

7 Ohaeroa 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:

- Capture contaminants before entering waterways using grass or vegetated buffers.
- Manage livestock and run off around **critical source areas**.
- Manage or retire erosion prone land.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.

Actions to include in a farm environment plan

Farm menus

Horticulture Erosion and Sediment Control

The Ohaeroa catchment is home to a range of natural and community features, including the Ohaeroa Stream and the township of Onewhero. The catchment's productive soils lend it to diverse land use, particularly horticulture. Together, these natural and community assets support local livelihoods, recreation and 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 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 Ohaeroa catchment


Longfin-eel, Tuna


Inanga


Common smelt


Taraire-tawa forest

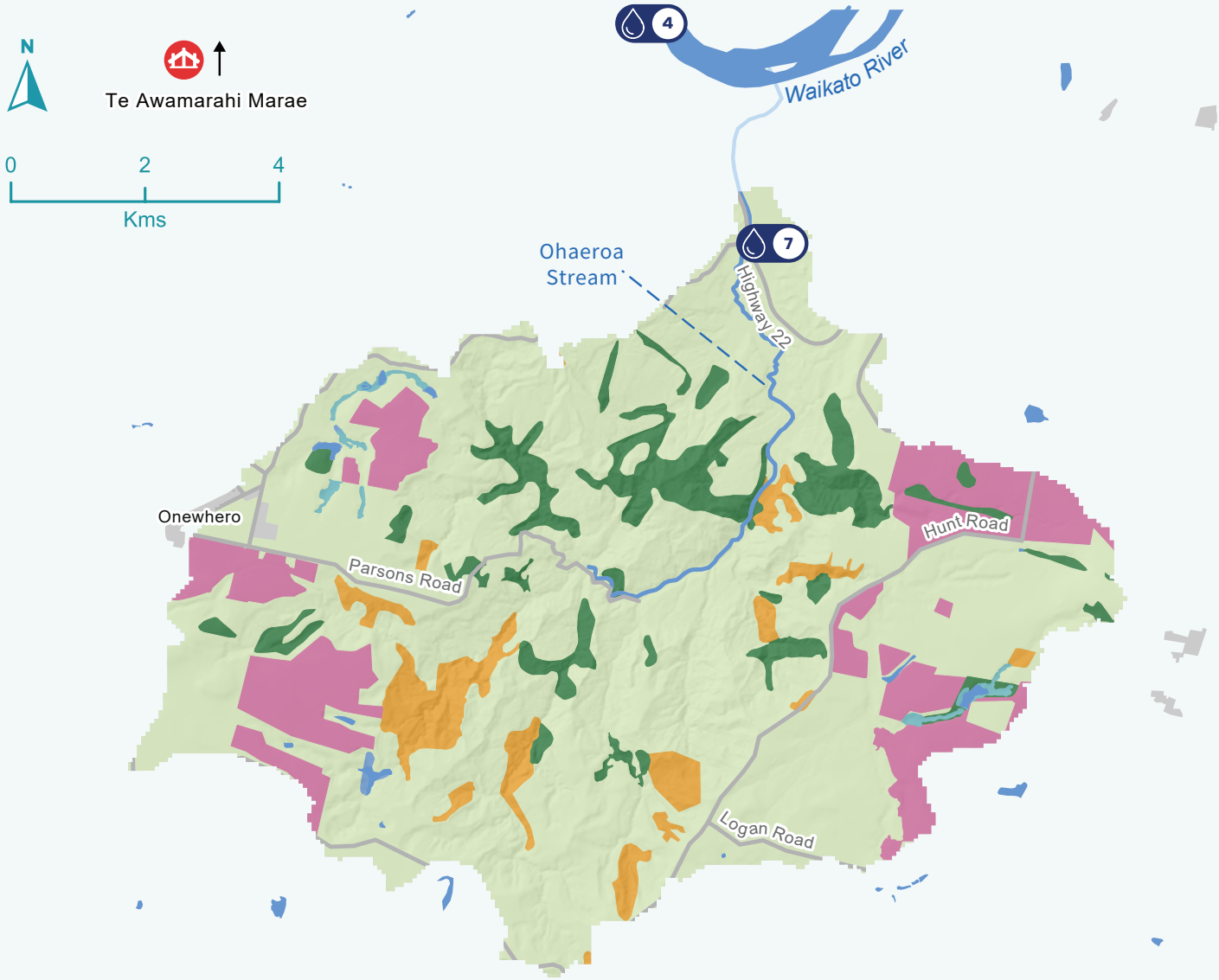

Swamp mosaic

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 Ohaeroa catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 41% of catchment	**Granular:** Moderately to well drained clay.	Moderate nitrogen loss risk. Slight to moderate sheet and rill erosion risk when cultivated.	Nitrogen Sediment (if cropped)
	Allophanic: Well drained clay.	Slight to moderate sheet and rill erosion risk when cultivated.	Sediment Nitrogen
	Gley: Poorly drained clay.	High water table during wet periods, soil compaction and pugging when wet.	*E. coli* Nitrogen
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 36% of catchment	**Brown:** Imperfectly drained clay or loam.	Slight to moderate earthflow, slip and sheet erosion, particularly during heavy rainfall events.	Sediment Phosphorus
Steep land (>20 degrees) 23% of catchment	**Recent:** Imperfectly drained loam		

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Catchment features

Ohaeroa catchment: 2033ha

- Exotic forest (5%)
- Native forest (9%)
- Orchard or cropland (12%)
- Pasture (72%)
- 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 Ohaeroa catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.

