

Dr Jennifer Price

Expert advice across freshwater ecology, policy and strategy

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Specialist expertise

Jen brings a depth of experience spanning science, policy and engagement. She is an experienced freshwater ecologist with experience providing expert advice, assessments and technical input to resource management, catchment management and restoration. This includes assessing the effects of a wide range of activities on streams, rivers and lakes, utilising expert skills and knowledge in field survey methods, data analysis, research and presentation of evidence and advice.

With experience working in leadership roles in central government, Jen is a versatile thinker who can facilitate understanding across disciplines. She has demonstrated strength in developing and employing analytical frameworks to provide well-reasoned evidence and advice to decision-makers.

Qualifications

- PhD - Biological Sciences, University of Waikato, 2013.
- MSc - Biological Sciences - First Class Honours, University of Waikato, 2008.
- BSc - Biological Sciences, BA - German (conjoint), University of Auckland, 2006.

Professional positions

- August 2024- Director, Cobble Consulting Limited
- 2021-24 Sector Manager, Office of the Auditor-General
- 2020-24 Acting Manager/Manager, Ministry for the Environment
- 2018-20 Senior Analyst, Ministry for the Environment
- 2017-18 Senior Ecologist and Technical Leader – Freshwater Ecology, Kessels Ecology
- 2012-17 Senior Freshwater Ecologist, Kessels Ecology
- 2009-12 PhD student, University of Waikato
- 2012 Freelance copy editor (part-time), Inter-Research
- 2009-2012 Research and teaching assistant (part-time/temporary contracts), University of Waikato

Professional affiliations/memberships

Freshwater Sciences Society of New Zealand

Other training

Technical / fieldwork: current first aid certificate, off-road four-wheel drive training, backpack electrofishing certification, New Zealand driver's licence, advanced open water diver, NZ Day Skipper, Statistical Methods for Water Quality Studies.

General: Natural Resources Sector Aspiring Leaders Programme, Select Committee and Media training, Treaty of Waitangi, Wall Walk, Project Management, Facilitation Skills, Coaching, Te Reo Māori Beginners and Advanced Beginners' Courses, Rainbow 101.

Awards and scholarships

- New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society S.I.L. 1987 Trust Fund Travel Award, 2011
- Fish and Game New Zealand Best Fish and Game presentation, New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Conference, 2009, 2010, 2011
- New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women Merit Award for Doctoral Study
- University of Waikato Masters Research Scholarship

Selected reports and publications

Select committee advice

2024/25 [Estimates for Vote Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety - Office of the Auditor-General](#)

2024/25 [Estimates for Vote Business, Science and Innovation \(excluding appropriations related to the Retail Crime Subsidy, the Health Research Fund, and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise\) - Office of the Auditor-General](#)

2022/23 [Annual review of the Ministry for Primary Industries - Office of the Auditor General](#)

2022/23 [Annual review of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment - Office of the Auditor-General](#)

2022/23 [Annual Review of WorkSafe New Zealand - Office of the Auditor-General](#)

Refereed articles and theses

Pingram, M., **Price, J.**, & Thoms, M. (2019). Integrating multiple aquatic values: Perspectives and a collaborative future for river science. *River Research and Applications*, 35(10), 1607-1614.

Price, J. and Gumbley, J. 2015. Effects of Rudd Control in Rotopiko (Serpentine) Lakes. Pp. 100-104 in: New Zealand Invasive Fish Management Handbook. Edited by Collier, K. J. and Grainger, N. P. J. LERNZ (the University of Waikato) and Department of Conservation, Hamilton.

Blair, J. M., Ostrovsky, I., Hicks, B. J., Pitkethley, R., and Scholes, P. 2013. Growth of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in warm-temperate lakes: implications for environmental change. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 70: 815-823. [dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2012-0409](https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2012-0409)

Blair, J. M., Hicks, B. J., Pitkethley, R., Rowe, D., Ostrovsky, I., and Ling, N. 2013. How do stocking practices influence rainbow trout growth in a New Zealand lake? A bioenergetic assessment. *Freshwater Biology* 58(5): 967-985. [doi: 10.1111/fwb.12100](https://doi.org/10.1111/fwb.12100)

Blair, J. M., Hicks, B. J., Pitkethley, R., and Ling, N. 2012. Diet of rainbow trout in Lake Rotoiti: an energetic perspective. *New Zealand Journal of Marine & Freshwater Research* 46(4): 557-565. doi: 10.1080/00288330.2012.707660.

Blair, J. M. 2012. Factors controlling common smelt abundance and rainbow trout growth in the Rotorua lakes, New Zealand. (PhD thesis). University of Waikato, Hamilton.

Blair, J. M., Hicks, B. J. 2012. Otolith microchemistry of koi carp in the Waikato region, New Zealand: a tool for identifying recruitment locations? *Inland Waters* 2:109-118.

Blair, J. M. 2008. An investigation of koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) movement in the Waikato region using laser ablation otolith microchemistry. (MSc thesis). University of Waikato, Hamilton.

Consultancy reports

Price, J., Hasenbank, M., Hickey-Elliott, A. 2017. Assessment of Ecological Effects of Tauranga Northern Link. Prepared for NZ Transport Agency. Kessels Ecology, Hamilton.

Price, J., 2017. Assessment of Ecological Effects of Turangi Wastewater Treatment Plant. Prepared for Taupo District Council. Kessels Ecology, Hamilton.

Price, J. 2016. Matarangi wastewater treatment plant AEE. Client report prepared for Thames-Coromandel District Council. Kessels Ecology, Hamilton.

Price, J. 2016. Assessment of ecological effects of Apakura water abstraction. Client report prepared for Thames-Coromandel District Council. Kessels Ecology, Hamilton.

Price, J., van der Zwan, W., and Mueller, H. 2015. Rotokauri Integrated Catchment Management Plan – ecological assessment. Report prepared for Hamilton City Council. Kessels Ecology, Hamilton.

Price, J. and Dean, H. 2014. Lake Rotokauri Ecological Enhancement Plan. Report prepared for Waikato District Council. Kessels Ecology, Hamilton.

Price, J. and Dean, H. 2014. Baseline Report: Hikurangi Catchment. Report prepared for Living Water (Department of Conservation and Fonterra). Kessels Ecology, Hamilton.