

River & Catchment Management

What We Do

What does Catchment Management include?

Incentivised work with landowners :

- Sediment erosion control and prevention

- Bush fragment protection

- Streambank protection through riparian fencing and planting

- Lake and wetland protection and enhancement

Free information and advice



What does incentivised River Management include?

- Remediate erosion
- Stabilise eroding banks
- Manage vegetation causing erosion
- Gradient control structures to prevent streambed degrading
- Remove obstructions
- Improve fish habitat

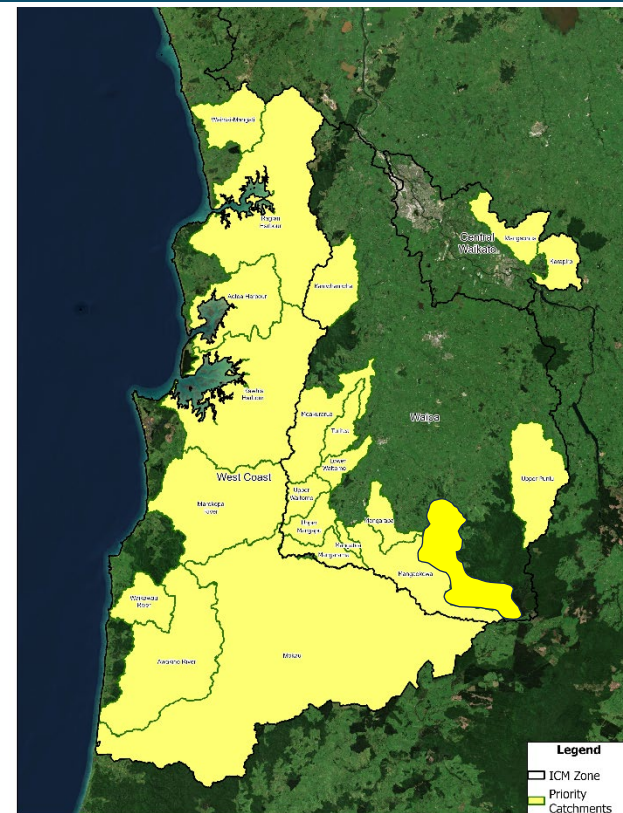
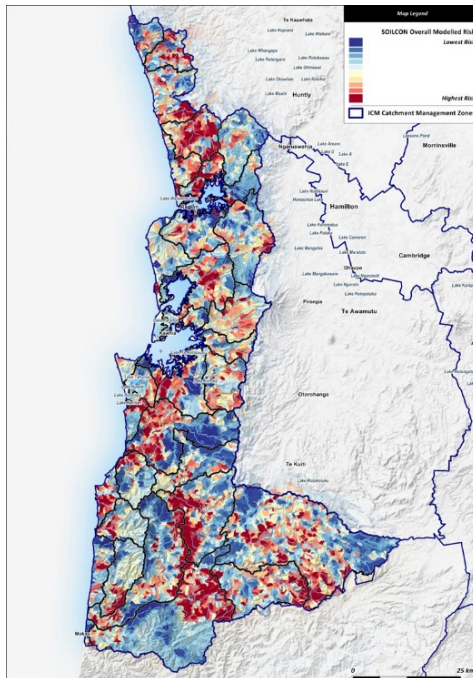
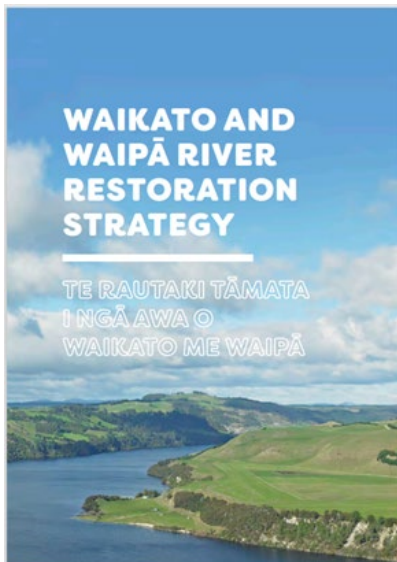


River & Catchment Management

What We Do

How do we prioritise our work?

