

# 19 Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment

Use these insights to develop a farm environment plan that reduces impacts on fresh water and protects what matters in your catchment. For more details or support, call 0800 800 401 or visit [waikatoregion.govt.nz/farm-environment-planning](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/farm-environment-planning).

## Prioritise these actions in your farm plan to improve water quality:

- Manage livestock and run off around **critical source areas**.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Stabilise erosion-prone land through planting.
- Select appropriate livestock and timing to graze steep land.

 **Actions to include in a farm environment plan**

 **Farm menus**

Strongly rolling or steep land make up more than 75 per cent of the Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment. The catchment includes a range of community and natural features such as Hakarimata Range, Rotowaro coal mine, Awaroa stream and the Glen Afton heritage railway. The Awaroa Stream drains into Waahi lake. Land use (including mining) and pest fish (such as koi carp) disrupt natural processes, making care for our waterways critical.

The Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment and surrounding environments hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Waikato-Tainui, the primary iwi for this region. Waikato-Tainui regards its coastal areas, rivers, lakes and streams as living ancestors whose mauri (life force) and mana (authority) must be actively protected and restored. Hapū and marae act as kaitiaki (guardians) at a local level to preserve and sustain the waterbodies and taonga (treasured) species for future generations.

## Taonga (treasured) species found in the Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment

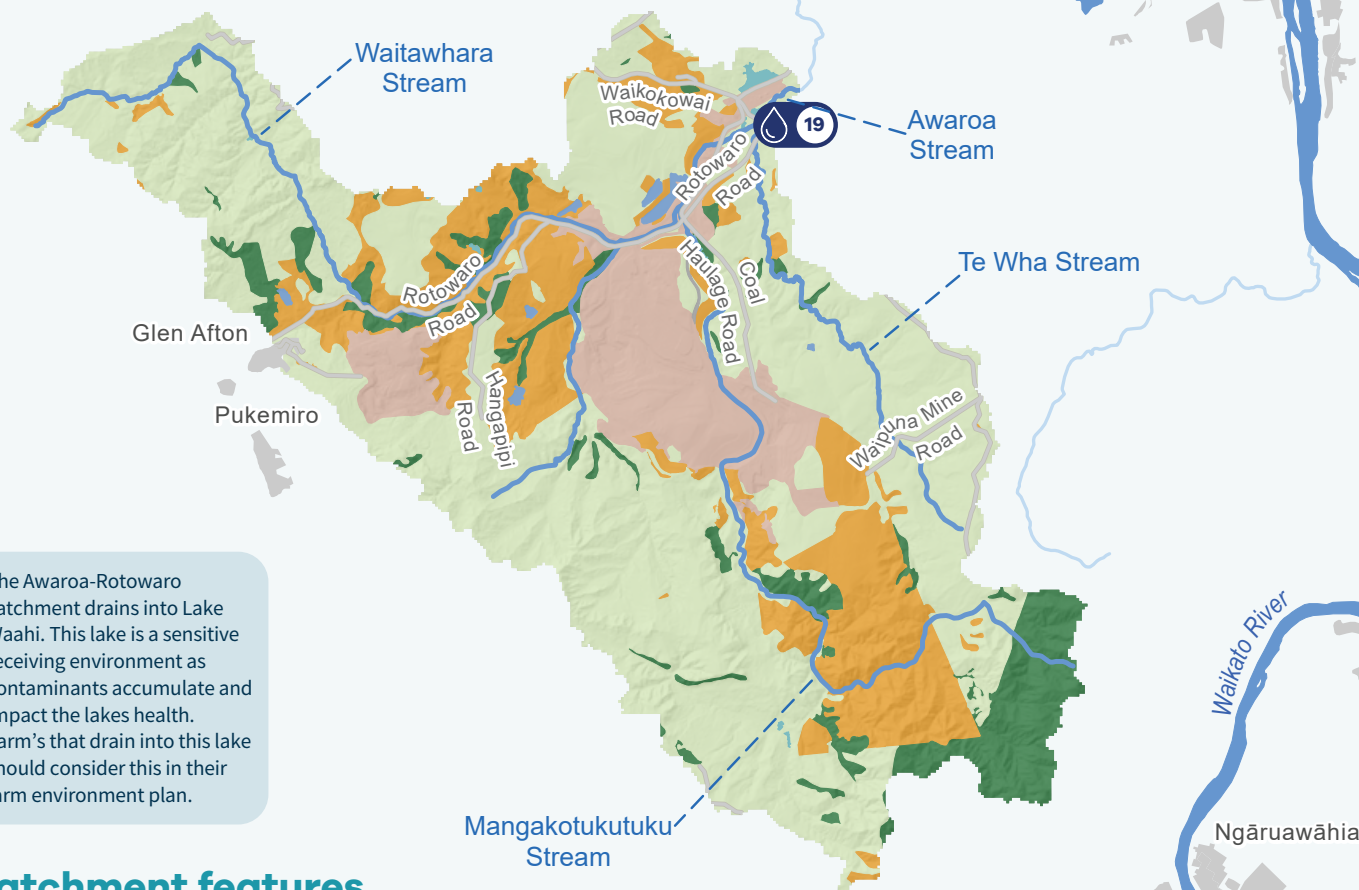


## Consider your farm's location in the catchment

The table shows how landform and soil characteristics shape primary risks and contaminant losses specific to the Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment.

| Landform                                                            | Main soils + properties                        | Primary risks                                                                                | Primary contaminant loss   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Flat to undulating land</b><br>(0-7 degrees)<br>26% of catchment | <b>Gley:</b> Poorly drained clay.              | Soil compaction and pugging when wet.                                                        | <i>E. coli</i>             |
| <b>Rolling land</b><br>(8-20 degrees)<br>45% of catchment           | <b>Allophanic:</b> Well drained clay.          | Slight to moderate rill or sheet erosion when cultivated.                                    | <i>E. coli</i><br>Sediment |
|                                                                     | <b>Granular:</b> Moderately well drained clay. | Weak structure.<br>Slight to moderate sheet erosion.                                         | Sediment<br>Phosphorus     |
| <b>Steep land</b><br>(>20 degrees)<br>29% of catchment              | <b>Recent:</b> Imperfectly drained loam.       | Moderate sheet or slip erosion.<br>Slight earthflow erosion.                                 | Sediment<br>Phosphorus     |
|                                                                     | <b>Brown:</b> Imperfectly drained clay.        | Shallow, prone to drying out.<br>Slight risk for potential for slip, sheet or gully erosion. |                            |

The Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment is a high priority for erosion funding. **Contact us** on 0800 800 401 and ask to speak to a catchment management officer to find out what funding might be available for you.



The Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment drains into Lake Waahi. This lake is a sensitive receiving environment as contaminants accumulate and impact the lakes health. Farm's that drain into this lake should consider this in their farm environment plan.

## Catchment features

**Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment: 4561ha**

- Exotic forest (21%)
- Native forest (9%)
- Pasture (58%)
- Surface mine (12%)
- Waterbodies
- Urban

- Roads
- Marae
- Water quality monitoring point

The national land cover database (LCDB, version 6) was used to define land cover in this catchment.

## Water quality improvement for the four contaminants

This diagram shows the level of collective effort needed to positively impact water quality in the Awaroa-Rotowaro catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.

