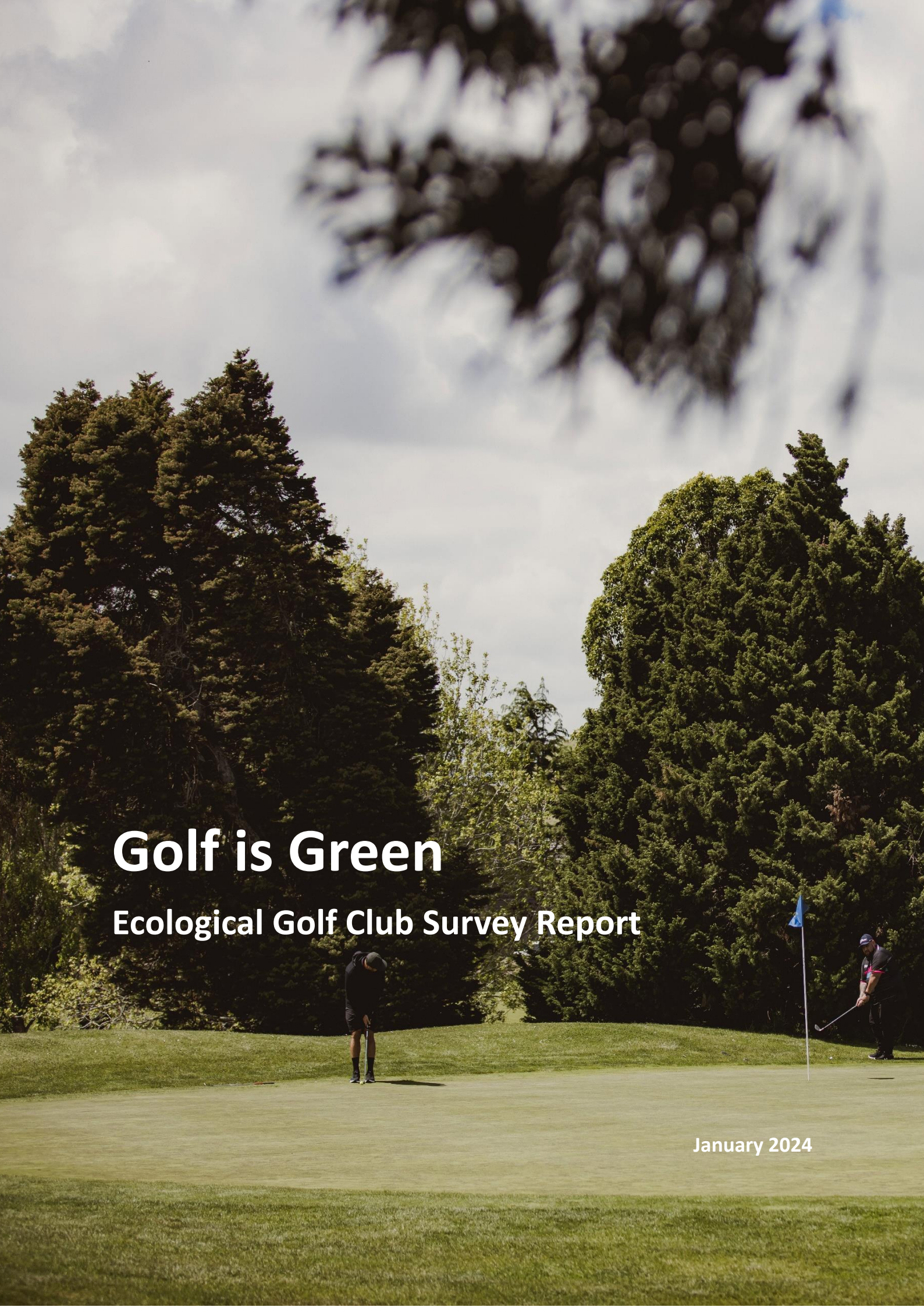

Golf is Green

Ecological Golf Club Survey Report

January 2024

Golf is Green - Ecological Golf Club Strategy Report

Executive Summary

The "Golf is Green" working group, a collective of organisations committed to promoting sustainable practices in golf, has developed the Ecological Golf Club Strategy for 2022 and beyond. The strategy's vision is to create nature-enriched green spaces where golf courses and communities come together, and the mission is to engage golf clubs and their communities in sustainable practices.

This report includes findings from a comprehensive survey exploring environmental practices in 30 golf clubs in the Tamaki Makaurau region. The survey covered topics such as pro-environmental behaviours, water and energy use, pest plant and animal control, community engagement, and general conservation efforts.

Overall, the survey revealed that the majority of golf clubs are actively engaged in environmental conservation and sustainability efforts. However, barriers such as financial resources, human resources, and time commitments were identified as challenges to further progress.

The report concludes with recommendations to address the identified barriers and enhance the group's support to golf clubs. It suggests ways to provide assistance in human resource development, financial support, and improving service infrastructure. Additionally, the report highlights the importance of GEO certification and encourages collaboration between golf clubs, governing bodies, and environmental organizations to share best practices and achieve comprehensive sustainability goals.

Introduction:

The "Golf is Green" group, is a collective of like-minded organisations committed to promoting sustainable practices in golf and creating a positive impact on the environment and society. The major organisations that form the group are Auckland Council, Auckland Golf, North Golf and, up to Dec 22, DoC. There are several other organisations that are active supporters of the group and act in an advisory capacity.

The Ecological Golf Club Strategy for 2022 and onwards has a clear vision of nature-enriched green spaces where golf courses and communities come together. Their mission is to act as a catalyst that engages golf clubs and their communities in sustainable practices.

To achieve this, they have outlined specific priorities and measures of success for the short term, up until December 2024.

