

28 Waitawhiriwhiri 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 and run off around **critical source areas**.
- Manage livestock and machinery on poorly drained soils during critical periods to minimise soil damage.
- Stabilise stream banks and provide habitat through planting.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.

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

 **Farm menus**

The Waitawhiriwhiri catchment is home to a diverse range of community and natural features, including the suburbs of Dinsdale and Frankton, Hamilton city centre, Lake Rotorua (Hamilton Lake) and agricultural land in the upper catchment.

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.

While the catchment is shaped by varied and intensive 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 Waitawhiriwhiri catchment

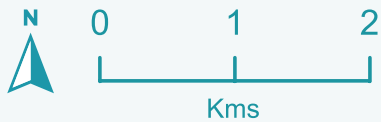


Consider your farm's location in the catchment

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

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 87% of catchment	Organic: Very poorly drained peat.	Drainage contributes to shrinkage which lowers the land surface. Flooding if drainage not maintained. Pugging when wet.	Sediment <i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 10% of catchment	Granular: Moderately well drained clay.	Potential for moderate to severe sheet and rill erosion when cultivated.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay.		

Steep land (>20 degrees) 3% of catchment



In addition to the Waitawhiriwhiri Stream, the catchment also includes lake Rotoroa. This lake is a sensitive receiving environment as contaminants accumulate and impact the lake's health.



Catchment features

Waitawhiriwhiri catchment: 2223ha

- Exotic forest (1%)
- Native forest (1%)
- Pasture (43%)
- Waterbodies (3%)
- Urban areas (52%)
- 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 Waitawhiriwhiri catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.

