14 Matahuru 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.

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

- Manage or retire erosion prone hill country.
- Manage livestock around **critical source areas**.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Stabilise stream banks and provide habitat through planting.

Actions to include in a farm environment plan

Farm menus

Matahuru is one of seven catchments that flow into the internationally important Whangamarino Wetland, which is rich in native plant and bird species. Contaminants from surrounding rivers and streams degrade the wetland and Lake Waikare, which suffers toxic algal blooms and frequent health warnings. Flood control schemes and pest fish like koi carp further disrupt natural process, making care for our waterways critical.

Areas along the Matahuru and Mangapiko Streams provide recreational opportunities and support community wellbeing. The catchment, including Lake Waikare and its surrounding environment, holds profound cultural and spiritual value for Waikato-Tainui, the primary iwi of this region, and local hapū and marae. Waikato-Tainui regard 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 water bodies and taonga (treasured) species for future generations.

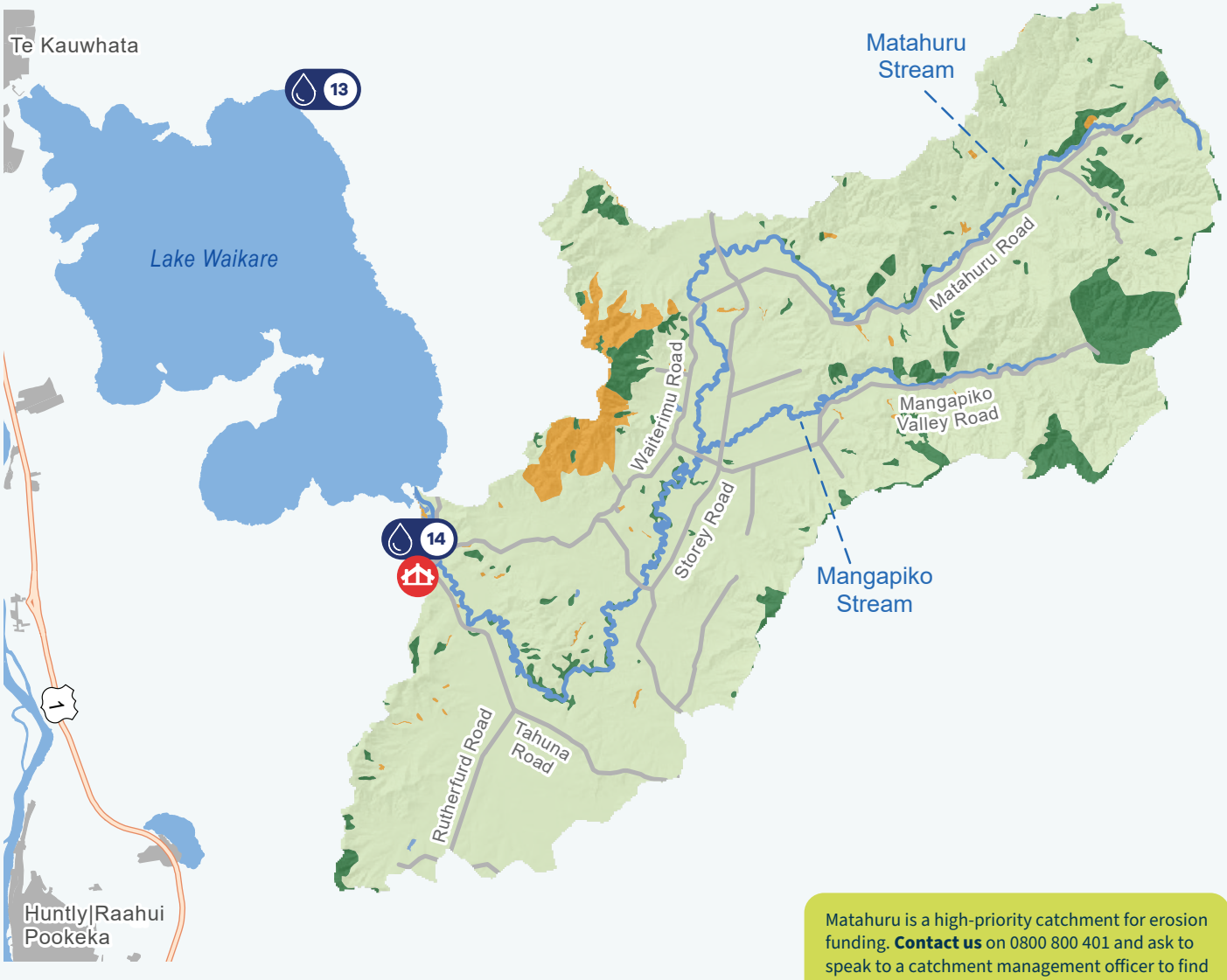
Taonga (treasured) species found in the Matahuru catchment

Consider your farm's location in the catchment

The table shows how landform and soil characteristics shape primary risks and contaminant losses in your catchment.

Landform	Main soils	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to gently rolling land (0-7 degrees) 32% of catchment	**Gley:** Poorly to very poorly drained and clayey	Pugging and soil compaction Surface water run off Streambank erosion along incised stream channels	*E. coli* Phosphorus Sediment
	Recent: Imperfectly drained if clay loam		
	Ultic: Imperfectly drained, clayey		
	Organic: Very poorly drained but may dry out, difficult to rewet	Fire in peat areas Nutrient leaching when waterlogged	Nitrogen
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 30% of catchment	**Brown:** Well drained but imperfectly drained if silt loams	Surface erosion from cultivated land Erosion on unstable slopes Pugging and soil compaction	Sediment Phosphorus
	Allophanic: Well drained, light texture		
	Ultic: Imperfectly drained, clayey		
Steep land (>20 degrees) 38% of catchment	**Brown:** Well drained	Moderate to severe gully erosion. Moderate to severe surface erosion and shallow landslides Livestock access to small streams	Sediment Phosphorus *E. coli*
	Recent: Moderately well drained, young soils, weak development, low fertility		

Catchment features



Matahuru Catchment: 10629ha

- Exotic forest (3%)
- Native forest (8%)
- Pasture (89%)
- Waterbodies
- Roads
- Matahuru Papakainga Marae
- Water quality monitoring point

Matahuru is a high-priority catchment 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 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 specific to the Matahuru catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your neighbours downstream in mind.