The Strategic Priorities include:

- Supporting Clubs to manage their facilities sustainably: The organisation aims to help golf clubs adopt sustainable practices in their day-to-day operations.
- Promoting biodiversity and pest reduction: They plan to assist clubs in increasing native biodiversity while reducing pests on their land.
- Sustainable water management: The organisation will work with clubs to develop sustainable water management practices, which are vital for golf courses.
- Monitoring and reporting sustainability efforts: the working group wants to support clubs in effectively monitoring and reporting their conservation and sustainability initiatives.
- Effective communication of conservation efforts: They aim to help clubs communicate their conservation efforts with their members and the wider community effectively.
- Connecting clubs with specialists: The organisation will create links between clubs and specialists who can offer guidance, resources, and funding related to sustainability and conservation.
- Building a network of clubs: They aim to create a network of golf clubs that can support each other and celebrate best practice conservation and sustainability efforts.
- Encouraging participation in conservation initiatives: the working group plans to create avenues for club members and the wider golf community to participate in conservation and sustainability initiatives.

The measure of success for the short term, by December 2024, includes several key performance indicators:

- Ecological Enhancement Plans: They aim to have 70% of clubs (26 out of 37) receive Ecological Enhancement Plans, indicating a commitment to sustainability.
- Connection to local Auckland Council Conservation Advisor: They want 70% of clubs (26 out of 37) to be connected to their local Auckland Council Conservation Advisor, which can help in aligning their efforts with broader conservation initiatives.
- Promotion of conservation efforts: The strategy aims for a 50% increase in the number of clubs actively promoting their conservation efforts through communication channels.
- External stakeholder engagement: Success is marked by increased partner engagement from external stakeholders to support conservation efforts at clubs.
- Membership awareness: They plan to measure an increase in membership awareness of the club's environmental efforts through the activation of a club member survey.
- Leadership involvement: Success includes the leadership team of clubs actively collaborating to explore ways to create active reporting mechanisms for conservation and sustainability.
- Community engagement: The strategy measures success by tracking the engagement of club members and the wider community in conservation and sustainability efforts surrounding their clubs.

By focusing on these priorities and measuring success with clear metrics, the organisation aims to create a positive impact on the ecological sustainability of golf clubs and their communities.

Tāmaki Makaurau Golf Course Ecological Survey

As part of the 'Golf is Green' working group's future strategic planning a comprehensive survey was sent to the 36 golf clubs in the Tamaki Makaurau region. The survey set out to understand the ecological and environmental output of all golf courses in the region, to help ensure that all relevant information from the courses is captured.

A total of 30 golf clubs in the Tamaki Makaurau region participated in the survey. The clubs were asked to provide information on their current and planned environmental practices. The survey, which was available from 8th May to 3rd July and received an 80% response rate.

The survey was divided into six sections, each exploring a broad range of environmental topics found on a golf course. This report presents the data from the golf clubs, showcasing the environmental practices they are implementing and providing valuable insights into their efforts.

Section 1: General Pro-Environmental Behaviours

This section examined the general environmentally friendly practices implemented by golf clubs. Questions covered areas such as waste management, energy conservation, and staff training on sustainability.

Section 2: Water and Energy Use

The focus of this section was on water and energy management practices employed by the golf clubs. It explored water conservation measures, use of renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient initiatives.

Section 3: Planting and Invasive Pest Plants Control

This section delved into the clubs' efforts in planting native species and controlling invasive pest plants. It aimed to assess the clubs' contributions to biodiversity conservation and habitat enhancement.

Section 4: Pest Animals Control Programme

Here, the survey examined the pest animal control programs in place at golf clubs. It assessed the clubs' actions to manage and reduce the impact of pest animals on the environment.

Section 5: Community Engagement and Promotion

This section focused on the golf clubs' engagement with the local community in environmental initiatives. It aimed to understand the clubs' outreach efforts and their role as environmental stewards within the community.

Section 6: General Conservation Efforts

The final section covered any additional conservation efforts undertaken by the golf clubs. It allowed clubs to showcase any other environmental practices not covered in the previous sections.

Findings:

(Note: Most questions did not require a compulsory response, therefore the number of responses varies for each question.)

Section 1: General pro-environmental behaviours

Participants were asked *How much effort has been undertaken by your golf club around each of these aspects?* Recycling had the greatest uptake with two-thirds of clubs (66.7%) doing 'a lot' or 'to a great extent' around it. Water was the next most engaged aspect with 56.7% of clubs doing a lot or to a great extent. Electricity was the weakest area, no clubs reported doing a great extent of work around it and only 16.7% reported doing a lot while half of the clubs (50.0%) said they do very little. Efforts around fertilisers were spread approximately equally with a third of clubs (30.0%) doing a lot, a third being neutral (33.3%), and a third being at a lower end (36.7%) (Figure 1).

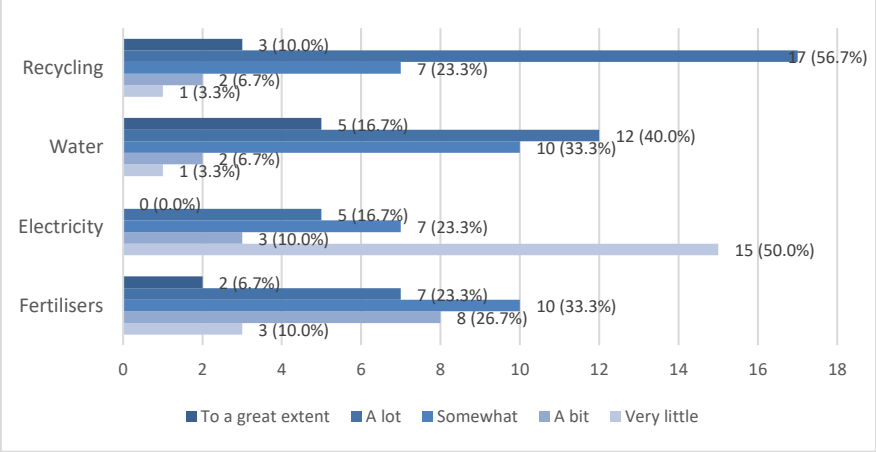

Figure 1. Amount of effort invested into different environmental aspects.

