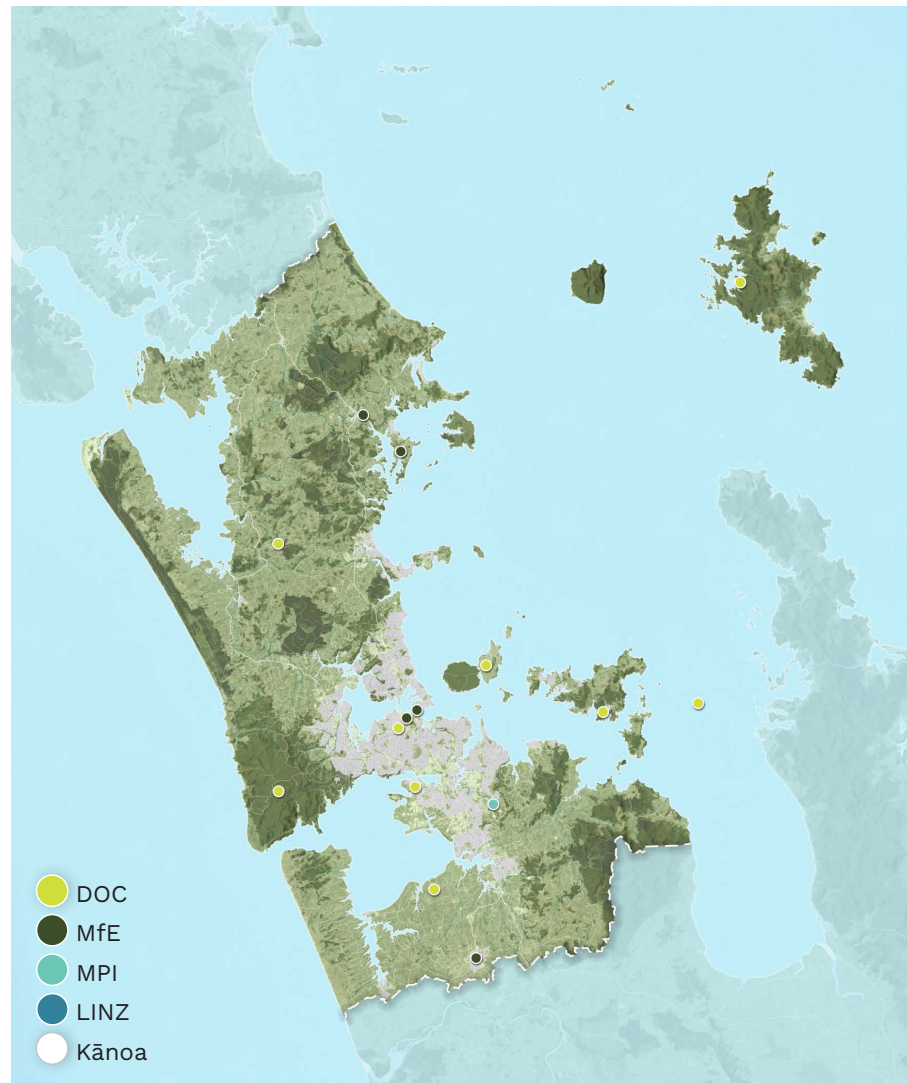


Purpose: To show the Jobs for Nature investment to date in Auckland and the significance of funding in context of the economic and environmental challenges to the region.



Map sourced from Land Information New Zealand 2023

Significance of Jobs for Nature (J4N) funding to the Auckland region during the COVID-19 pandemic

Economic and employment impacts: The COVID-19 pandemic had significant economic and employment impacts on the Auckland region. During the Level 4 lockdown, about half (48%) of the workforce was unable to work.¹ The lockdowns led to more than 26,000 Aucklanders losing their jobs between March and August 2020.² Young people, Māori, and Pacific peoples were most affected, primarily because they have higher levels of employment in industries such as hospitality and tourism.³

It was estimated that Level 3 lockdowns in Auckland resulted in 200 job losses per day, 250,000 workers being unable to work, and approximately a 14% reduction in GDP generation.⁴

The Treasury estimated that Auckland's lockdown due to the Delta variant cost the economy \$8 billion. This represented about 5.6% of the expected GDP for the whole country over that period.⁵ The sectors most impacted by the pandemic and were tourism, health, education, and hospitality.⁶

Environmental challenges facing the region

Climate change: Auckland is vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including sea level rise and more frequent extreme weather events. These changes can lead to flooding and drought, which can disrupt water systems and affect the region's coastal and marine ecosystems.⁷

The Auckland flooding in February 2022 was described as the "biggest climate event" in New Zealand's history at the time, causing significant damage to the region and leading to a substantial economic cost. The severe rainfall led to floodwaters sweeping through streets and highways, causing the death of four people.⁸ The ICNZ expected the total cost of the floods to the insurance industry to exceed \$1 billion.⁹

