

15 Waikato at Rangiriri

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 on poorly drained soils during critical periods.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Protect and restore wetlands and lake margins.
- Manage or retire erosion-prone steep land.

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

 **Farm menus**

The Waikato at Rangiriri catchment includes a range of community and natural features, including Lake Hakanoa and its surrounding wildlife reserve, Lake Kimihia restoration project, Huntly township, and Taupiri Reserve. These lakes, wetlands and waterways are interconnected with the Waikato River, influencing its health and supporting a range of native species. While the catchment has been shaped by land use, flood control and pest fish, such as koi carp, these waterbodies continue to provide important ecological, recreational, and cultural value, highlight the connection between the community and its waterways.

The Waikato River and surrounding environments hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Waikato-Tainui, the primary iwi for this region. Waikato-Tainui regards the Waikato River as a tupuna (ancestor) with mana (prestige) that in turn represents the mana and mauri (life force) of the tribe. Respect for te mana o te awa (the spiritual authority, protective power and prestige of the Waikato River) which 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.

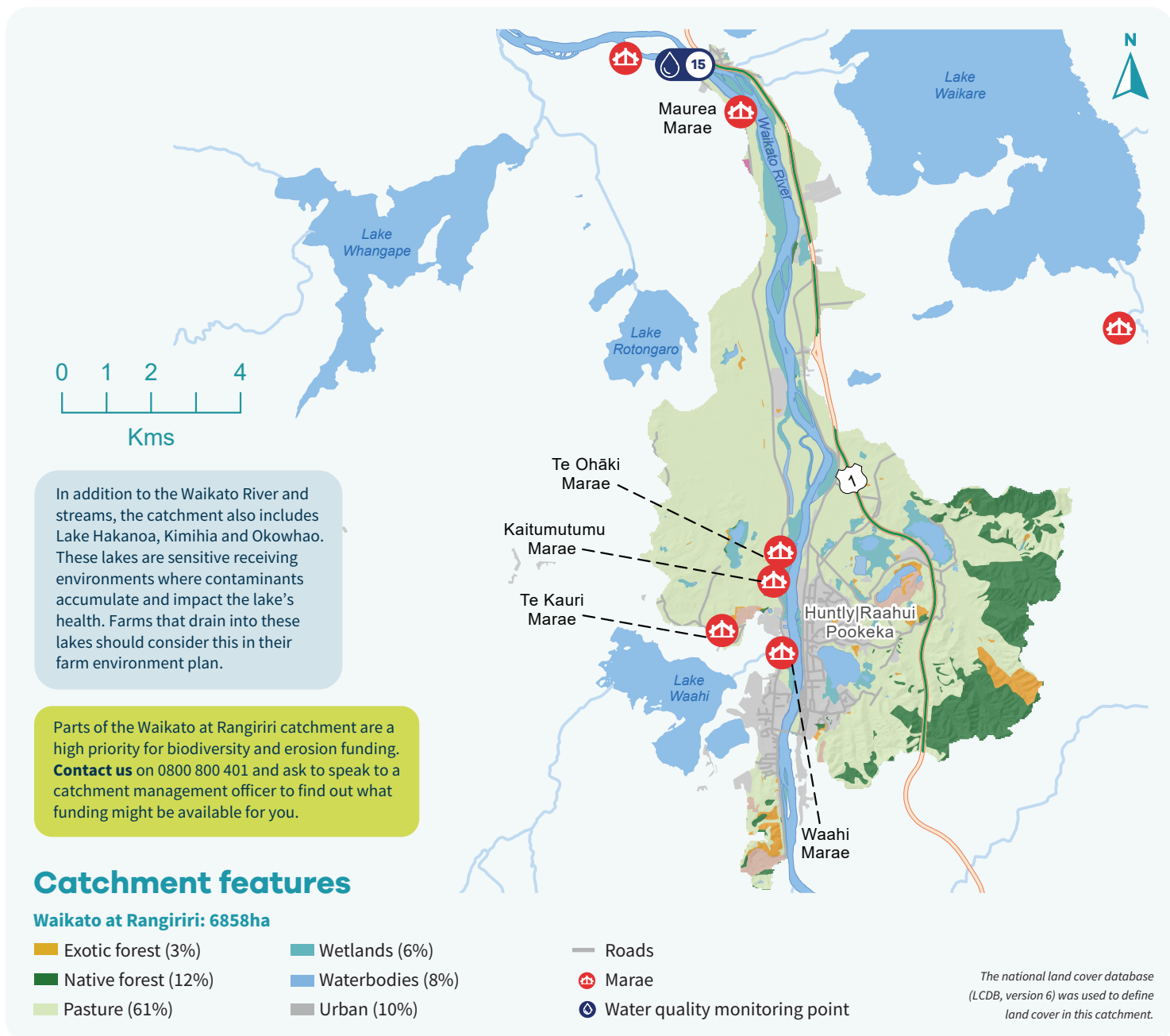
Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waikato at Rangiriri catchment



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 Rangiriri catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 60% of catchment	Pumice: Imperfectly drained loam over sand	Prone to drying out	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
	Gley: Organic: poorly drained loamy peat	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering. Pugging when wet and unstable substrate	
	Recent: Imperfectly to well drained loam	High structural vulnerability. Pugging if wet and soil compaction	
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 22% of catchment	Ultic: Imperfectly drained and clayey	Moderate vulnerability for water logging. Pugging risk and moderate potential for slip erosion	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Granular: Moderately to well drained and clayey	May have slight wetness limitation. Moderate N leaching vulnerability	<i>E. coli</i> Nitrogen
Steep land (>20 degrees) 18% of catchment	Recent: Poorly to well drained loam over clay	Moderate to severe potential for slip erosion	Sediment
	Brown: Poorly to well drained. Range of textures	Moderate to severe potential for slip erosion	Phosphorus



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 Rangiriri catchment and further downstream. Upstream land activities strongly influence water quality in this catchment, which is part of the Waikato River's main stem. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your neighbours downstream in mind.

