

21 Firewood Creek 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.

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

- Manage or retire erosion prone land.
- Stabilise stream banks and gullies through planting.
- Protect existing native forest through pest management.
- Manage livestock and run off around **critical source areas**.

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

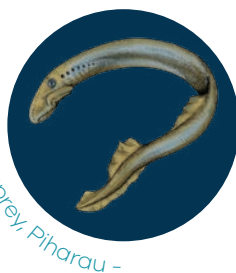
 **Farm menus**

Steep and rolling land makes up more than 90 per cent of the Firewood Creek catchment. The catchment includes a range of natural and community features such as Hakarimata Range and other areas of native bush, Glen Massey village and the historic Glen Massey railway that is now a rail trail. The Firewood Stream drains into Waipā River.

The catchment and its 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.

While the catchment has been shaped by land use (including mining), it continues to provide important ecological, recreational, and cultural values. Protecting and enhancing the health of its waterways is therefore essential for both people and the environment.

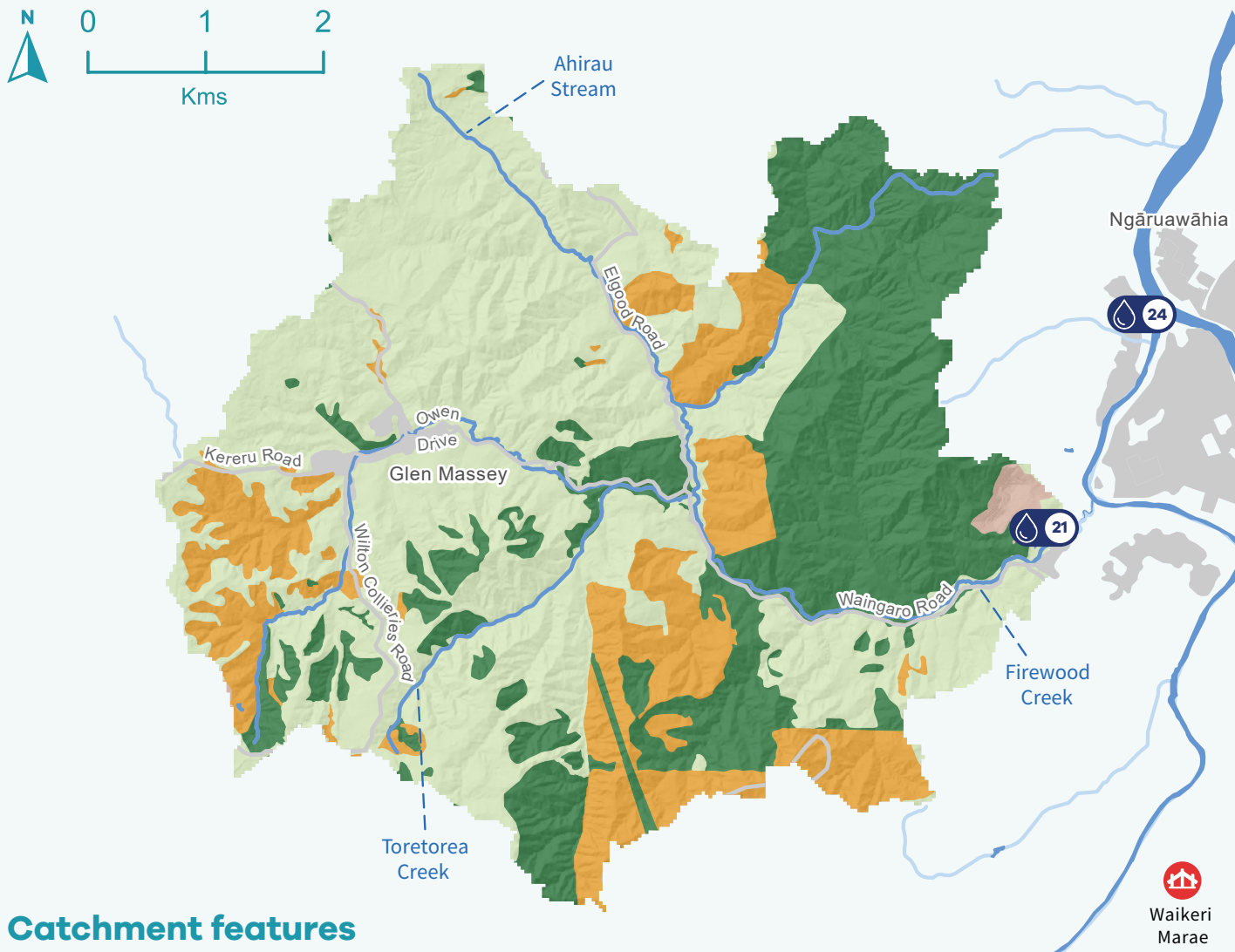
Taonga (treasured) species found in the Firewood Creek catchment



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 Firewood Creek catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 8% of catchment	Gley: Poorly drained clay.	Slight wetness limitation after drainage and a risk of flooding. Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Recent: Moderately well drained loam over clay.		
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 32% of catchment	Allophanic: Well drained clay.	Moderate to severe sheet and rill erosion when cultivated.	Sediment <i>E. coli</i>
Steep land (>20 degrees) 60% of catchment	Brown: Moderately to well drained clay.	Slight to moderate soil slip, sheet and gully erosion.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Recent: Moderately well drained loam over clay.		



Catchment features

Firewood Creek catchment: 3372ha

- Exotic forest (16%)
- Native forest (30%)
- Pasture (51%)
- Orchard or cropland (2%)
- Surface mine (1%)
- Roads and urban areas
- Rivers and streams
- 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 Firewood Creek catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.