- > 80% of our catchment and river works budgets are spent in priority catchments



River & Catchment Management Outputs 2024/25

What We Do



Improve channel stability and capacity



Provide for ongoing maintenance, including the removal of obstructions



Reduce the loss of productive soils



Improve in-stream and riparian habitat via:

- Fencing
- Erosion control works
- Planting
- Installation of fish-friendly erosion control structures



Zone	Fencing (km)	Streambank protected (km)	Native plants (#)	Poplar & willow poles planted (#)	River management structures (#)	Area retired (ha)
Central Waikato	12.2	11.2	47,700	726	4	36
Waipā	34.3	14.8	100,168	1,885	93	90
West Coast	37.4	14.9	78,331	5,317	124	606
Regional Total	105.9 km	47.3 km	310,515 plants	10,986 poles	294 river structures	866 ha.

Table: River and Catchment Management Outputs 2024/2025

Flood Event – 13th February 2026

What We Do

3 Events in 1

Slips, Debris flows/debris deposition and flooding

- Pirongia Streams
- adjacent Catchments

Localised flooding and inundation of low lying areas

- Kio Kio (Mangaorongo), Te Kawa (Mangawhero)
- Ōtorohanga (Storm Water)
- Volumes exceed design

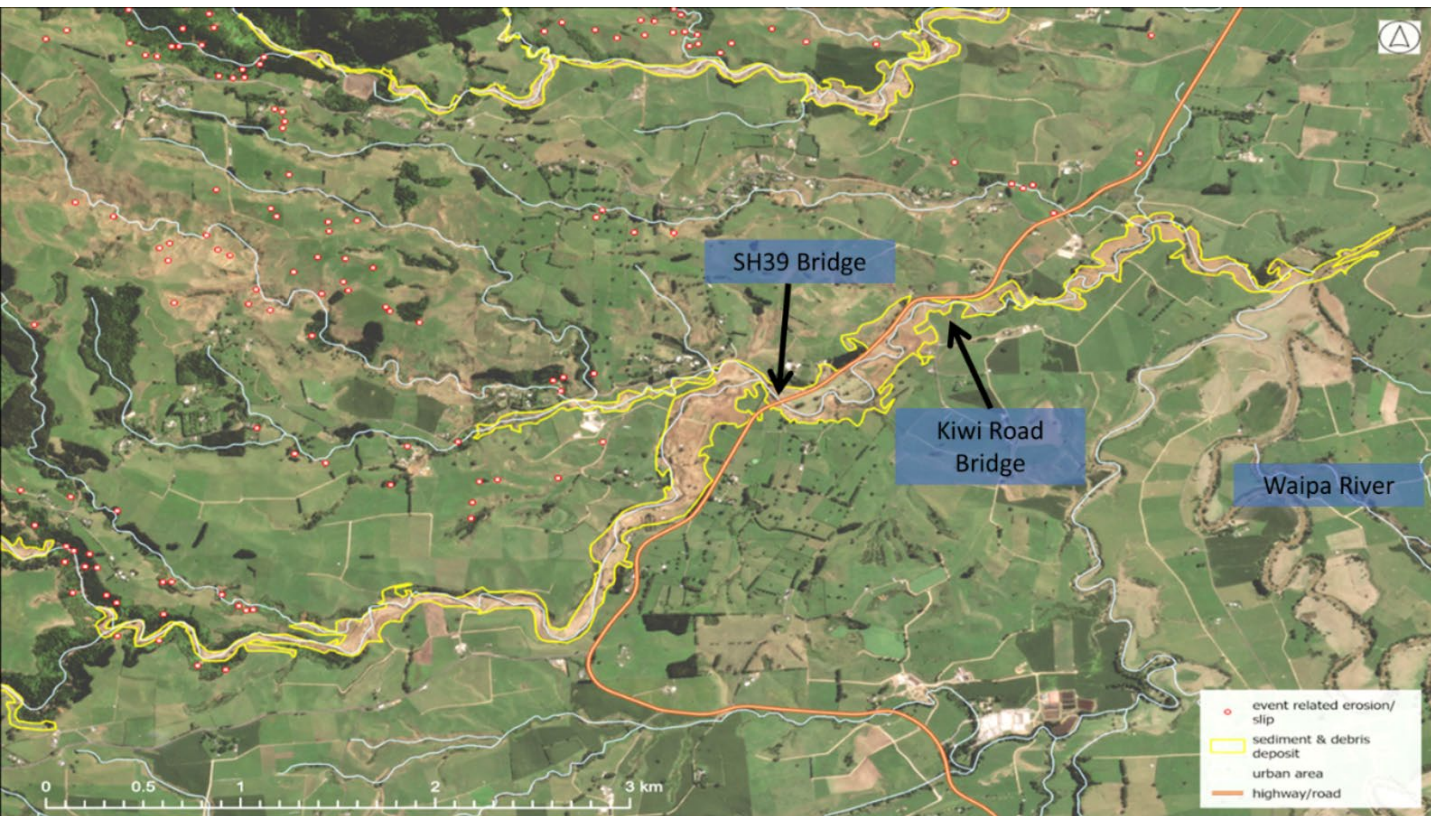
Bank Erosion streams and rivers and Hill Country Slips

