

22 Komakorau 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:

- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Stabilise stream banks and provide habitat through planting.
- Manage livestock around **critical source areas**.
- Manage livestock on poorly drained soils during critical periods, consider off pasture options.

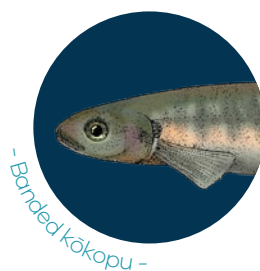
 **Actions to include in a farm environment plan**

 **Farm menus**

The Komakorau catchment, which includes the Komakorau Stream, is mostly flat land and widespread peat soils. Woodlands Estate, Zealong Tea Estate and Gordonton and Hukanui townships are community features, and the waterways support tuna whakaheke (migrating freshwater eels) and their extraordinary migration to the sea. Land use, land drainage and pest fish (such as koi carp) disrupt natural processes, making care for our waterways critical.

The Komakorau 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.

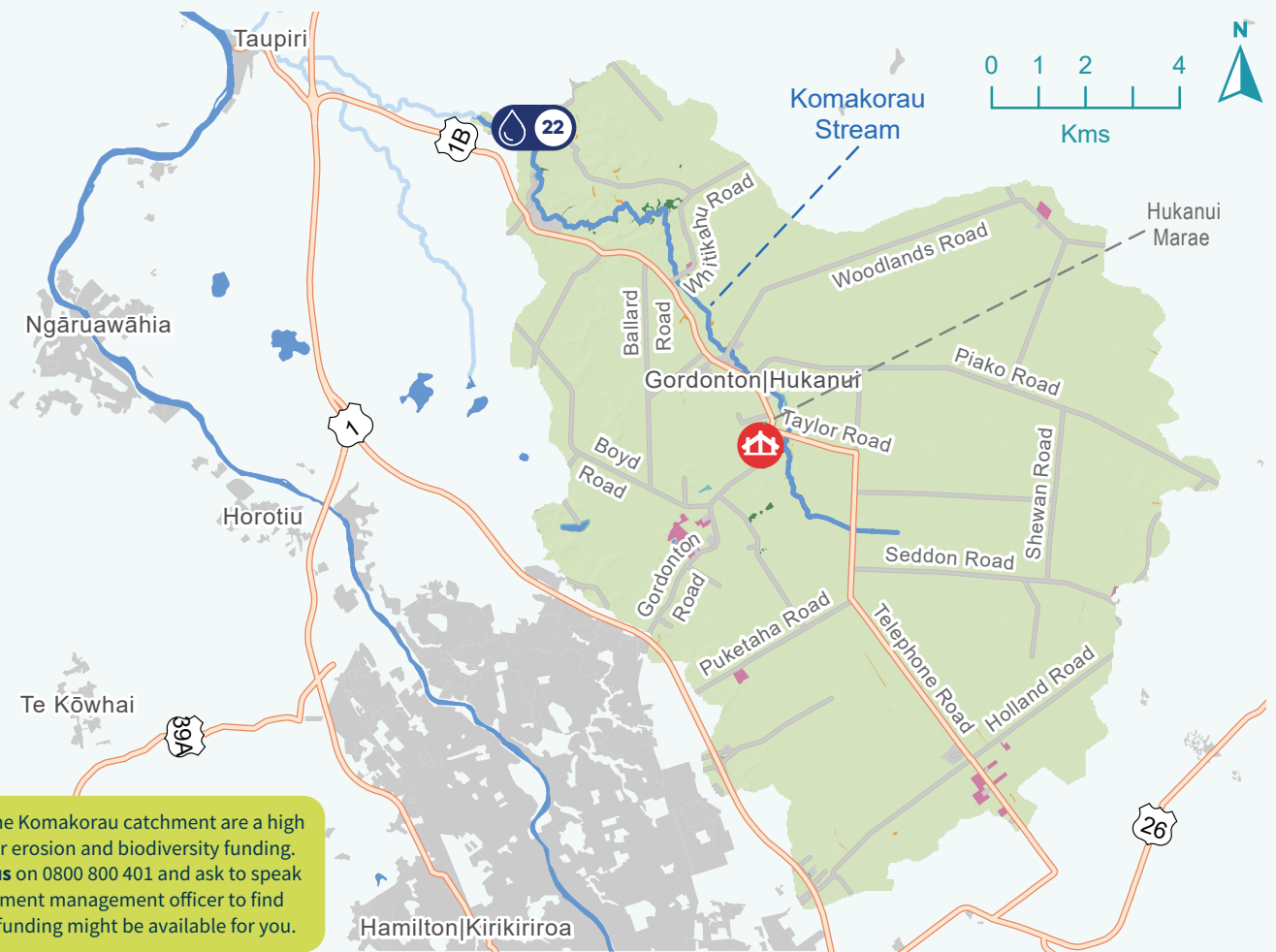
Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waikato at Mercer Bridge catchment



