



**TŪWHARETOA**  
MĀORI TRUST BOARD

**Purpose:** To inform our hapū about the *corbicula fluminea* – Gold Clam surveillance being conducted for Taupō nui a Tia utilising environmental DNA testing (eDNA).

### Latest Update(s)

The Trust Board received information that *corbicula fluminea* – Gold Clam were likely present at the Taupō Aqua Park in Wairākei.

Trust Board and Bio Security NZ staff conducted the initial eDNA testing which yielded a positive result. The clams were then sighted physically after a return visit to the location.

The Trust Board now has a team conducting eDNA testing around Taupō moana and the upper Waikato awa.

This will be additional to the earlier delimitation survey conducted June 2023 and any subsequent sites post that period.

The testing is intended to focus on areas where there is high visitation and busy traffic areas such as boat ramps, public shoreline areas and fishing access points.

The sampling will be taking place from 17 April 2024 and expected to take four to five days.

### What is eDNA testing?

Environmental DNA testing is a process of analysing plant or animal DNA in the environment through the collection of water samples. Organisms leave DNA in the environment they live and interact in. In this situation water samples are collected and then sent to a laboratory for analysis.

It takes approximately two-three weeks to get the results back, depending on the amount of tests to be processed.

The tests we are conducting will be specifically looking for Gold Clam DNA.

### Useful information

- Latest TMTB press release on gold clams at Wairākei  
<https://www.tuwharetoa.co.nz/taupo-aqua-park-closed-due-to-discovery-of-golden-clams/>
- TMTB press release after gold clams were first discovered in Aotearoa  
<https://www.tuwharetoa.co.nz/no-freshwater-gold-clams-in-taupo-moana-continued-calls-for-vigilance/>
- How to report sightings of the gold clam to MPI  
<https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/>

