

TAPPED IN

Bringing you news, updates and information from Watercare



Watercare's chief executive Raveen Jaduram and headworks manager Joseph Chaloner-Warman, planting native trees and shrubs as part of our regeneration project in the Hūnua Ranges.

Protecting Auckland's water sources

We're planting 550,000 native trees and shrubs over the next five years. Read more inside.

In addition to native regeneration in the Hūnua Ranges, we protect and maintain healthy water sources for Auckland through a variety of initiatives.

Our water comes from 23 sources, including rivers, dams and underground aquifers. Dams in the Waitākere and Hūnua ranges are the biggest suppliers, providing about 80 per cent of Auckland's water.

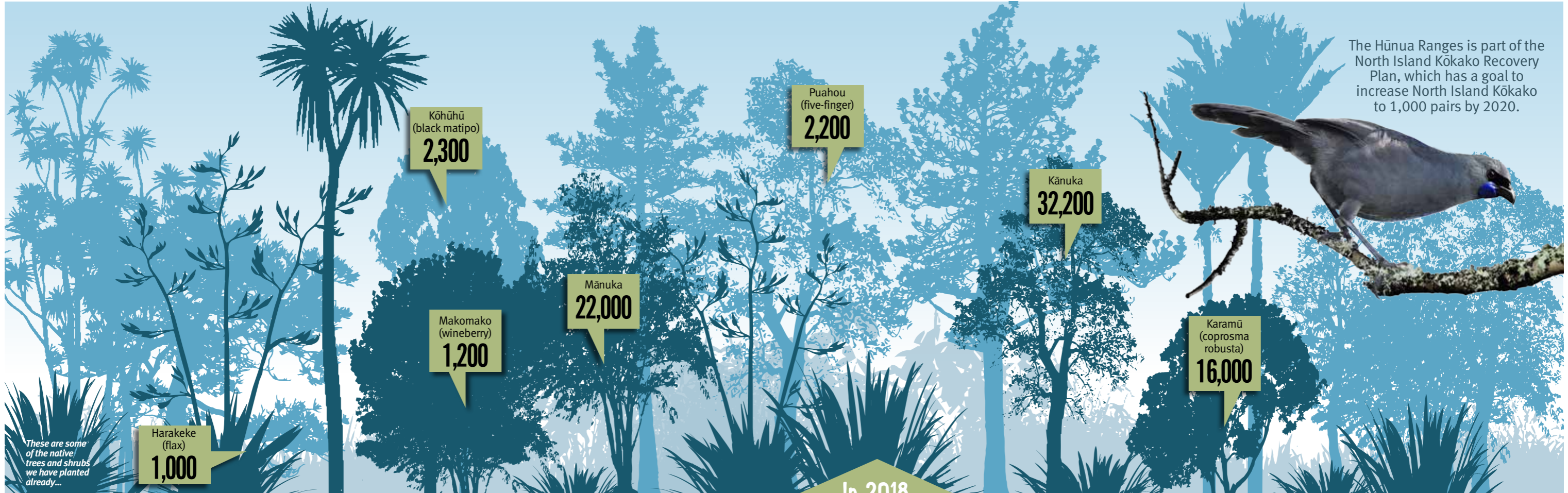
At our Lower Nihotupu Dam in the Waitākere Ranges we use ultrasonic sound waves to kill cyanobacteria, commonly known as blue-green algae, which is toxic to people and other mammals. This technology comes from the Netherlands and we're the first to use it in New Zealand. The ultrasonic waves are harmless to people, animals, fish and aquatic plants; this means we don't need to use any chemicals.

Having healthy water sources also means taking care of the species that live in them. We run a trap and haul programme to make sure that the migration path of native fish and eels aren't disrupted by our

dams. We trap juvenile fish and eels in the downstream river systems and transfer them upstream of the dams to ensure they can continue their journey.

Did you know we use trees to take care of our water sources as well? Trees help to prevent erosion at our dams by stabilising the soil with their root systems, which means less soil ends up in the water. We work with an environmental education programme called Trees for Survival in the Wairoa River catchment area. It supplies the Hūnua, Paparimu, Ararimu, Ardmore and Clevedon schools with resources to plant trees and to educate students on the relationship between the forest and the catchment environment. This benefits both our dams and the local bird life.

We also sponsor Waikato RiverCare, a charitable trust that plants native trees and shrubs alongside the Waikato River, which has been one of our important water sources since 2002. These not only prevent erosion, they also help keep cattle away from the river and moderate the water temperature by providing shade for fish and other water creatures.



The Hūnua Ranges is part of the North Island Kōkako Recovery Plan, which has a goal to increase North Island Kōkako to 1,000 pairs by 2020.

These are some of the native trees and shrubs we have planted already...

We're planting more than 120,000 native trees and shrubs in the Hūnua Ranges this winter.

The massive native regeneration project will see 550,000 native trees and shrubs planted over the next five years, and 3.7 million by 2048. The Hūnua Ranges are home to some of Auckland's most important water sources. Our four Hūnua dams supply about two-thirds of the city's drinking water.

