

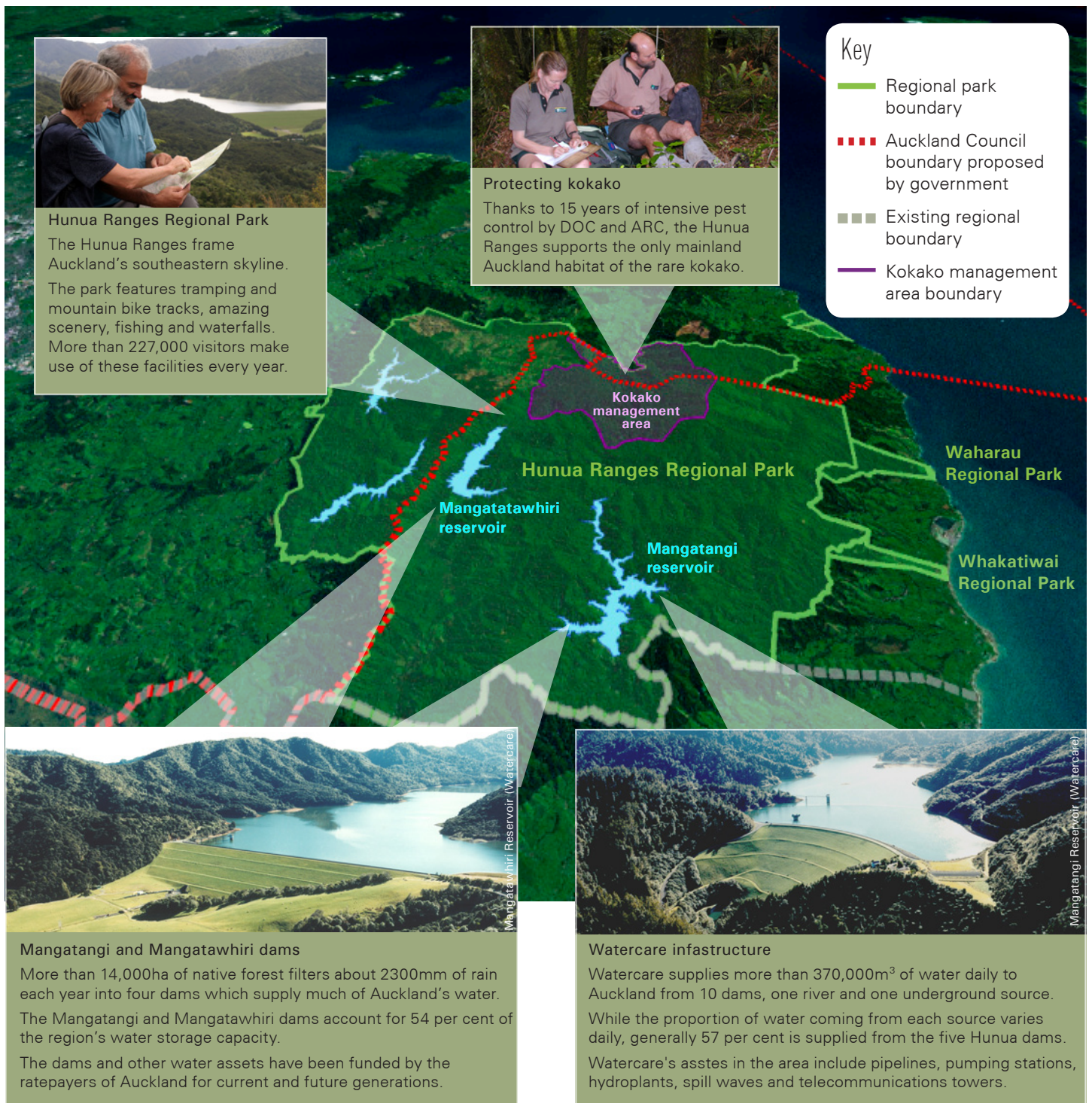
AUCKLAND'S SOUTHERN BOUNDARY



The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) gives its unanimous support to establishing a single unitary authority for Auckland. However, the council is calling for a common sense approach to deciding the southern boundary of the area to be governed by the Auckland Council.

To achieve the intent of the governance reform, the geographic area of the Auckland Council must include:

- its urban area and its rural hinterland, including the area north of the Waikato River
- the Mangatangi and Mangatawhiri catchments, and the area between the catchments and the Firth of Thames.



Local ties with iwi

Not many parks can lay claim to being a royal playground but Waharau Regional Park has been a summer residence for members of the Maori royal family since 1890, keeping the close ties between the local Ngati Whanaunga tribe and Tainui strong to this day.