Urban development and population growth: Auckland's rapid growth and development pose significant environmental challenges. The city's population is expected to reach 2.3 million by 2050, which could lead to more urban development, potentially swallowing up pastoral land.¹⁰

Water quality remains a concern in Auckland. Sediment from developments is choking waterways and estuaries, and city streams are highly polluted. There are also concerns about the impact of fertiliser and pesticide runoff from the agriculture sector on streams and rivers.¹¹

Biodiversity: Auckland's natural environment, is under threat. Several forest ecosystem types are severely depleted, and the region's biodiversity is at risk due to urban development and other human activities.¹²

How is J4N investment addressing environmental challenges facing the region while creating employment opportunities?

Data as at 30 September 2023

J4N invested \$36.8 million of funding across projects in the region which is expected to create over 456 employment opportunities over the life of the programme with over 307,321 hours worked as at 28 November 2023.

Funding	\$36.8 million across 15 projects
Employment opportunities	456
Hours worked	307,321

The J4N projects in the Auckland region are collectively delivering a wide range of environmental and social benefits:

Skills and employment benefits

Many projects are providing employment opportunities including skills development and training, particularly for Māori youth and other local communities. For instance, the Mana in Kaimahi Te Whangai Trust hub expansion project aims to create jobs by employing additional nursery personnel.

The Sustainable Business Network Partnering to Plant project, links community restoration groups nationwide with J4N funding, providing work experience, skills, fitness, and motivation for work readiness.

The Te Whāngai Trust project provides skills development opportunities in areas such as plant production, ecological assessments, planting, weed and pest control, and a range of conservation services.

Cultural benefits

Several projects have a strong cultural component, such as the Te Mauri Hauropi o Ngāa Tupuna Maunga project, which supports the restoration of Auckland’s ancestral mountains (Tūpuna Maunga) through pest and weed control.

The Mahurangi East Land Restoration Project is a co-governance programme developed in partnership with Ngāti Manuhiri, aiming to increase the mauri (life force) of the waterway.

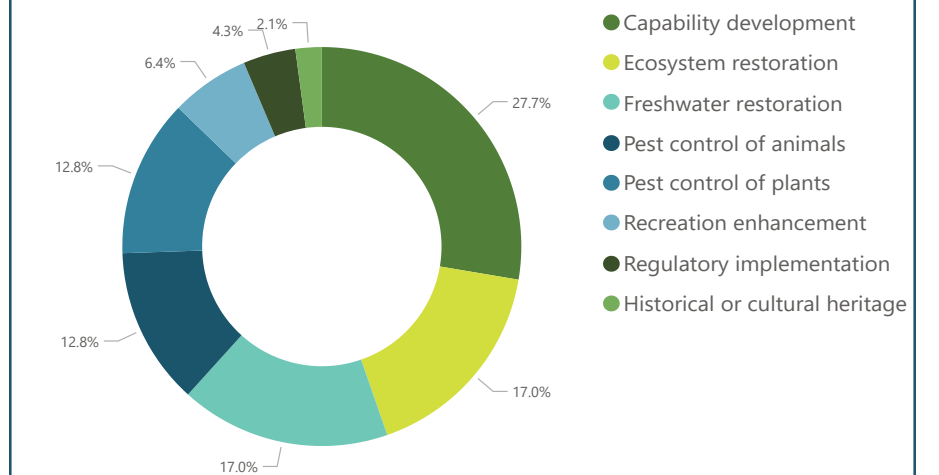
Environmental benefits

Improved biodiversity and freshwater quality: Projects will contribute significantly to environmental restoration and conservation, including ecosystem and freshwater restoration, pest control, and plant production. For example, the Kauri Protection and Restoration project will support extensive track upgrade work in Auckland’s regional parks. The Pukekohe Integrated Catchment Management Plan aims to develop a prioritised action plan for ecosystem and freshwater restoration.

Overview of labour market participation in the Auckland region

Labour market	All ethnicities	Māori	Pasifika
Resident population ¹³	1,692,770	11.5% ¹⁴	15.7% ¹⁵
Working age population	985,700 ¹⁶	114,000 (2018)	180,000 (2018)
Employment rate ¹⁷	71.2%	63.7%	60.7%
Participation rate	74.6%	70.8% ¹⁸	67.3% ¹⁹
Unemployment rate ²⁰	4.0% (40,50) 2023	10.4% (10,400) 2023	8.7% (10,300) 2023
Not in Education Employment or Training	11.4% ²¹	19.4% ²²	16.1% ²³
Median household income ²⁴	\$130,000 (2023)		

Percentage distribution of project intent across Auckland



Source [Q1 Data as at 30 September 2023]

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