

18 Waahi Stream 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 around **critical source areas**.
- Stabilise stream banks and provide habitat through planting.
- Manage livestock on poorly drained soils during critical periods, consider off pasture options.
- Carefully select paddocks for activities such as winter grazing and cultivation.

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

 **Farm menus**

The Waahi Stream catchment includes Lake Waahi, Lake Puketirini and track, and the township of Huntly. It provides recreational opportunities and supports community wellbeing. Waahi is the third largest lake in the lower Waikato. The lake and surrounding wetlands are under pressure from aquatic pest plants and animals, sediment, and nutrient runoff. Land use and pest fish (such as koi carp) further disrupt natural processes, making care of our waterways critical.

The Waahi Stream 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 Waahi Stream catchment



Consider your farm's location in the catchment

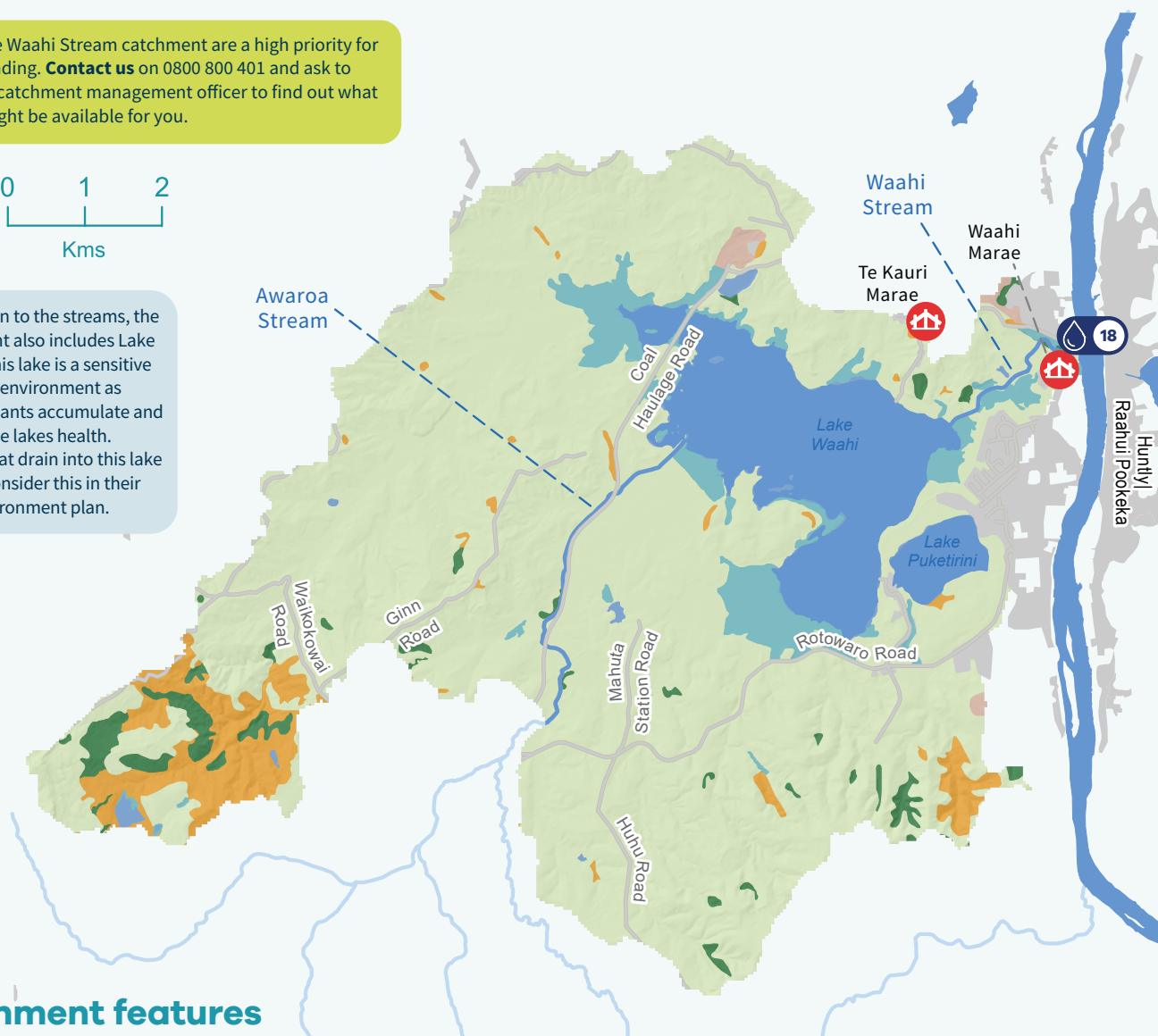
The table shows how landform and soil characteristics shape primary risks and contaminant losses specific to the Waahi Stream catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 54% of catchment	Gley: Poorly drained clay.	Soil compaction and pugging if wet.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Organic: Very poorly drained loamy peat.		<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 36% of catchment	Granular: Moderately well drained clay.	Moderate sheet erosion when cultivated. Moderate nitrogen leaching.	Nitrogen Sediment
	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.	Slight to moderate sheet or rill erosion when cultivated. Moderate nitrogen leaching potential.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Ultic: Imperfectly drained clay.		
	Allophanic: Well drained clay.	Weak structure. Prone to erosion.	Sediment Phosphorus
Steep land (>20 degrees) 10% of catchment	Brown: Well drained clay.	Moderate to severe slip and moderate sheet and gully erosion.	Sediment Phosphorus

Parts of the Waahi Stream catchment are a high priority 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.

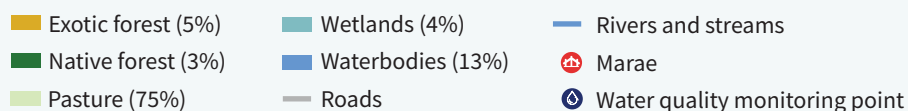


In addition to the streams, the catchment also includes Lake Waahi. This lake is a sensitive receiving environment as contaminants accumulate and impact the lakes health. Farm's that drain into this lake should consider this in their farm environment plan.



Catchment features

Waahi Stream at Te Ohaki Road catchment: 4725ha



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