1979: Maori Queen Te Arikini Dame Te Atairangikaahu officially opens Waharau Regional Park.

Water for Auckland to be owned and managed by Auckland



The area of Mangatangi and Mangatawhiri has long been considered part of the Auckland region. The Auckland Regional Council owns 80 per cent of the land in the area that central government plans to transfer to the Waikato region.

The area contains the region's two largest dams, which collectively provide 54 per cent of the region's bulk water storage capacity. Together, the Mangatangi and Mangatawhiri dams can store up to 51.5 million m³ of water for use by Aucklanders – the same amount of water would fill around 20,000 olympic swimming pools.

These dams are the result of considerable investment by Auckland ratepayers over many decades.

Placing vital infrastructure outside the jurisdiction of the Auckland Council contradicts the rationale for restructuring governance in Auckland.

Auckland needs only one unitary authority

The Auckland Regional Council is aware that Franklin and Rodney district councils seek independence from the Auckland Council proposal.

This does not make good economic sense.

In the 2008/09 financial year the Auckland Regional Council provided services worth \$2.33 and \$2.13 for every \$1 of rates collected from Franklin and Rodney ratepayers (respectively).

If Franklin and Rodney were to become unitary authorities, there would be significant increases to local rates to maintain current services.

If they were to join neighbouring regions, there would be significant rates increases across both of those regions.

A common sense solution

- The southern boundary is extended to touch the northern edge of the Waikato River, encompassing additional areas of Franklin district.
- The Mangatangi and Mangatawhiri catchments, and the area between the catchments and the Firth of Thames, form part of the Auckland region governed by the Auckland Council.
- The Auckland Council inherits all parkland and assets owned by the Auckland Regional Council and paid for by Auckland ratepayers.
- Watercare retains all of its assets, including the dams at the Mangatangi and Mangatawhiri catchments.
- Environment Waikato becomes responsible for the Waikato River bed and surface water in the area between the current southern boundary and the river, and continues to own and manage the stop banks, flood gates and pump stations in this area.



The importance of Auckland's rural areas

Auckland has only 2 per cent of the land area of New Zealand and 33 per cent of the population. The population of the Auckland region is forecast to grow to up to 2 million by 2031.

This growth creates unique pressures on the rural areas and must be managed by the Auckland Council to ensure infrastructure, growth and services are well integrated and managed.

If the rural hinterland was excluded from the Auckland Council area, the boundary would need to be regularly reviewed and amended, as Auckland grows.

Rural areas are vital to the Auckland region and share

common infrastructure including water, road, rail and public transport networks. These networks need consistent and common management to ensure they serve Auckland's rural and urban communities.

The economies of rural areas are reliant on urban areas, and vice versa, and residents from rural areas travel to other parts of the region for work, education, recreation and social visits.

Additionally, environmental management requires a whole of region approach. The Auckland Council will be able to deliver sound environmental outcomes, if its jurisdiction includes the rural hinterland.

Case study: Protecting New Zealand's past through partnerships



In 1994, the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) began a joint management programme to restore the kokako population in the Hunua Ranges. At the time only 25 male and one female kokako remained.

Since intensive pest control began, 60 young kokako have fledged and there are now 18 breeding pairs established in the 1100ha managed area.

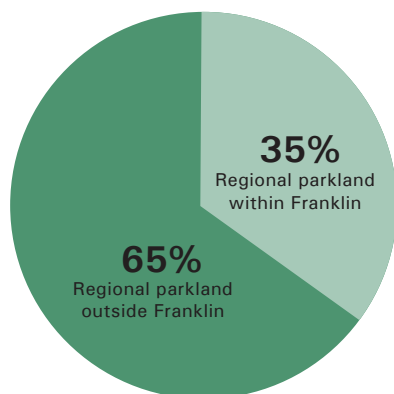
The ongoing partnership is managed by both ARC and DOC, supported by an average of 4,000 volunteer hours every year.

Quick facts - Auckland's southern regional parks

The Auckland Regional Council owns and manages four regional parks in the Franklin district with a combined area of more than 14,000ha (or 35 per cent of Auckland's total regional parkland) and around 7km of coastline.

These regional parks are funded by the residents and ratepayers of Auckland.

Operating expenditure for the Hunua Ranges, Whakatiwai and Waharau regional parks (the parks affected by the proposal) is \$3 million for 2008/09.



The regional parks in the Franklin district are:

- Hunua Ranges Regional Park (crosses the boundary between Manukau city and Franklin district)
- Whakatiwai Regional Park
- Waharau Regional Park
- Awhitu Regional Park