- Upper Waipā, Mangatutu and Puniu
- Moakururua, Upper Catchments



Flood Event – 13th February 2026

What We Do





Flood Event – 13th February 2026

What We Do

Priority repairs and short-term work.

- Blockages, capacity and debris.
- over 35km of waterway
- engaged with +75 landowners.

Re-prioritisation of Annual Work Programmes.

- understand the scale, timing and relative priority of the remediation works
- Debris hazard management

Event Recovery Plan

- Led by Waipā DC and Ōtorohanga DC - WRC contributing



Regional Catchment Management Framework



What's Happening

- WRC is currently undertaking an internal review of catchment and river management programmes and preparing a catchment management framework to guide future work
- External engagement to inform the framework has included surveys of iwi entities, landowners, and catchment groups, as well as interviews with funders and other regional councils.



What We Heard

26 iwi entities participated in a regional survey (Aug- Sep 2025).

All respondents from the Lower Waikato, Central Waikato, Waipā and West Coast indicated:

- Strong existing relationships with WRC; high trust
- Most valued: partnership, trust, knowledge sharing
- Gaps: co-design of initiatives + easier access to funding
- Main barrier: funding (plus land access, reporting)



Relevance to Te Nehenehenui

- Solid foundation to deepen partnership approach
- Opportunity to strengthen co-design of projects in Maniapoto rohe



Actions & Timing

- Now–mid 2026: Draft framework (informed by iwi input + plans)
- Ongoing: Local engagement with Ngāti Maniapoto on place-based programmes



Council's Role

- WRC manages biodiversity including protecting and restoring native ecosystems
- Addresses threats: invasive species, habitat loss, and climate change
- NPS-IB requires councils to support tangata whenua exercising kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity



The Challenge

- Iwi want to lead biodiversity and biosecurity initiatives on their land as kaitiakitanga
- Current council programmes and funding (including contestable funds) do not enable iwi needs or aspirations
- Jobs for Nature funding ended June 2025 — capacity-building support lost



The Path Forward

- Significant Māori-owned land holds diverse indigenous vegetation crucial for native species
- LTP 2024–2034 funding scoping support mechanisms for Māori landowners
- Targeted interviews underway with landowners, iwi organisations, and councils
- Options and recommendations report available mid-2026

Council Long Term Plan 2027–2037

- WRC will develop its 2027-2037 LTP beginning in early 2026 for adoption in June 2027.
- The council's LTP will be guided by its [strategic direction 2026-2036](#), which includes the following priorities:



Future-Fit
Organisation



Productivity
& Prosperity



Building Regional
Resilience



Sustaining Natural
Resources



Optimised Transport
System



Regular updates, including further opportunities for participation, will be provided to the committee throughout LTP development.