

6 Waikato at Port Waikato

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**.
- Manage periods of exposed soil between crops.
- Manage or retire erosion prone land.
- Protect and retire wetlands and marginal land.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.

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

 **Farm menus**

 **Exposed soil between crops**

This catchment drains the final stretch of the Waikato River, from Tūākau to Port Waikato, into the Tasman Sea, Te Tai-o-Rehua. It is home to a diverse range of community and natural features, including Tūākau, Port Waikato, the nationally significant Waikato River delta, dune lakes, Waiuku Forest and an ironsand mine. 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 Waikato River catchment is shaped by land use, land drainage and flood control, it continues to provide important ecological, recreational, community and cultural values. Flood control schemes and pest fish, like koi carp, further disrupt natural process, making care for our waterways essential for both people and the environment.

Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waikato at Port Waikato catchment

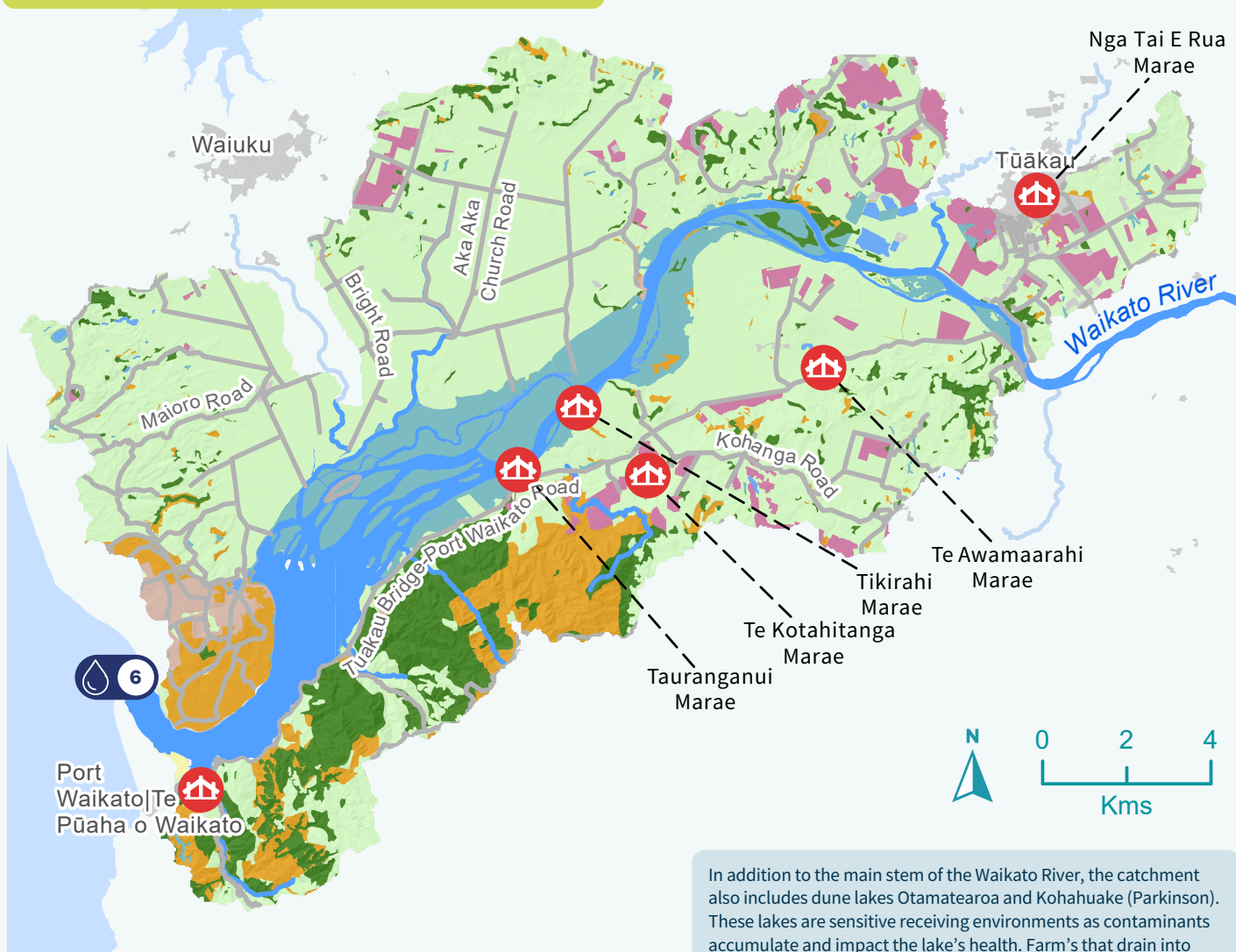


Consider your farm's location in the catchment

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

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 58% of catchment	Gley: Poorly drained loam over clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet. Risk of flooding in low lying areas.	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 24% of catchment	Granular: Moderately well drained clay.	Slight to moderate erosion risk when cultivated.	Nitrogen Sediment
	Allophanic: Well drained loam over clay.	Potential for moderate wind erosion and moderate gully erosion.	
Steep land (>20 degrees) 18% of catchment	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.	Moderate to severe earth slip and moderate sheet and gully erosion, particularly during heavy rainfall events.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Recent: Moderately well drained clay.	Moderate to severe limitations to pastoral use. High-risk land requiring active management to achieve sustainable production.	Sediment

Parts of this catchment are a high priority for biodiversity and sediment 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 main stem of the Waikato River, the catchment also includes dune lakes Otamatearoa and Kohahuake (Parkinson). 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.

Catchment features

Waikato at Port Waikato catchment: 27110ha

Exotic forest (10%)	Orchard or cropland (6%)	Roads
Native forest (10%)	Wetlands (8%)	Marae
Pasture (62%)	Waterbodies (4%)	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 Waikato at Port Waikato catchment and further downstream. Upstream land activities strongly influence water quality in this catchment, which is the final stretch of the Waikato River's main stem. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your neighbours in mind.