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 Komakorau catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 94% of catchment	Organic: Very poorly drained peat.	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering. Pugging when wet and unstable substrate. Stream bank erosion.	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
	Gley: Poorly drained and clayey.	Pugging if wet and soil compaction.	Sediment Phosphorus <i>E. coli</i>
	Allophanic: Well drained loam over sand.	Weak structure, prone to erosion. Stream bank erosion.	Sediment <i>E. coli</i>
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 6% of catchment	Granular: Moderately well drained and clayey.	Slight to moderate sheet erosion when cultivated.	Sediment Nitrogen



Catchment features

Komakorau catchment: 16398ha

- Exotic forest (0.25%)
- Native forest (0.3%)
- Pasture (98%)
- Orchard or cropland (0.5%)
- Roads
- Marae

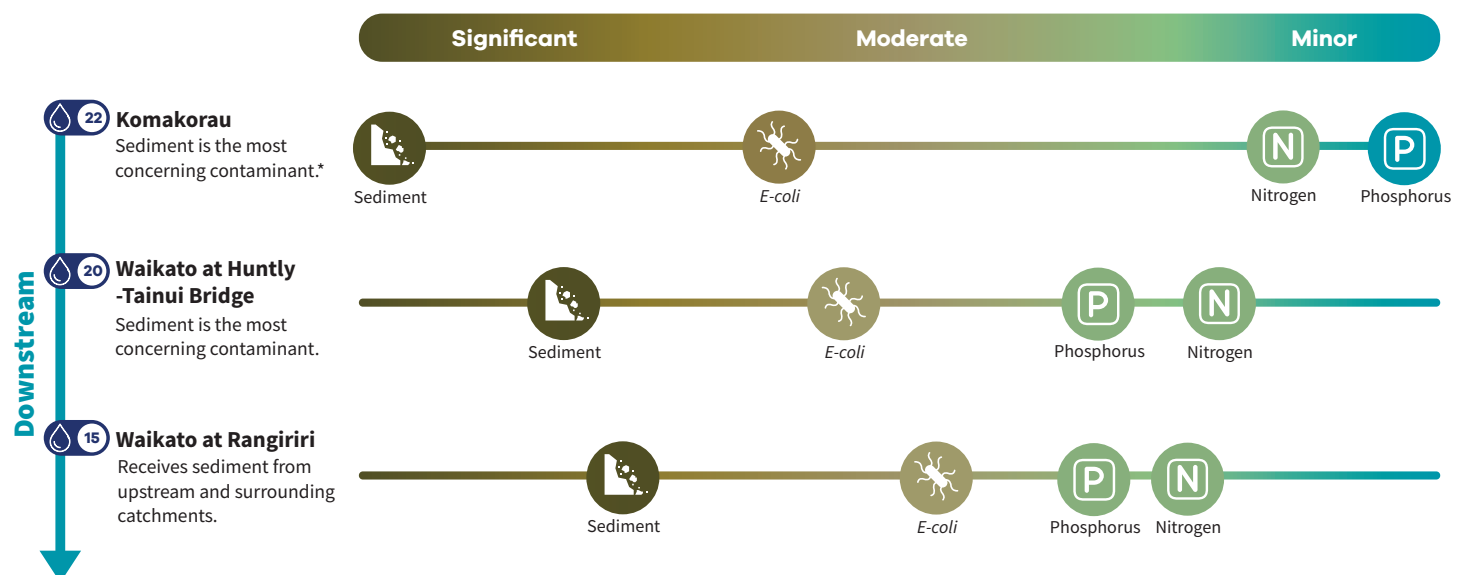
In addition to the streams, the catchment also includes Tunawhakaheke. This lake is a sensitive receiving environment as contaminants accumulate and impact the lake's health. Farms that drain into this lake should consider this in their farm environment plan.

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

Water quality monitoring point

Water quality improvement for the four contaminants

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



*Iron dissolved in water draining from peatland gives the Komakorau stream a distinctive orange colour. This colour is natural and the result of iron present in alluvial material being dissolved by the acid peat water and then oxidised to form the orange rust-coloured water.