



Kia ora

This afternoon the Prime Minister announced Cabinet's intention to ease lockdown restrictions in Auckland in three phases over the next few weeks. The first step in this gradual transition, Step One, will take effect in Auckland at 11.59pm tomorrow, Tuesday 5 October. In Step One, Auckland will remain at Alert Level 3, with some limited changes. Steps 2 and 3 will bring increasing freedoms. Cabinet will review the situation each week, commencing Monday 11 October.

A summary of the 'Auckland Roadmap', including the details of each step, is [available on the official Government website](#).

In the meantime, Hamilton and areas of the Waikato will remain at standard Alert Level 3 for a period of five days, as announced on Sunday. The rest of New Zealand, including our Tai Tokerau campus in Whangārei, remains at Alert Level 2, however the limit of 100 people in hospitality venues has now been removed.

For our Auckland campuses, today's announcement means our current Alert Level 3 arrangements remain in place. Only staff and students specifically authorised to access campus are allowed to do so. There are limited [study spaces](#) and computer labs available for individual study at selected campuses if your home environment is not suitable for study. More details about University operations at the different levels are available [here](#).

While today's news is encouraging, I know the continued restrictions will be challenging for many of you, particularly those with children starting their school holidays this week. This lockdown has been long and exhausting for everyone. I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary patience and resilience you are showing under demanding circumstances. Last week was [Mental Health Awareness Week](#), and one of the strongest messages we heard was about the importance of kōrero and checking in on friends and whānau. Mā te kōrero, ka ora: a little chat can go a long way.

Noho ora mai. Take care, stay well.
Dawn

Professor Dawn Freshwater
Vice-Chancellor