



Kia ora

I hope that you all managed to have some rest and relaxation over the weekend. This afternoon Cabinet met to review the alert level settings, and at 4.00pm the Prime Minister confirmed that Auckland will remain at Alert Level 4 for at least another two weeks.

This means our Auckland campuses will remain closed during that period for all staff and students, except those who have been authorised to come onsite to support critical operations, such as accommodation and essential facility support. We are currently assessing the implications of this timing for our return from mid-Semester break, and I will provide an update on this shortly.

If tests over the next few days are clear, Northland will move to Alert Level 3 at 11.59pm on Thursday, 2 September, including our Tai Tokerau campus in Whangārei and the Leigh Marine Lab. The rest of the country moves to Alert Level 3 at 11.59pm tomorrow, Tuesday 31 August, as announced last week.

### **Student testing in halls**

I am pleased to report that the Day 12 test of our students in Waipārūrū and Whitaker halls was completed yesterday and went very well according to one of our staff members who was present. Congratulations to our Accommodation staff and others for organising this well received support for our students.

As we settle in for another extended lockdown, may I once again acknowledge and applaud all our staff and students for your strength and patience during another period of disruption.

Ngā mihi nui

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**

Vice-Chancellor