This question must have resulted in some self-assessment because two respondents commented on solar panels, that they either already purchased some or they wanted to do so, and one respondent wrote about their club's desire to do more around environmental aspects.

Barriers to pro-environmental behaviour

Participants were asked to identify any issues or difficulties that clubs encountered around these environmental efforts. Out of thirty clubs, four (13.3%) stated that there were none, whilst 26 clubs provided details.

The most mentioned barrier (n=22, 73.3%) was the **costs of environmental action**, both financial and human resource-related costs. This barrier is particularly applied to purchasing and installing new infrastructure like solar panels. Multiple clubs noted that they conducted a cost-benefit analysis and concluded that solar panels were not financially viable unless another party like Auckland Council was willing to contribute. Given the pressure on the clubs to prioritise other work, spending on environmental action was regarded as a lesser priority.

Other barriers included:

- **Human factor** (n=6, 20.0%) – environmental action depends on how many people understand specific aspects; their perceptions and attitudes to specific actions; and if they were motivated and committed to act. In this regard, multiple comments on clubs not seeing benefits for them to engage in environmental activities illustrated issues around motivation. Moreover, two respondents argued that some environmental activities could be detrimental. One respondent said that organic fertilisers were more damaging to the environment than conventional fertilisers. Another respondent said that trees and wetlands could ruin the course if not carefully planned.
- **Service infrastructure** (n=4, 13.3%) – this is related to the lack of specific services in the area, difficulties finding reliable recycling and waste solution partners, and simply not having enough council-provided recycling bins.
- **Council support** (n=4, 13.3%) – clubs felt that lack of council support was another barrier. More support could have been provided via local legislation, funding support, and help with specific activities like recycling. Specifically, there are difficulties with recycling herbicides, insecticides, and fertiliser containers.

Section 2: Water and energy use

The survey investigated the use of water and energy in more detail. Respondents were asked *What sources is water being drawn from*? They could pick multiple answers. Twenty respondents (66.7%) stated that they used only one water source; six (20.0%) used two sources, one (3.3%) used three sources, two (6.7%) used four sources, and one respondent didn't provide an answer.

Water source

The most popular source was bore water (n=18) followed by Watercare (n=9) and local tributaries (n=8) (Figure 2). Grey water was the least commonly used (n=2). 'Other' sources were stated by seven clubs. These included: rainwater collected in on-site ponds (n=5), subsurface treated wastewater (n=1), and a combination of storm water and ground water (n=1).

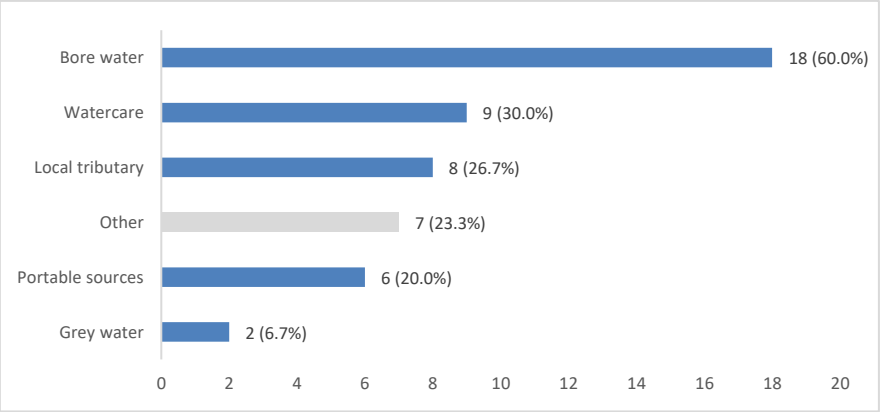

Figure 2. Water sources being drawn from by clubs.

Respondents reported that most clubs (n=26, 86.7%) have done some maintenance and/or upgrade of their irrigation system in the past five years. Examples of work included:

- Maintenance of infrastructure to address leakage.
- Installation of new system/significant upgrade.
- Replacement of infrastructure to reduce water consumption.
- Increase in water storage infrastructure.
- Water monitoring, e.g., #8 dashboard supplied by Aqualectrix.
- Diversification of water sources.

One club reported that they now employ a full-time irrigation technician to ensure continuous monitoring of the system and timely maintenance of the infrastructure, while another club's system upgrade save 15,000m^3 of water per annum.

Measures to reduce irrigation

Participants were asked to describe measures taken to reduce irrigated areas and maximise efficiency. Seventeen clubs listed one measure, seven clubs listed two or three measures, and one club – six measures. Two clubs stated that they do nothing to reduce irrigation and three clubs did not answer this question.

Out of the measures taken to reduce irrigated areas and maximise efficiency, the most reported one was watering only greens and selected tees (n=13). The next most popular methods were the use of wetting agents and moisture retention products (n=4) and the use of drought-resistant plants on the course, e.g., Kikuyu or Bentgrass grass (n=4). Regarding draught-resistant plants, it was suggested that specific fertilisers that promote root growth can make ordinary plants less sensitive to watering. Also were mentioned methods like the use of moisture sensors, night watering, hand watering, and adjusting watering to the natural rainfall. One club gave areas of the course to the local Bush Society to do planting to reduce the areas they needed to look after and irrigate.

Measures to reduce water use

Clubs were asked about practical measures that have been taken to minimise water consumption in clubhouses, maintenance facilities and other golf operations buildings. Twenty-five clubs answered this question. Out of them, 14 clubs (56.0%) stated that they have taken some measures and 11 (44.0%) that they have not taken any measures yet.

