

26 Ohote 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 livestock and run off around **critical source areas**.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Manage livestock on poorly drained soils during critical periods to minimise soil damage.
- Manage periods of **exposed soil between crops** and re-grassing.

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

 **Farm menus**

The Ohote catchment is home to a diverse range of natural and community features, including peat lakes Rotokauri and Waiwhakareke Heritage Park, Hamilton Zoo, Taitua Arboretum and the developing urban and industrial growth of Hamilton. These features provide recreational opportunities and support community wellbeing.

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. Respect for te mana o te awa (the spiritual authority, protective power and prestige of the Waikato River) must be actively protected and restored.

While the catchment is shaped by past and present land use, it continues to provide important ecological, recreational, community 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 Ohote catchment

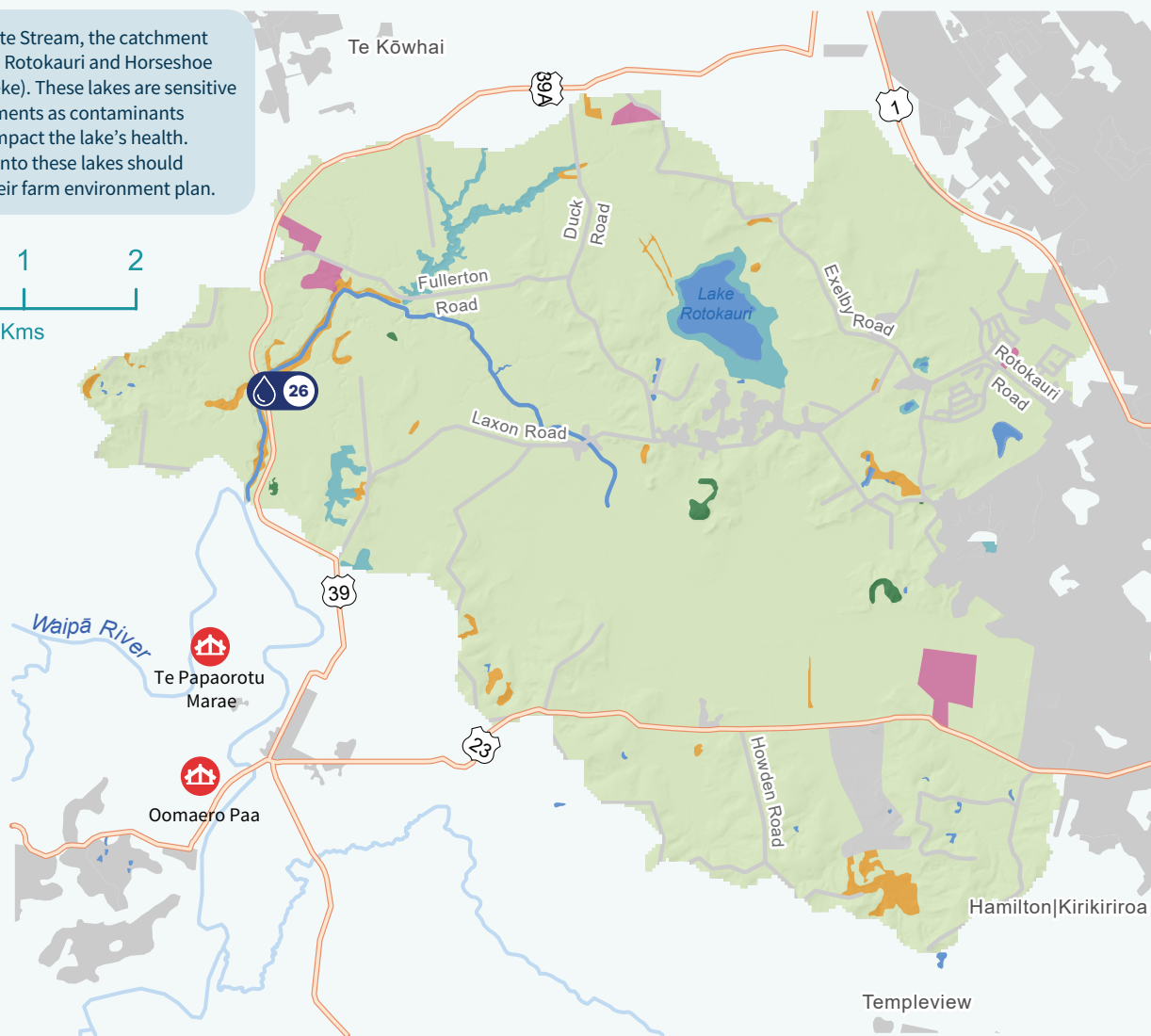


Consider your farm's location in the catchment

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

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 73% of catchment	Gley: Very poorly drained clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Organic: Very poorly drained peat.	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering. Pugging when wet and unstable substrate.	
	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	
	Recent: Well drained silt.	Risk of flooding.	<i>E. coli</i>
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 22% of catchment	Granular: Moderately well drained clay.	Moderate to severe sheet or rill erosion when cultivated or winter grazed. Vulnerable to earthflow erosion and seepage undercutting the base of slopes.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.		
Steep land (>20 degrees) 5% of catchment	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.	Moderate to severe sheet or rill erosion when cultivated or winter grazed. Vulnerable to earthflow erosion and seepage undercutting the base of slopes.	Sediment Phosphorus

In addition to Ohote Stream, the catchment also includes Lake Rotokauri and Horseshoe Lake (Waiwhakareke). These lakes are sensitive receiving environments as contaminants accumulate and impact the lake's health. Farm's that drain into these lakes should consider this in their farm environment plan.



Parts of the Ohote catchment are a high priority 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.

Catchment features

Ohote catchment: 4041ha

- Exotic forest (2%)
- Native forest (1%)
- Pasture (90%)
- Orchard or cropland (2%)
- Wetlands (3%)
- Waterbodies (2%)
- Roads and urban areas
- Rivers and streams
- Water quality monitoring point



Marae

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 Ohote catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.

