

12 Waerenga 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 or retire erosion-prone hill country, including the type of livestock and numbers during critical periods.
- Stabilise stream banks and gullies through planting.
- Manage livestock around **critical source areas**.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.

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

 **Farm menus**

Waerenga 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.

Waerenga and its surrounding environments, including Whangamarino Wetland, holds 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 Waerenga catchment

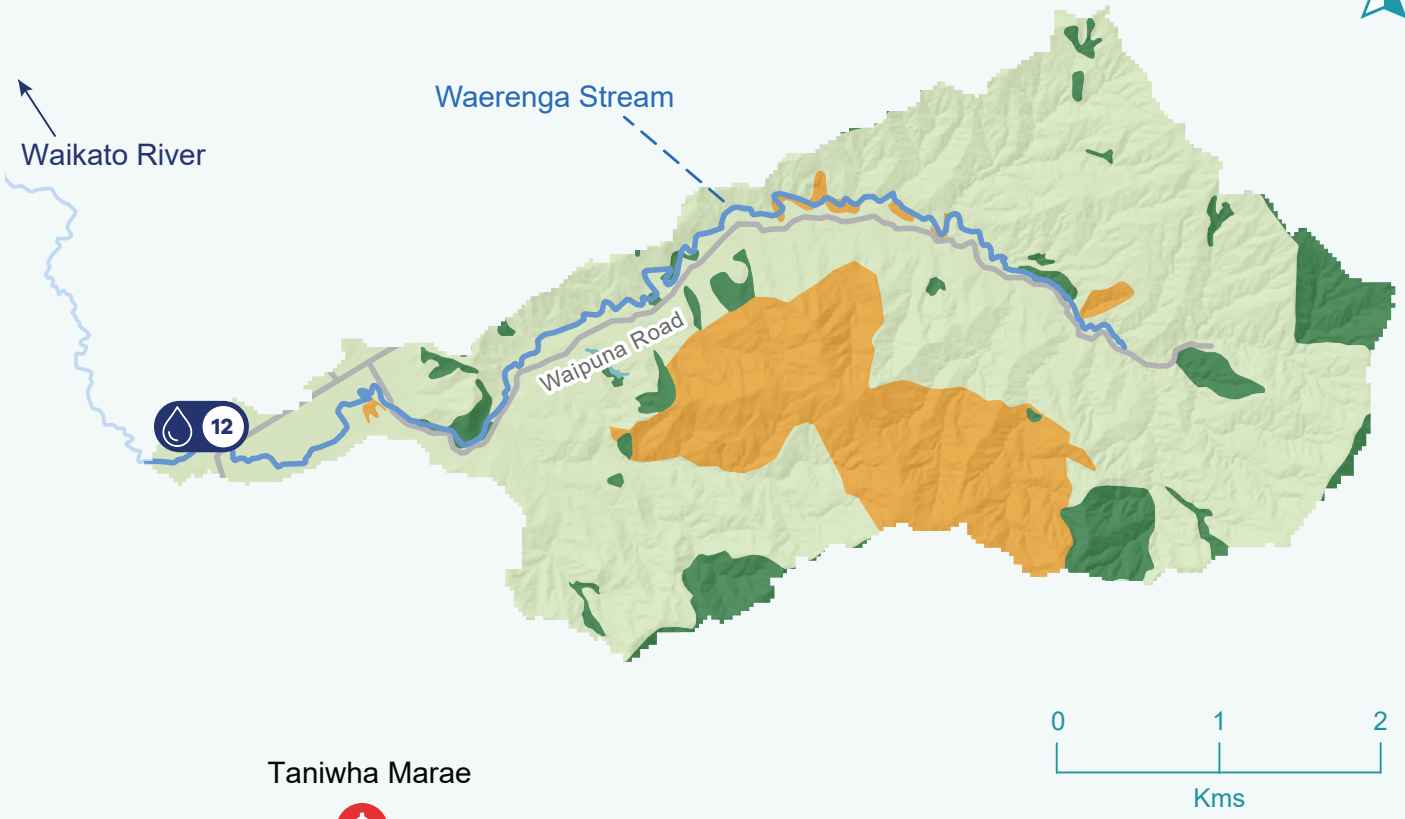


Consider your farm's location in the catchment

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

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 13% of catchment	Granular: Moderately well drained and clayey	Summer dryness	<i>E. coli</i> Nitrogen
	Gley: Poorly drained	Pugging and soil compaction Continuing wetness limitation	
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 30% of catchment	Ultic: Imperfectly drained, clayey	Vulnerable to earth flow Slight to moderate sheet or rill erosion and increased erosion risk when cultivated	Sediment Phosphorus <i>E. coli</i>
Steep land (>20 degrees) 57% of catchment	Brown: Well drained and clayey	Moderate to severe landslide erosion Moderate sheet and gully erosion	Sediment Phosphorus <i>E. coli</i>
	Recent: Moderately well drained and loamy	Moderate to severe landslide erosion Moderate sheet and gully erosion	
	Granular: Moderately well drained and clayey	Slight to moderate sheet or rill erosion hazard when cultivated	

Catchment features



Taniwha Marae



Waerenga catchment: 1959ha

- Exotic forest (18%)
- Native forest (10%)
- Pasture (72%)

- Waterbodies
- Roads
- M Marae
- W Water quality monitoring point

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