All measures were mentioned three to six times and included: 1) engineering solutions such as low flow shower heads or release taps; 2) minimisation of water use, e.g., through restricted access to showers or shower timers; 3) use of tank water; 4) alternative machinery cleanings such as the use of compressed air or the changed use of mowing machines so they require less washing. Two clubs also stated that they use posters and newsletters to encourage water conservation.

Club vehicles

The clubs were asked about the total number of operational vehicles under the club's ownership or control. Out of 27 clubs that responded, the total number of reported vehicles was 699. On average, clubs owned/controlled 26 vehicles. The most common vehicles were electric (39.9%) and the least common were hybrid (1.3%) (Figure 3).

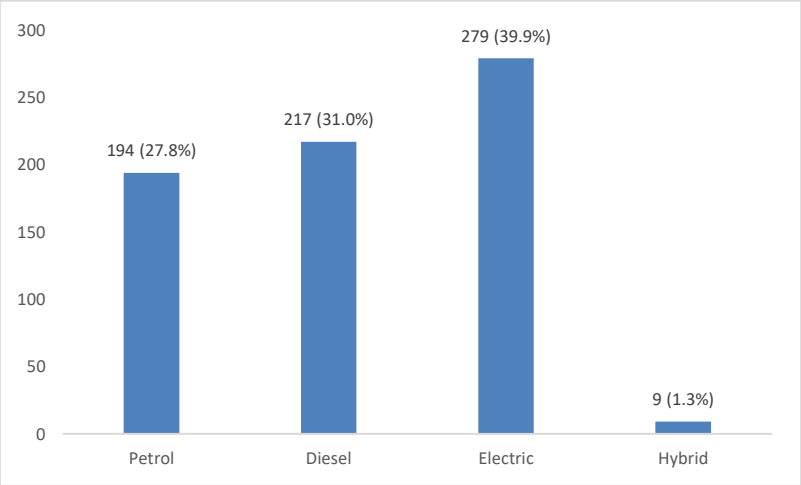

Figure 3. Vehicles under club ownership.

Section 3: Planting and invasive pest plants control

We wanted to find out what clubs do to control pest plants. Out of 27 clubs that answered this question 15 (55.6%) said that they had a planting plan in place, 9 (33.3%) did not have the plan, and 3 (11.1%) did not know or were unsure.

Species and number of planted plants

We asked how many and what species of plants were planted by the clubs in the past five years. This appeared to be a challenging question. Eight clubs did not respond to this question. Out of 23 that responded, three clubs (13.0%) said they planted none, and four (17.4%) were unsure how many plants were planted because it was not recorded or it was led by someone else, e.g., a conservation group or council.

Four clubs (17.4%) reported a small number of planted trees (less than a hundred). These were mostly replacement planting of dying exotics or strategic planting of specific sites like septic drip lines. Twelve clubs (52.2%) reported thousands of planted trees. Some of these planting projects were in collaboration with the council or conservation groups.

The focus of all reported planting was on natives with a very small number of non-natives reported. The range of natives/endemics was very wide and included: Kahikatea, Pukatea, Rimu, Manuka, Kanuka, Coprosma, Nikau Palms, Karaka, Karo, Totara, Tītoki, Pōhutukawa, Kōwhai, Pūriri, mingimingi, Harakeke, Ferns, Baumea, Carex Virgata, Juncus, Saltmarsh Ribbonwood, Swamp Maire.

Methods of pest plants control

The clubs were asked to report the frequency of using specific methods of plant control. All methods were infrequently used. Spot spraying in newly planted areas was the most used method with 22.2% of respondents using it a lot or to a great extent (Figure 4).

