

1 Mangatāwhiri 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.
- Manage livestock and run off around **critical source areas**.
- Protect native forest through pest management.

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

🌐 **Farm menus**

More than 80 per cent of the Mangatāwhiri catchment is covered in native forest, supporting native plant and bird species, providing outdoor recreational opportunities and supporting community wellbeing. The catchment is also home to rural communities, farming activities, and infrastructure including Mangatāwhiri Reservoir, which plays a key role in water supply. However, altered waterways and the presence of invasive pest fish such as koi carp have disrupted natural processes and ecosystem health, making care for our waterways critical.

Mangatāwhiri catchment and surrounding environments hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Waikato-Tainui, the primary iwi for this region. Waikato-Tainui regards rivers, lakes and wetlands as living ancestors, carrying their own mauri (life force) and mana (authority) that must be actively protected and restored. Hapū and marae act as kaitiaki (guardians) at a local level to safeguard and preserve the catchment including its taonga (treasured) species ensuring they are sustained for future generations.

Taonga (treasured) species found in the Mangatāwhiri catchment



--- Kōaro ---



--- Inanga ---



--- Shortjaw kōkopu ---



--- Tawa-podocarp forest ---



--- Podocarp-kauri forest ---

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 Mangatāwhiri catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 8% of catchment	Recent: Imperfectly drained loam	High structural vulnerability. Pugging if wet and soil compaction	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 20% of catchment	Brown: Moderately to well drained clay loam	Slight to moderate sheet or rill erosion when cultivated. Moderate N leaching potential.	<i>E. coli</i> Nitrogen
	Granular: Moderately to well drained clay loam		
Steep land (>20 degrees) 72% of catchment	Recent: Moderately to well drained clay loam	Low erosion risk as mostly under native forest. Some steep land in the upper catchment under forestry, which has an erosion risk when harvested.	Sediment Phosphorus

Catchment features

Mangatāwhiri catchment: 6140ha

- Exotic forest (6%)
- Native forest (86%)
- Pasture (6%)
- Waterbodies (2%)
- Roads
- Marae
- Water quality monitoring point

Upper Mangatāwhiri Reservoir

Libburne Road

A.R.A Drive

Mangatāwhiri River

Wharekawa Marae

Kaiaua

0 1 2 4
Kms

Mangatāwhiri is a high-priority catchment for biodiversity and 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 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 Mangatāwhiri catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your neighbours downstream in mind.

