

5 Awaroa-Waiuku 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:

- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Manage livestock around **critical source areas**.
- Manage livestock on poorly drained soils during critical periods to minimise soil damage.
- Capture contaminants before entering waterways using grass or vegetated buffers.

Actions to include in a farm environment plan

Farm menus

Horticulture Erosion and Sediment Control

The Awaroa-Waiuku catchment is home to a diverse range of natural and community features, including dune lakes, the township of Waiuku, and Karioitahi conservation area. These features provide recreational opportunities and support community wellbeing.

This catchment and the 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 past and present pressures, including drainage and pest species, such as koi carp, 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 Awaroa–Waiuku catchment


Longfin-eel, Tuna


Inanga


Common smelt


Taraire-tawa forest

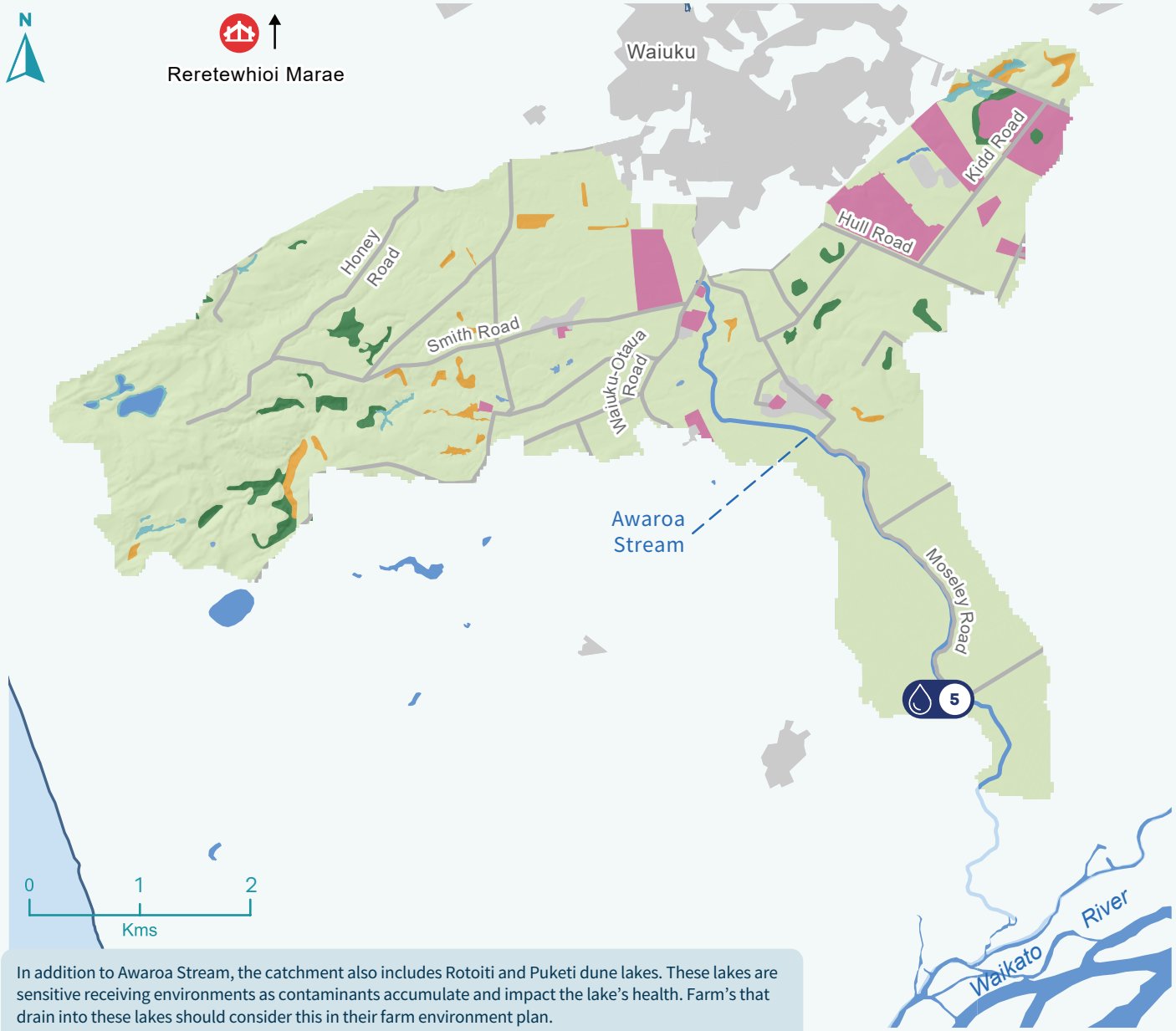

Swamp mosaic

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 Awaroa-Waiuku catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 66% of catchment	**Gley:** Poorly drained loam over clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	*E. coli* Phosphorus
	Granular: Moderately to well drained clay.	Slight to moderate sheet and rill erosion risk when cultivated. Moderate nitrogen loss risk.	Nitrogen Sediment
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 25% of catchment	**Allophanic:** Well drained loam over clay.	Moderate to severe risk for sheet and rill erosion when cultivated.	Nitrogen Sediment
Steep land (>20 degrees) 9% of catchment	**Recent:** Well drained sand.	Gully erosion.	Sediment

7707 September 2026



In addition to Awaroa Stream, the catchment also includes Rotoiti and Puketi dune lakes. These lakes are sensitive receiving environments as contaminants accumulate and impact the lake's health. Farm's that drain into these lakes should consider this in their farm environment plan.

Catchment features

Awaroa–Waiuku catchment: 2287ha

- Exotic forest (2%)
- Native forest (2%)
- Orchard or cropland (6%)
- Pasture (88%)
- Waterbodies (1%)
- Wetlands (1%)
- Urban areas
- Roads
- 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 Awaroa-Waiuku catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.