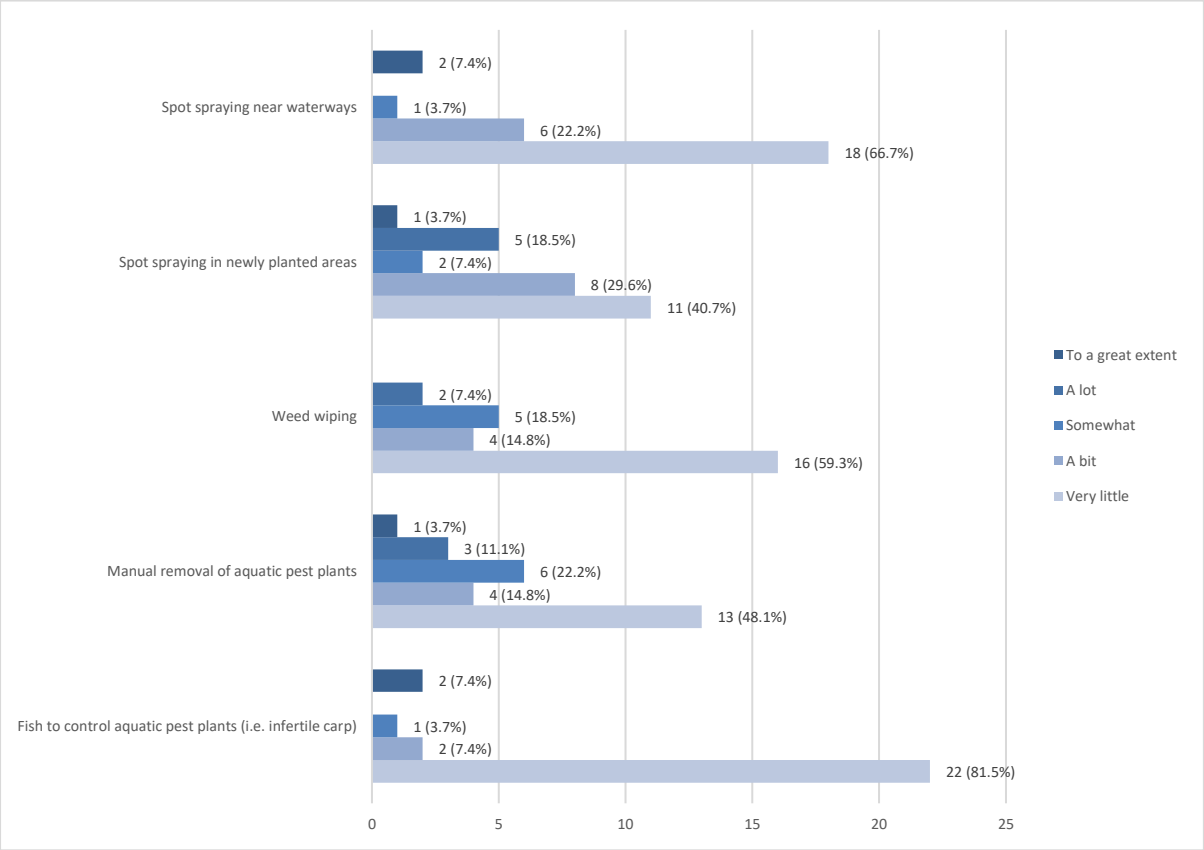

Figure 4. Frequency of methods of plant control.

Two clubs additionally reported manual pest plant removal using volunteers and one club reported spot spraying across the whole golf club.

Pre-planting pest plant control

To ensure effective new planting, the area must be well prepared and cleared of pest plants. We asked the clubs what pest plants control measures they take on areas before planting.

Twenty clubs provided details. Twelve clubs (60.0%) reported spraying the area to be planted. Eight (40.0%) remove pest plants manually including cutting large plants down or using a weed eater on smaller plants. One club stated that they use a digger to remove all topsoil before planting. Others mentioned the use of planting soil to fill pre-dug holes for plants, the use of weed mats and heavy mulching.

Section 4: Pest animals control programme

Twenty-seven clubs responded to a question of whether they have a pest-animal trapping plan. Out of them 20 (74.1%) said they had the plan, five (18.5%) did not, and two (7.4%) were not sure or did not know. Those who responded 'yes' included cases when pest trapping was done by a third party like a council or an air force base. In some cases, animal pest trapping was done only in specific areas like buildings, for health and safety reasons.

Types of traps

The clubs reported the use of the following types of traps:

- Timms traps
- Trapinators
- Victor Traps
- T-Rex traps
- DOC 200
- Pied Piper stations
- Philproof stations
- Good Nature
- Live catch traps
- Wooden tunnel traps

Four clubs specified the use of bait in traps and one club used gun control of rabbits.

Bait lines

Respondents were asked about the number of bait lines set up around the course. A bait line is a line or path along which baited traps are strategically placed to attract and lure pests, such as rodents or insects, towards traps or bait stations. However, interpretation of the question differed and variations in the answers made aggregation of the numbers impossible. We can only report that 13 clubs out of 19 that answered this question (68.4%) said that they maintain bait lines.

The clubs were asked who checks the bait lines. The answers fell under four categories:

- Volunteers from club members (n=10, 52.6%)
- Club staff or members of club committee (n=4, 21.1%)
- Externals (commercial services, park management) (n=3, 15.8%)
- Conservation groups (n=1, 5.3%)

The bait stations were checked at different frequencies from daily to monthly. Five clubs said the bait lines were checked at least weekly, three clubs checked their bait lines every two to three weeks, and four clubs checked them monthly. Two clubs that had work done by someone else did not know the frequency of the checks.

When respondents were asked whether their trapping was recorded, out of 23 answers there were nine 'yes' (39.1%), eight 'no' (34.8%), and six 'I don't know' (26.1%). TrapNZ was the main app to keep the record of trapping; clubs also reported the use of manual spreadsheets, CatchIt, and Good Nature spreadsheets.

The perimeter of the control area and entry points are expected to have signage stating the substances and types of traps used, start and completion dates of checks (if known), and contact details. We asked the clubs if they have such signage. Out of 22 answers there were eight 'yes' (36.4%), nine 'no' (40.1%), and five 'I don't know' (22.7%).

Section 5: Community Engagement and Promotion

We asked respondents *Does your club have an environmental working group comprising key staff, volunteers and external advisors?* Out of 26 respondents that answered this question, 13 (50%) answered 'yes; 12 (46.2%) answered 'no', and one person (3.8%) was unsure.

Engagement with others

Clubs were also asked about their engagement with local community groups and/or organisations about conservation efforts. Respondents could choose multiple answers and list additional stakeholders in 'other'. Out of 20 respondents who answered this question, 12 (60.0%) said they worked with one or two stakeholders, six people (30.0%) worked with three or four, and two (10.0%) said that they engaged with five or six stakeholders.

The most mentioned stakeholders were conservation advisors from Auckland Council (n=13) followed by conservation groups (n=10) and local property owners (n=8) (Figure 5). Two stakeholders that were added as 'other' were other organisations like funders (e.g., the Forest Bridge Trust or Rotary Club) and club members themselves.

