

13 Waikare 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** and hot spots like tracks, gateways, feeding areas and troughs.
- Manage or retire erosion-prone hill country.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Stabilise stream banks and provide habitat through planting.

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

 **Farm menus**

Waikare 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.

Waikare and the surrounding environment, including Whangamarino Wetland, hold deep cultural and spiritual value for Waikato-Tainui, the primary iwi of this region. Waikato-Tainui views rivers, lakes and wetlands as living ancestors with their own mauri (life force) and mana (authority) that must be protected and restored. Local hapū and marae act as kaitiaki (guardians) to safeguard and preserve the catchment and its taonga (treasured) species to ensure these waterbodies are sustained for future generations.

Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waikare catchment



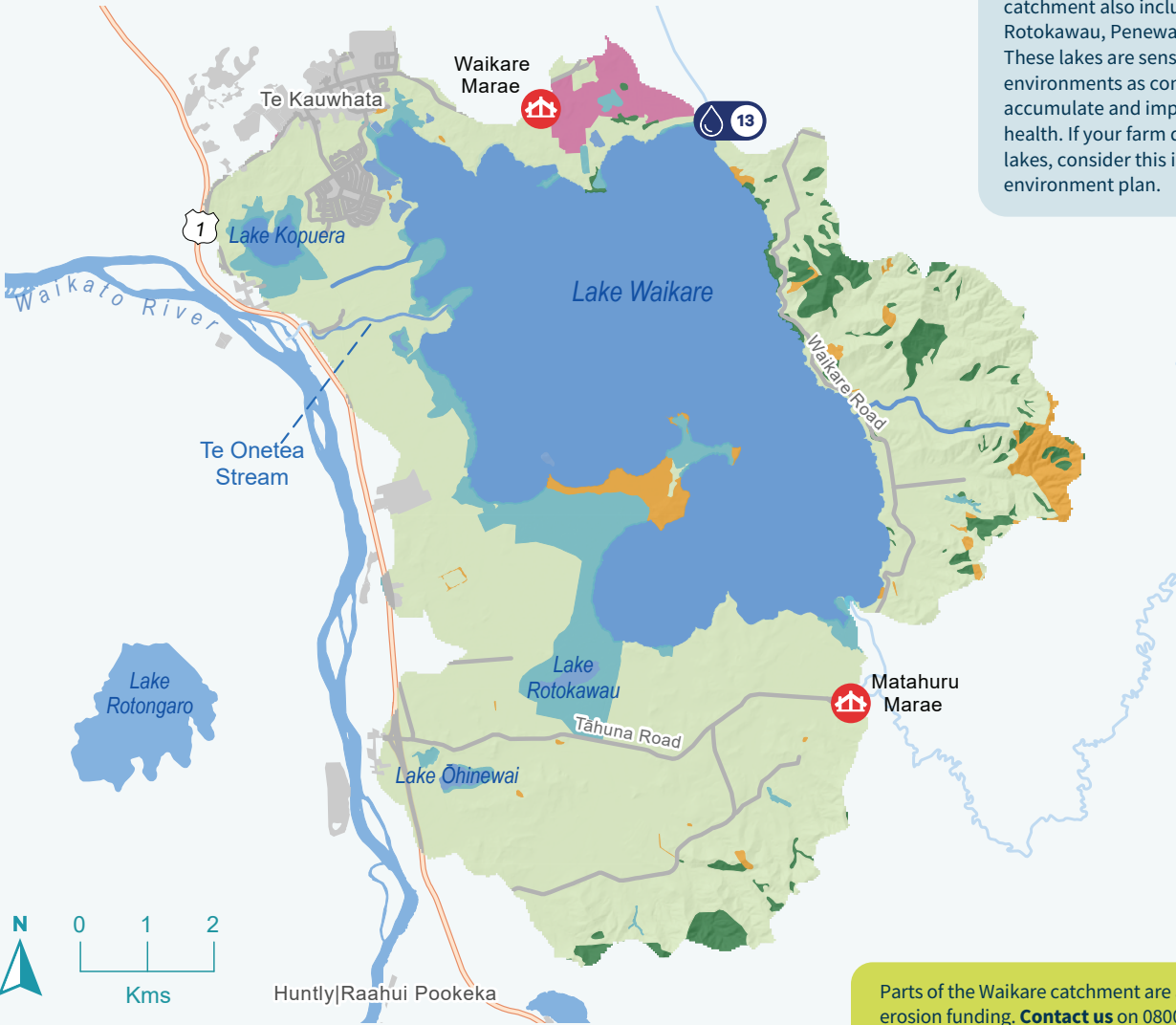
Consider your farm's location in the catchment

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

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 67% of catchment	Organic: Very poorly drained, naturally high water-table	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering and flooding	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
	Gley: Poorly drained and clayey	Continuing wetness limitation after drainage Pugging when wet and flooding	Nitrogen <i>E. coli</i>
	Recent: Imperfectly drained	Riverbank instability and flooding	Nitrogen <i>E. coli</i>
	Pumice: Imperfectly drained		
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 18% of catchment	Granular: Moderately well drained and clayey	Slight to moderate sheet or rill erosion when cultivated	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment Phosphorus
	Ultic: Imperfectly drained and silty	Pugging when wet Slight to moderate sheet or rill erosion when cultivated	
Steep land (>20 degrees) 15% of catchment	Ultic: Imperfectly to poorly drained and clayey	Moderate to severe landslide risk Moderate sheet and gully erosion Pugging when wet	Sediment Phosphorus
	Recent: Moderately well drained and loamy	Moderate to severe landslide risk Moderate sheet and gully erosion	

Catchment features

In addition to Lake Waikare, the catchment also includes Ōhinewai, Rotokawau, Penewaka and Kopuera. These lakes are sensitive receiving environments as contaminants accumulate and impact the lake's health. If your farm drains into these lakes, consider this in your farm environment plan.



Parts of the Waikare 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.

Waikare catchment: 10426ha

- Exotic forest (2%)
- Native forest (3%)
- Pasture (51%)
- Orchard or cropland (1%)
- Wetlands (6%)
- Waterbodies (37%)
- Roads
- Ⓜ Marae
- Ⓢ Water quality monitoring point

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

