

25 Waikato at Horotiu 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**.
- Capture contaminants before entering waterways using grass or vegetated buffers.

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

 **Farm menus**

The Waikato at Horotiu catchment has diverse land use, including agricultural, urban and industrial areas. The catchment is home to a range of natural and community features, such as Lake Rotokaeo, Claudelands Park, Hamilton city centre, Ruakura and the University of Waikato. These features provide recreational opportunities and support community wellbeing.

The Waikato River and surrounding environments hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Waikato-Tainui, the primary iwi for this region. Respect for te mana o te awa (the spiritual authority, protective power and prestige of the Waikato River) must be actively protected and restored. Waikato-Tainui regards its coastal areas, rivers, lakes and streams as living ancestors with their own mauri (life force) and mana (authority). 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 has been shaped by land use, particularly urban land use, it continues to provide important ecological, recreational, and cultural values. Protecting and enhancing the health of its waterways is therefore essential for both people and the environment.

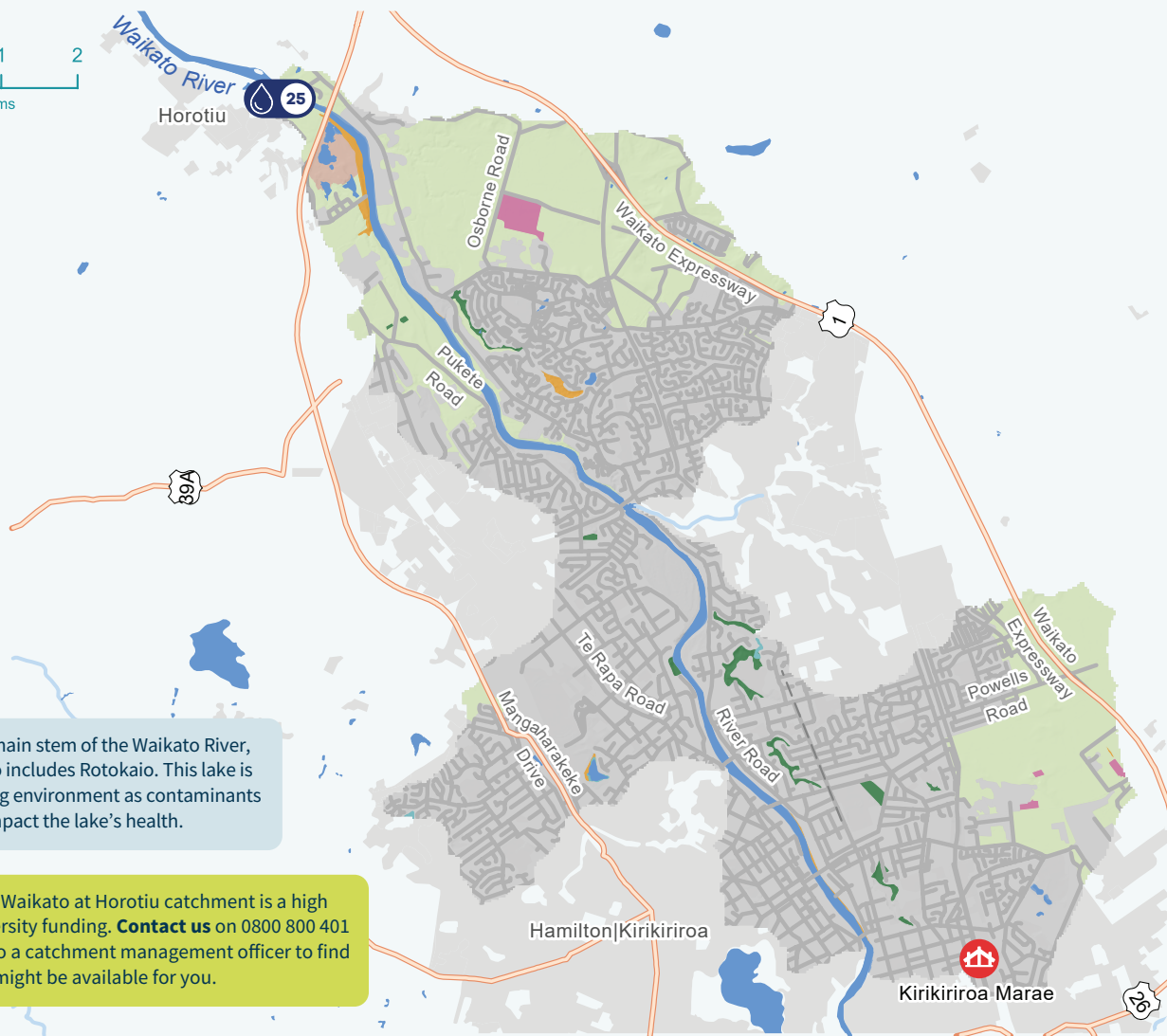
Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waikato at Horotiu catchment



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 Waikato at Horotiu catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 86% of catchment	Allophanic: Well drained loam over sand.	Nitrogen loss.	Nitrogen <i>E. coli</i>
	Organic: Very poorly drained peat.	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering. Pugging when wet and unstable substrate.	<i>E. coli</i> Sediment
	Gley: Poorly drained silt over clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 11% of catchment	The majority of this landform is not in agricultural landuse.		
Steep land (>20 degrees) 3% of catchment	The majority of this landform is not in agricultural landuse.		



In addition to the main stem of the Waikato River, the catchment also includes Rotokaio. This lake is a sensitive receiving environment as contaminants accumulate and impact the lake's health.

A small part of the Waikato at Horotiu catchment is a high priority for biodiversity 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.

Catchment features

Waikato at Horotiu catchment: 5405ha

- Exotic forest (1%)
- Pasture (28%)
- Roads
- Native forest (1%)
- Urban areas (67%)
- Marae
- Orchard or cropland (1%)
- Waterbodies (2%)
- 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 Waikato at Horotiu catchment and further downstream. Upstream land activities strongly influence water quality in this catchment, which is part of the Waikato River's main stem. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your neighbours in mind.