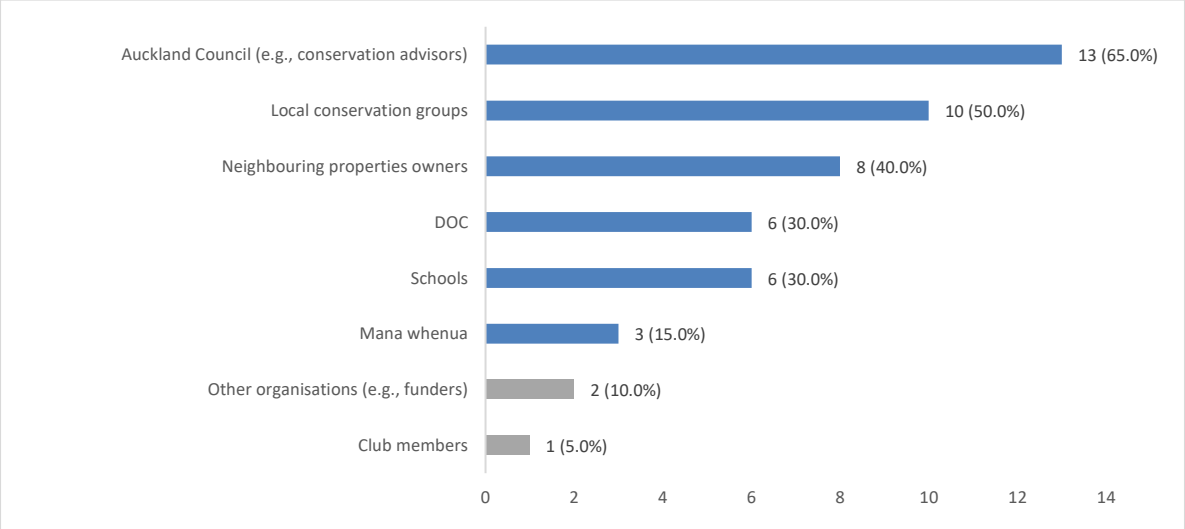

Figure 5. Engagement with other stakeholders on conservation.

Perceived benefits from conservation work

We also wanted to understand how the clubs perceive the benefits of conservation work. There were multi-select six answers and an additional 'other' category where respondents could suggest additional benefits. Twenty-one clubs stated that they gained benefits from doing conservation. Three clubs (14.3%) listed one or two benefits; ten clubs (47.6%) listed three or four benefits; and seven clubs (33.3%) listed five to seven benefits.

The most mentioned benefit was the benefit to biodiversity and biosecurity (n=16), followed by benefits from social responsibility and reduced waste at 13 votes each. The 'other' category allowed for open-text answers. Respondents listed three additional benefits: collaborative opportunities, engagement with staff and attractive visual amenities (Figure 6).

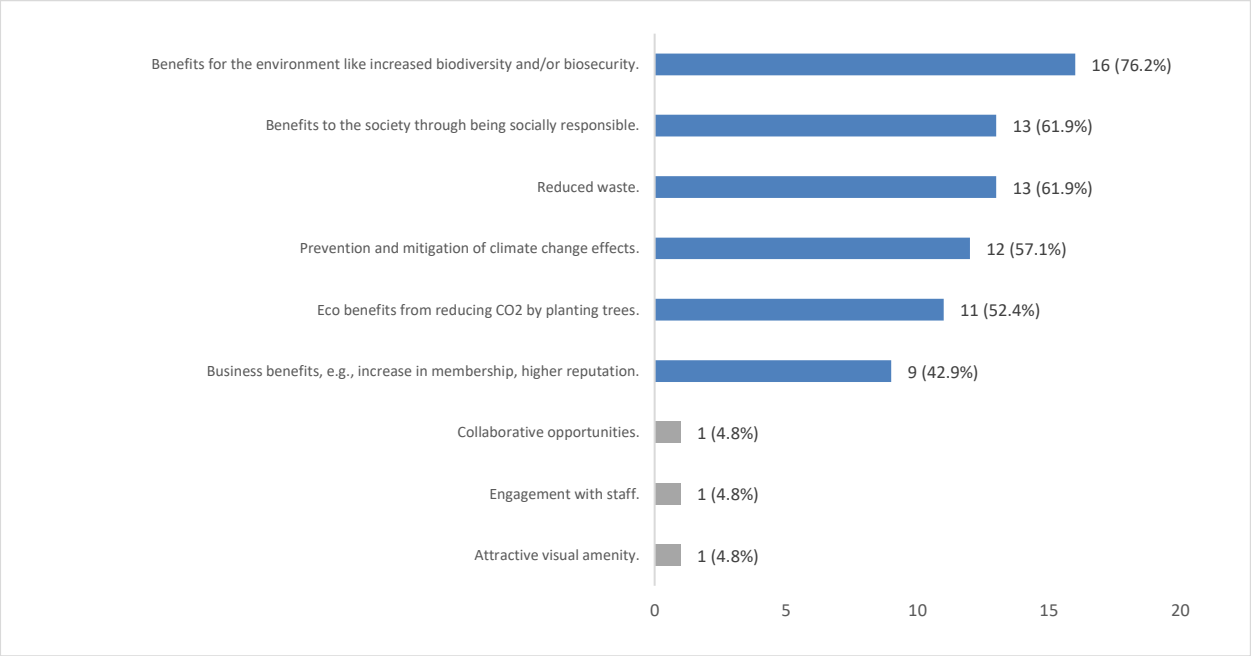

Figure 6. Benefits to the clubs from conservation work.

Work in the community

We were interested to learn more about clubs' work with the community. We asked them about the impact their conservation efforts have on their local community. There was a range of answers as different clubs had different levels of engagement with their communities. Some stated that they were not open to the public at all and thus only the members benefitted from the club's activities. Others found it difficult to answer this question as they have not done anything yet but were planning to do so.

Eleven respondents listed the impacts that were grouped into the following themes:

- Clubs' activities engaged multiple stakeholders and created great **opportunities for collaboration** and building **horizontal networks**. For instance, one project could involve club members, community volunteers, school children, conservation groups, Parks staff, and Botanical Gardens.
- It was noted that society benefits from **socially responsible** entities and businesses. Clubs felt they had the duty to contribute back to their local communities, e.g., by taking part in conservation projects by other local groups.
- **Biodiversity** and **biosecurity** outcomes were considered beneficial to the community. Clubs stated that they contributed to the planting of thousands of native trees and into control of invasive pests to protect native species like birds.
- **School children** from local schools are given an opportunity to learn about the environment (e.g., tree propagation), develop skills (e.g., tree planting), and see real-life models of socially responsible behaviour.

