

24 Waipā at Waingaro Road Bridge

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:

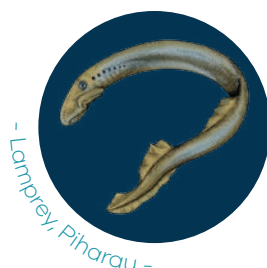
- Manage livestock and run off around **critical source areas**.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Manage or retire erosion prone land.
- Manage periods of **exposed soil between crops** and re-grassing.
- Manage livestock on poorly drained soils during critical periods to minimise soil damage.

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

 **Farm menus**

The Waipā at Waingaro Rd Br catchment is the final stretch of the Waipā River before it joins the Waikato River. This catchment is home to a diverse range of community and natural features, including the townships of Ngāruawāhia and Te Kōwhai, extensive swamp wetlands, Te Puroa Scenic Reserve and Karakariki Scenic Reserve, which is a forest of national significance. These features provide recreational opportunities and support community wellbeing. The Waipā River and its surrounding environments hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Waikato-Tainui and Ngāti Maniapoto. Each iwi regards its 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 catchment is shaped by past and present land use, it continues to provide important ecological, recreational, community and cultural values. Protecting and enhancing the health of its waterways is therefore essential for both people and the environment.

Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waipā catchment



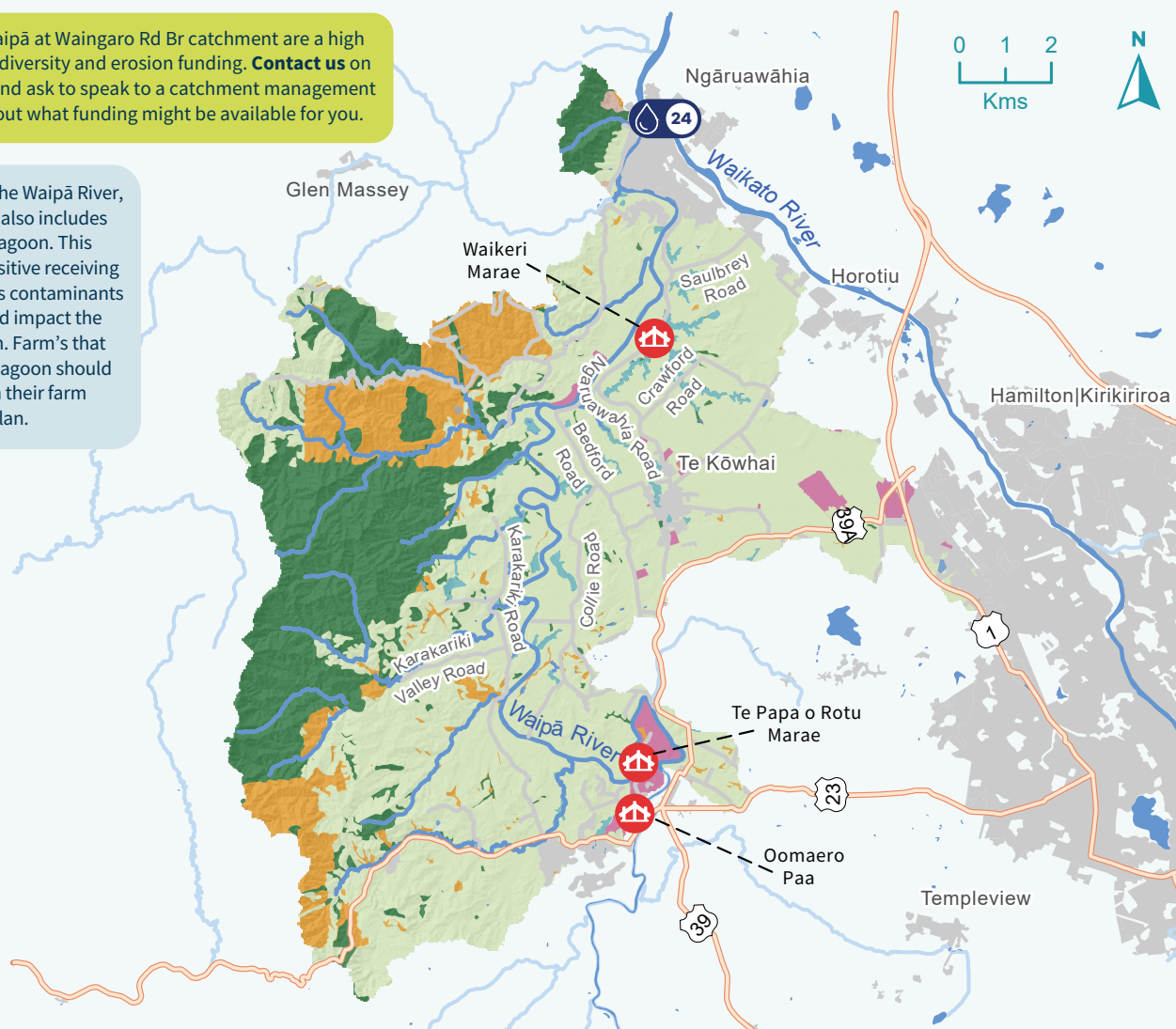
Consider your farm's location in the catchment

The table shows how landform and soil characteristics shape primary risks and contaminant losses specific to the Waipā at Waingaro Rd Br catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 40% of catchment	Gley: Poorly drained silt over clay.	Slight wetness limitation after drainage and a risk of flooding. Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	
	Recent: Well drained silt.	Risk of flooding.	<i>E. coli</i> Nitrogen
	Allophanic: Well drained loam over sand.	Nitrogen leaching.	
	Organic: Very poorly drained peat.	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering. Pugging when wet and unstable substrate.	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 26% of catchment	Allophanic: Well drained clay.	Moderate to severe erosion potential when cultivated.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Granular: Moderately well drained clay.	Vulnerable to earth flow and to seepage undercutting the base of slopes.	
Steep land (>20 degrees) 34% of catchment	Brown: Well drained clay.	Slight to moderate earth slip, sheet and gully erosion.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Recent: Moderately well drained silt.		

Parts of the Waipā at Waingaro Rd Br catchment are a high priority for biodiversity and 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 Waipā River, the catchment also includes Te Otamanui Lagoon. This lagoon is a sensitive receiving environment as contaminants accumulate and impact the lagoon's health. Farm's that drain into this lagoon should consider this in their farm environment plan.



Catchment features

Waipā catchment: 15484ha

- Exotic forest (11%)
- Native forest (22%)
- Pasture (62%)
- Orchard or cropland (2%)
- Wetlands (2%)
- Waterbodies (1%)
- Roads
- Rivers and streams
- 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 Waipā at Waingaro Rd Br catchment and further downstream. Upstream land activities strongly influence water quality in this catchment, which is part of the Waipā River's main stem. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your neighbours in mind.