Last year we bought a 1,900-hectare forestry right in the ranges. We then worked with Auckland Council to amend that forestry right so that commercial forestry operations will end decades earlier than they otherwise would have. This means no more pines will be planted on the land, and the site will be increasingly regenerated with native trees and plants over the next 30 years.

The purchase was about protecting Auckland's water sources. By regenerating the land with native trees, we will drastically reduce the slips in our catchment area, protecting the water quality of the supply lakes.

Not only will this increase native flora and fauna in the region but it will also provide more recreational opportunities for the public, without the restrictions imposed by commercial forestry. And, when the regeneration project is complete, the area will be opened up for everyone to enjoy.

In 2018 we're planting more than **120,000** native trees & shrubs. That's **5,000** plants a day and **550,000** over the next five years.

Keeping it local

The species we're planting include mānuka, kānuka, māhoe, makomako (wineberry), kōhūhū (black matipo), puahou (five-finger), karamū (coprosma robusta) and harakeke (flax).

Headworks manager Joseph Chaloner-Warman says the plants were grown from seeds eco-sourced from the existing native vegetation growing in the area.

"We gathered the seed from the existing natives close to the planting zone, and then used local nurseries to grow them until they were ready to be planted."

The area being planted this year was where pine trees were most recently harvested. It lies in the Mangatāwhiri catchment.



Did you know? One of the nurseries that grew a lot of the plants for us is Te Whangai Trust, which offers work and life skills to people who struggle to secure employment.

Headworks manager Joseph Chaloner-Warman



Watercare forestry operations manager Richard Harwood, with some of the young trees and shrubs ready for planting.

Hūnua Ranges catchment areas



Waitākere Ranges catchment areas



--- Catchment areas
 1,900-hectare area we are regenerating with native trees and shrubs over the next 30 years

Did you know?

70% of overflows during fine weather are caused by people pouring fat down the sink and flushing rubbish down the toilet. It can also be caused by tree roots growing in and around our pipes.



Help to reduce overflows

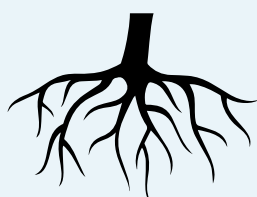


Toilet

Flush away toilet paper and human waste

Don't flush:

- wet-wipes
- sanitary products
- nappies
- rags



Tree planting

Before planting a tree it's a good idea to check that it's not going to grow over your pipes or ours. As trees mature so do their roots and, over time, they can reach pipes and damage them, eventually causing a blockage or break.



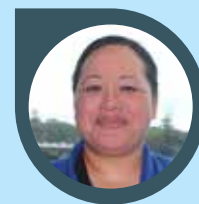
Kitchen sink

Let cooking juices cool, then scrape the fat into the bin

Don't pour hot cooking juices down the plughole. Once cool, the fats in the cooking juices harden and may block your pipes or ours.

For more information, visit www.watercare.co.nz and search for 'prevent overflows'.

Ask Nisi



I'm confused. In your last Tapped In newsletter, you said you fund your own projects and don't receive money from council. But my rates bill has a water quality targeted rate. What's that about?

Denise, St Heliers

The water quality targeted rate is being collected by Auckland Council to address issues with its stormwater networks. For example, the rate will fund a project to reduce the volume of road pollutants flowing into stormwater drains and onto our beaches. We are responsible for operating and maintaining the city's water and wastewater networks. We fund our work through our customer charges, infrastructure growth charges and borrowings.

Want to be a part of the crew that keeps Auckland's water flowing? We're recruiting!

When you report a water leak or wastewater overflow, it is assigned to a maintenance services field crew to fix – and we're currently looking for people to join us.

There are no specific qualifications required other than a full driver's licence, a good level of physical fitness and a flexible, 'can do' attitude. We teach you what you need to know.

Some crews are responsible for maintaining the water network; other crews are responsible for maintaining the wastewater network – it depends what you are interested in. No matter what crew you're on, you'll undertake a range of jobs because no two days are the same. The roles are often largely independent – you get a list of jobs to do and you go out and get them done.

Our maintenance services field crews have clear qualification and progression pathways, and can achieve trade certification. Training options cover civil works, pipeline (water and wastewater) construction and maintenance, traffic management, commercial truck licences, excavator use, and many other skills. There's also the possibility of progressing into team lead and supervisory roles.

A career with our maintenance services field crews offers you hands-on, diverse and interesting work, with ongoing training and development. And you have the satisfaction of solving problems for our customers – the residents and businesses of Auckland.

If you enjoy providing excellent customer service, solving problems, thinking on your feet and interacting with a wide range of people, visit www.watercare.co.nz/About-us/Careers to find out more.



Some of our maintenance services field crew, after a day spent constructing a new training facility.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Tapped In is your newsletter. If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you. To get in touch, please email our communications team at communications@water.co.nz. You can learn more about what we do at www.watercare.co.nz.