- **Clean waterways** were another impact that some clubs worked towards and they felt clean waterways were important for the holistic health of the communities.
- Regenerated native bush and wetlands on club grounds had an **aesthetic value** to the local communities and visitors. Many clubs allowed visitors on their grounds providing people with **recreational opportunities**.

"When we have planting days many members of the community and Waiau Pa school come and assist. We reward them with a free lunch and a conversation."

Promotion of conservation projects

For clubs that run conservation projects, we wanted to find out the ways they promoted their conservation. Out of 18 clubs that answered this question, nine (50.0%) said they conducted some promotion, eight (44.4%) said they did not promote it, and one respondent (5.6%) was unsure.

Promotion was mostly conducted through the media, e.g., the local Greenie, Facebook, articles in local newspapers, and club newsletters. Conservation work was also promoted on presentations at meetings and trough partners on their website (e.g., DOC website running an article about club's achievements in conservation).

"Our club's trapping programme article appeared in March 2023 Valley Voice community newspaper."

Section 6: General Conservation Efforts

Golf balls

We asked the clubs what they do with damaged or well-worn golf balls. There were 24 responses to this question. Three respondents (12.5%) were unsure what is done, and one respondent (4.2%) stated that their club did not have a plan for this. Another two clubs (8.3%) stated that old golf balls were not an issue as the number of balls was minimal.

Most clubs put their old and damaged golf balls into the rubbish, some tried to extend the usability by giving the balls to junior golf or club members, and some recycled the balls (Figure 7).

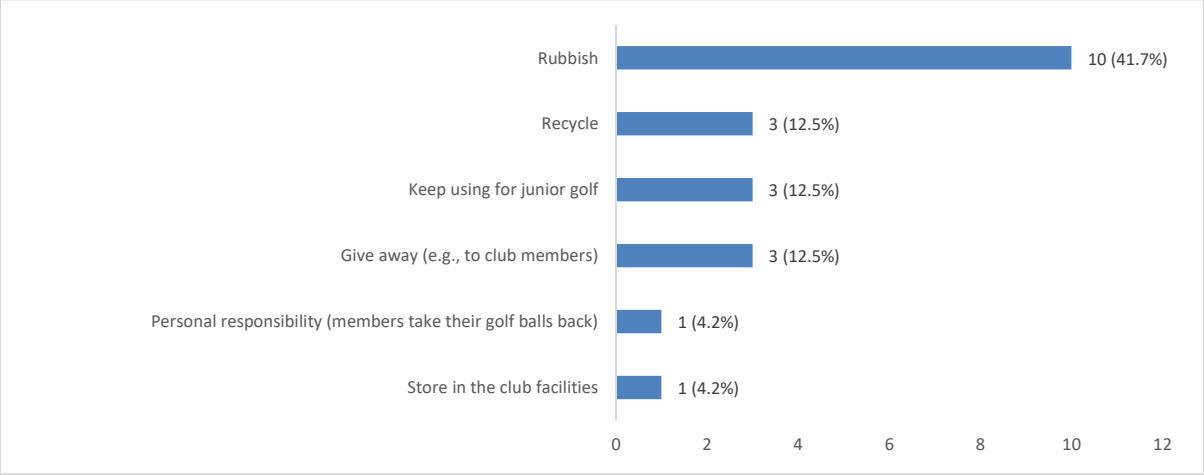

Figure 7. Actions taken with old golf balls.

Driving range

Twenty-three clubs reported having a driving range. Eleven clubs (47.8%) had the driving range and twelve (52.2%) did not.

Golf ball recycling programme

We asked the respondents if their clubs would be interested in participating in a golf ball recycling programme. The answers showed strong interest in such a programme with 62.5% of respondents saying they would be interested (Figure 8).

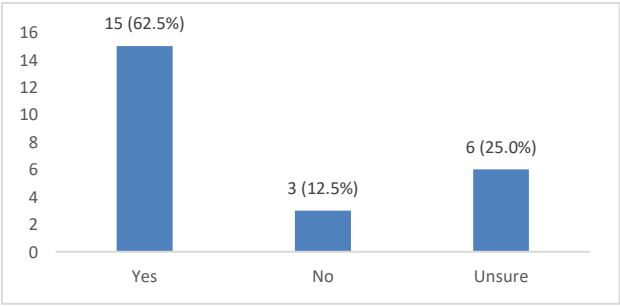

Figure 8. Interest in ball recycling.

Local suppliers

Respondents were asked to list local suppliers that they use to purchase resources for the course ecology. The responses highlighted numerous clubs that were both utilised and obtained from local suppliers, contributing to the growth and sustenance of the local economy. When businesses source materials, products, or services locally, it directly contributes to the local economy. Local sourcing often involves shorter supply chains, transporting goods over shorter distances reduces the carbon emissions associated with long-haul transportation.

Among listed were:

- Good Nature
- Takana Nurseries Matakana
- NZ native nursery
- Connovation
- Trade tested
- Mitre 10 mega
- The Mens Shed
- Ngati Whatua Orakei
- North Harbour Big Trees
- Living turf
- PGG Wrightson Turf
- Kauri park
- Blackbridge nursery
- Horticentre
- Icon Trees
- Admore nurseries

GEO certification

AGI and North Golf would like to see all golf courses in the Tāmaki Makaurau region undertaking GEO certification. The respondents were asked whether their golf clubs were ready to undertake GEO certification. Twenty-four people responded to this question. The opinion was somewhat split with 10 responses (41.7%) saying they were ready, three responses 'no' (12.5%), and 11 'unsure' (45.8%).

Barriers to GEO certification

We asked the respondents to list the barriers that could prevent the clubs from undertaking GEO certification. Twenty people responded to this question. The barriers were grouped into categories and presented in Figure 9 by frequency of being mentioned.

