

16 Whangape 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:

- Strategically retire marginal steep land
- Stabilise steep land through space-planting
- Select appropriate livestock and timing to graze steep land
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.

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

 **Farm menus**

The Whangape catchment includes a range of community features and natural environments, including Lake Whangape, Awaroa Swamp Wildlife Reserve, and the rural township of Naikē. The catchment is made up of small rural communities closely connected to the land, with farming playing an important role. Lake Whangape is the second largest lake in the lower Waikato, it is under pressure from aquatic pest plants and animals, sediment and nutrients entering the lake. The lake and surrounding wetlands are an important part of the local landscape. Across the catchment, the Whangape catchment group and others focus on sediment control to address pressures including erosion-prone land and pest fish, such as koi carp.

Lake Whangape and surrounding environments holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for Waikato-Tainui, the primary iwi for this region. Waikato-Tainui regards rivers, lakes and wetlands as living ancestors, carrying their own mauri (life force) and mana (authority) that 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 Whangape catchment

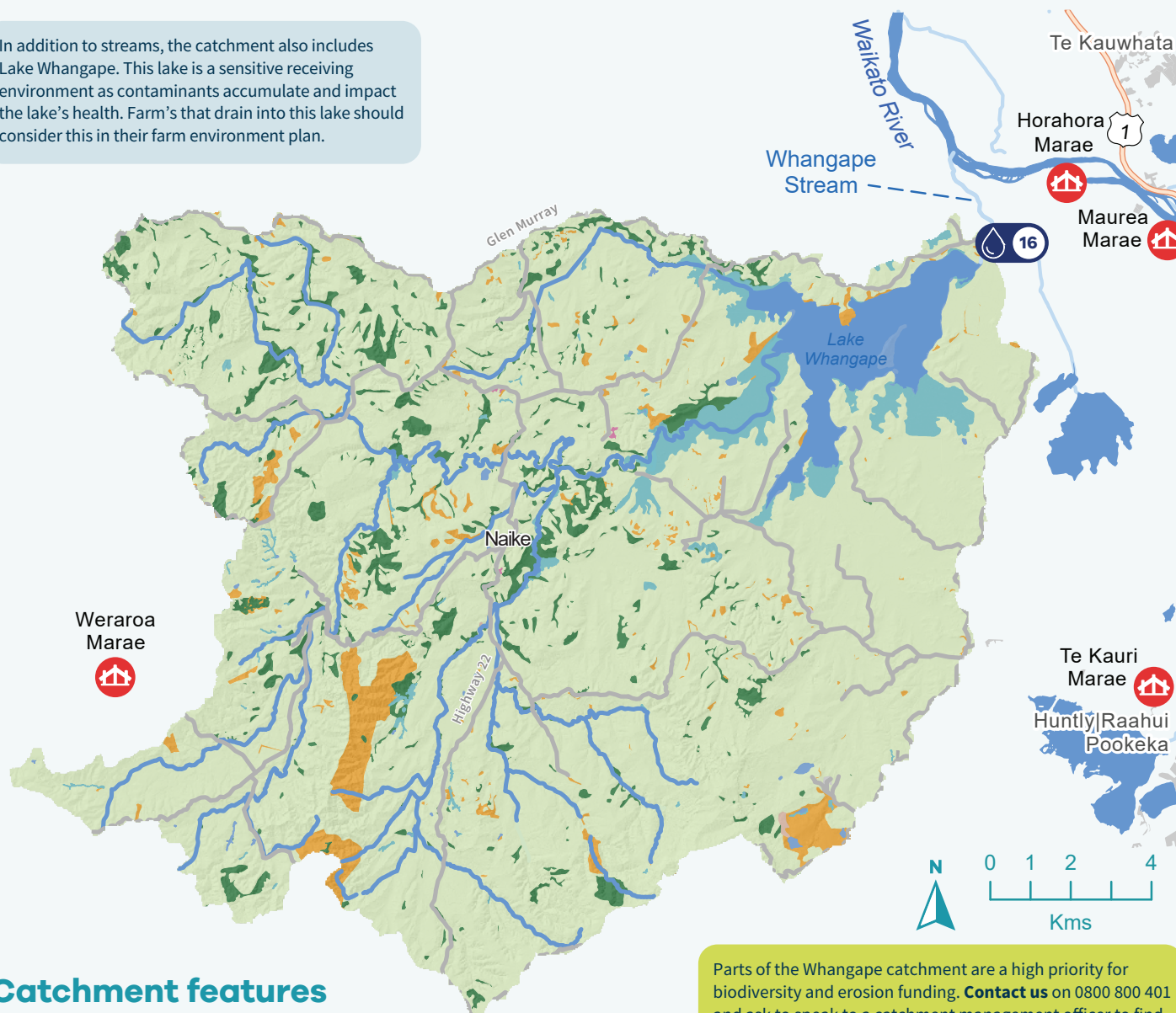


Consider your farm's location in the catchment

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

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 35% of catchment	Organic: Very poorly drained, naturally high water table	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering. Pugging when wet and unstable substrate	<i>E. coli</i> Nitrogen
	Gley: Poorly drained and clayey	Pugging if wet and soil compaction. Continuing wetness limitation after drainage	Phosphorus <i>E. coli</i>
	Pumice: Very well drained loamy sand	High drought vulnerability	Nitrogen <i>E. coli</i>
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 42% of catchment	Allophanic: Well drained silt loam	Slight to moderate rill or sheet erosion when cultivated	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Brown: Imperfectly to well drained clay loam	Slight to moderate rill or sheet erosion when cultivated	Phosphorus
Steep land (>20 degrees) 23% of catchment	Recent: Imperfectly to well drained silt loam	Moderate to high risk of soil slip and earthflow erosion	Sediment Phosphorus
	Brown: Imperfectly to well drained clay loam		

In addition to streams, the catchment also includes Lake Whangape. This lake is a sensitive receiving environment as contaminants accumulate and impact the lake's health. Farm's that drain into this lake should consider this in their farm environment plan.



Catchment features

Whangape catchment: 31766ha

- Exotic forest (4%)
- Native forest (7%)
- Pasture (83%)
- Wetlands (3%)
- Waterbodies (4%)
- Urban

- Roads
- Marae
- Water quality monitoring point

Parts of the Whangape 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.

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 Whangape catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your neighbours downstream in mind.

