



Matt Baber

Principal Ecologist / Director



Matt has over 20 years' national and international experience as an ecologist, working in academia, local government and consulting. He is an expert in Assessments of Environmental Effects, the development and implementation of Environmental Management Plans (including biodiversity offsetting and compensation), and stakeholder/iwi engagement on a wide range of infrastructure projects. Matt has authored numerous technical reports and scientific publications, served as an expert witness in Council Hearings (18), Environment Court (4) and a Board of Inquiry, and is a certified RMA hearings panel commissioner.

Professional experience (selected)

Peacocke Structure Plan (Plan Change 5 for Hamilton City Council (2019 – ongoing): Council reviewer and expert witness for terrestrial offset and compensation matters.

Manawatū Tararua highway for Waka Kotahi (2020 – ongoing): Lead terrestrial and wetland ecologist for the Assessment of Effects and co-lead for the development of the biodiversity offset and compensation package.

Auckland Regional Landfill for Waste Management New Zealand (2018 – ongoing): Lead terrestrial and wetland ecologist for the Assessment of Effects phase, including development of the biodiversity offset and compensation package and consultation with local authorities and community stakeholders.

State Highway 1, Puhoi to Warkworth motorway for Waka Kotahi, 2015 – 2016): NX2 PPP Ecology Lead through the tender, financial close and implementation phases, which included overseeing consent compliance and stakeholder and iwi (Hōkai Nuku) engagement on ecological matters.

Lower Waikato Flood Control Scheme Project for Waikato Regional Council (2014-2015): Lead wetland ecologist in relation to a Section 128 review of consent to discharge water from Lake Waikare outlet into the Whangamarino Wetland.

Onehunga Foreshore Restoration Project for Auckland Council (2011 – 2012): Led the terrestrial ecology and coastal bird and coastal vegetation (predominately mangroves) input into the Assessment of Environmental Effects for a large-scale coastal restoration project, which included the development an Offsite Coastal Bird Management Plan for Puhinui Reserve.

Recent publications (selected)

Markham, J, Baber, M, et al. Assessing limits to biodiversity offsetting in a New Zealand context: a proposed framework

(in prep for submission to the Resource Management Journal).

Baber et al. 2021. Wetlands and prohibited activity status: too blunt an instrument? Resource Management Law Association News Brief May 20, 2021

Quinn, Baber et al. 2021. Defining mitigation: an ecology perspective. Resource Management Journal, August 2021: 17 – 21.

Baber et al. 2021. The use of modelling for terrestrial biodiversity offsets and compensation: a suggested way forward. Resource Management Journal, April 2021:28 – 33.

Baber et al. 2021. A Biodiversity Compensation Model for New Zealand – A User Guide (Version 1). Prepared by Tonkin & Taylor Limited. Project number 1017287.0000P.

Baber, et al. 2021. A Biodiversity Compensation Model for New Zealand – Calculator Tool (Version 1). Prepared by Tonkin & Taylor Limited. Project number 1017287.0000P.

Education

BSc, Zoology, 1993, MSc (Hons), Ecology, 1996, PhD, Ecology, 2001

Previous employment

Tonkin + Taylor (2011 – 2019)

Project Director/ Technical Director (Ecology) (2019)

Group Manager (Ecology) (2017 – 2018)

Team Leader (Ecology) (2016)

Principal Ecologist (2014 – 2015)

Senior Ecologist (2011 – 2013)

Auckland Council (2010 – 2011)

Team leader Biodiversity

Auckland Regional Council (2007 – 2010)

Natural Heritage Scientist

Ecovision (2004 – 2007)

Principal Ecologist/ Director

University of New Hampshire (2001 – 2004)

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Certifications and memberships

Certified Hearings Commissioner (since 2018)

Department of Conservation lizard permit holder (63519-FAU)

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ)

New Zealand Ecological Society (NZES)

Ornithological Society of New Zealand (OSNZ)

Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand

National Wetland Trust

For more information contact Matt Baber, +64 027 5895076, mbaber@allianceecology.co.nz, www.allianceecology.co.nz