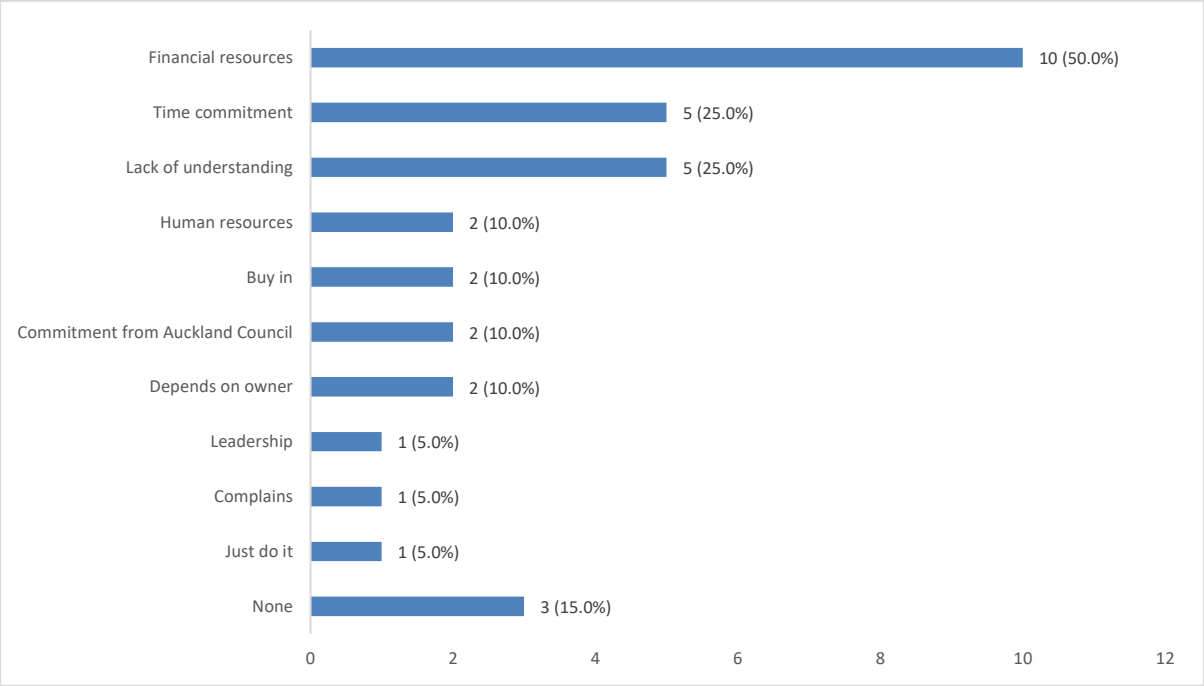

Figure 9. Barriers to GEO certification.

Financial resources to carry out work required for GEO certification were the major barriers with half of respondents mentioning expenses. Clubs were also concerned with a long-term financial commitment to pay ongoing subscriptions and to maintain the required parameters.

The time commitment was another important barrier as clubs felt there will be a lot of additional work for the board members, groundkeepers, club members, and volunteers.

Lack of understanding referred to not having enough information about GEO certification, about both obligations and benefits that it can bring to the clubs. As one respondent noted, they were already doing a lot around environmental issues, and they could not see a value in paying for the title just to recognise their efforts.

Human resources refer to the need for people to complete the admin work around certification and to carry out the required groundwork. Respondents said that staff was already very busy and most of the admin work was done by volunteers who were also overcommitted.

Buy-in from the board members, staff, and ordinary club members was another potential barrier. Without wide support, GEO certification was considered not viable.

Auckland Council is a landowner of multiple golf clubs. Full commitment is needed from Auckland Council to share the costs and contribute via different means.

Another barrier was that if clubs were privately owned, especially when the owner was changing, the owner's commitment to GEO certification was crucial.

Other barriers included: the need for leadership, a person who could champion the certification; a concern that owners of the neighbouring properties may disapprove some of the activities required under GEO certification; and an ability to push through and complete the certification process.

Despite the barriers, some clubs were very positive and expressed an interest in doing more for the environment and further collaboration with Auckland Golf, Auckland Council.

Implications and recommendations

The study sheds light on the environmental habits of golf clubs, highlighting the commendable efforts placed on reducing the environmental impact of golf courses and showcasing how Golf Clubs can demonstrate a strong commitment to practices such as sustainable waste management, water consumption reduction, pest trapping and ecological improvements. By fostering a positive impact on the environment through these efforts, Golf Clubs are taking the lead in the sports industry.

The Golf is Green group is capable of providing support to clubs to continue this significant mahi. Of particular note are the main barriers that were identified throughout the survey. Human resource, financial resource, service infrastructure and council support were identified as some barriers to general pro environmental behaviours.

Some examples of where Golf is Green working group can assist clubs are:

- Ensuring the clubs are connected to their local Council Conservation Advisors
- Link clubs to local support organisations in their area; e.g. pest trapping groups, tree planting organisations
- Ensure clubs are aware of funding providers in their area
- Connect clubs with each other to make them aware of what mahi is being undertaken and share knowledge and resources
- Championing the efforts of the clubs to the Council, golf club members and local communities
- Ensure that the concerns and successes of this report are reflected in the Golf is Green future strategy

This data helps the golf is green group to tailor our efforts to support environmental practices of the industry in the most effective way. The information and recommendations will be utilised by the group to aid Tāmaki Makaurau's golf clubs on their path to environmental responsibility, social responsibility, and ultimately GEO registration and certification.

In conclusion, with a strong emphasis on recycling and a renewed commitment to reducing energy consumption, golf clubs have the potential to become leaders in sustainable practices, setting a benchmark for other industries to follow suit and contributing significantly to the preservation of our planet for future generations.