

34 Waipā at Whatawhata

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 livestock on poorly drained soils during critical periods to minimise soil damage.
- Match timing and amount of fertiliser applications to plant and soil requirements.
- Use grass or vegetated buffers around waterways to capture contaminants.

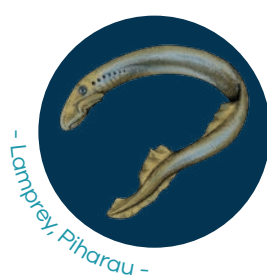
 **Actions to include in a farm environment plan**

 **Farm menus**

The Waipā at Whatawhata catchment drains more than 30,000 hectares of land, from the peak of Mt Pirongia to Ōhaupō and downstream to Whatawhata. This catchment is home to a diverse range of community and natural features, including the townships of Pirongia and Ōhaupō, Pirongia mountain bike park, the Waipā peat lake complex and four streams – Mangahia, Mangaotama and the lower reaches of Mangauika and Mangapiko. 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.

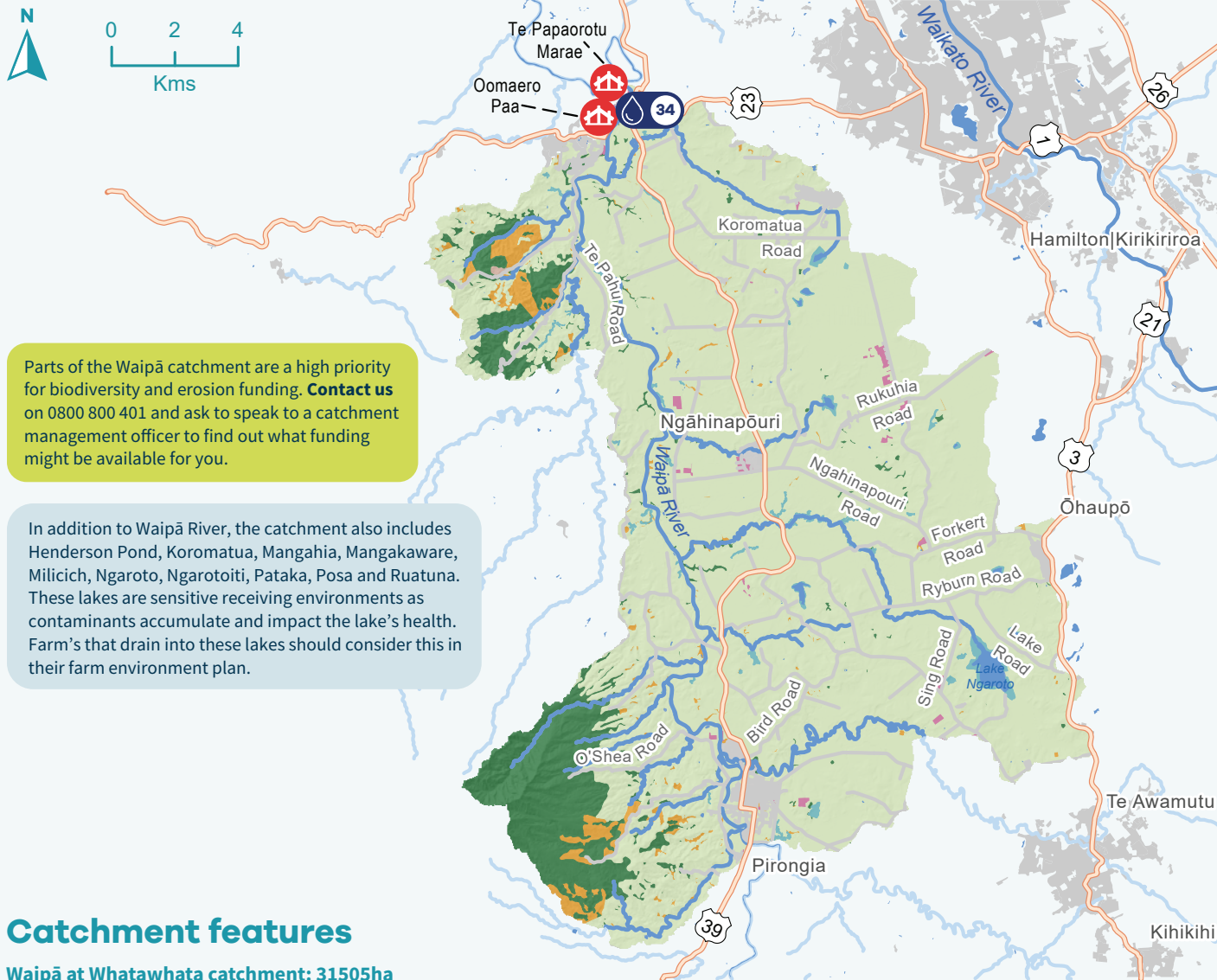
Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waipā at Whatawhata catchment



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 Whatawhata catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 63% of catchment	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
	Allophanic: Well drained loam over sand.	Nitrogen leaching.	Nitrogen <i>E. coli</i>
	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Gley: Poorly drained clay.		
	Recent: Well drained silt.	Risk of flooding.	
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 24% of catchment	Allophanic: Well drained clay.	Slight to severe sheet or rill erosion when cultivated or winter grazed.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Granular: Moderately well drained clay.		
Steep land (>20 degrees) 13% of catchment	Allophanic: Well drained clay.	Slight to moderate sheet, soil slip and gully erosion.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Brown: Well drained clay.		



Catchment features

Waipā at Whatawhata catchment: 31505ha

Exotic forest (4%)	Orchard or cropland (1%)	Roads
Native forest (10%)	Wetlands (1%)	Marae
Pasture (83%)	Waterbodies (1%)	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 Whatawhata 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.

