43 Waipā at Pirongia 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:

- Manage livestock on poorly drained soils during critical periods, consider off pasture options.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Manage livestock around **critical source areas**.
- Match timing and amount of fertiliser applications to plant requirements.

Actions to include in a farm environment plan

Farm menus

The Waipā at Pirongia catchment drains more than 40,000 hectares of land, from the peak of Mt Pirongia to the Rangitoto Range and from Ōtorohanga downstream to Pirongia. This catchment is home to a diverse range of community and natural features, including Mount Kakepuku, Pirongia Forest Park and Mangaorongo, Ngakoaohia, Umarearea streams, in addition to the Waipā River. These features provide recreational opportunities and support community wellbeing.

The Waipā River and surrounding environments hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Maniapoto, the primary iwi for this region. Maniapoto regards the Waipā River as a tupuna (ancestor) with mana (prestige) that in turn represents the mana and mauri (life force) of the tribe. Respect for te mana o te awa o Waipā (the spiritual authority, protective power and prestige of the Waipā River) which 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.

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 Waipā catchment


Longfin-eel, Tuna


Inanga


Shortjaw kōkopu


Tawa-pukatea forest


Swamp mosaic

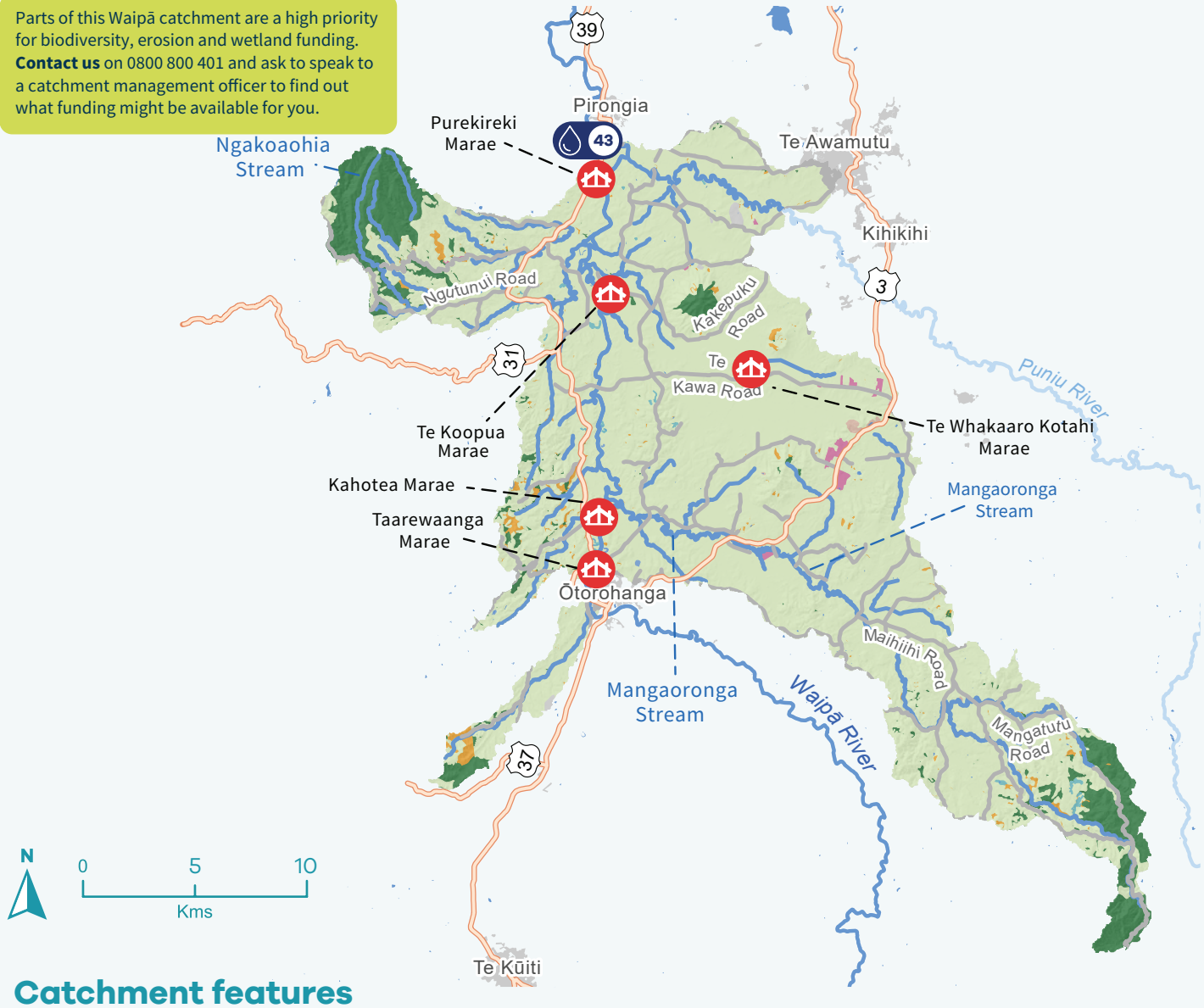
Consider your farm's location in the catchment

The table shows how landform and soil characteristics shape primary risks and contaminant losses specific to the Waipā at Pirongia-Ngutunui Rd Br catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 49% of catchment	**Allophanic: Well drained clay**	Nitrogen loss risk. Slight to moderate sheet and rill erosion risk when cultivated.	Nitrogen
	Organic: Very poorly drained	Wetness limitation even after drainage, pugging and compaction.	*E. coli* Phosphorus
	Gley: Poorly drained clay	Slight wetness limitation after drainage. Run off from swales and depressions, pugging and compaction when wet.	*E. coli* Phosphorus
	Brown: Imperfectly drained clay	Slight wetness limitation after drainage.	*E. coli*
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 33% of catchment	**Allophanic: Well drained clay**	Slight to moderate sheet or rill erosion hazard when cultivated. Nitrogen loss risk.	Nitrogen Sediment
Steep land (>20 degrees) 18% of catchment	**Brown: Imperfectly drained silt over clay** **Recent: Well drained loam**	Slight risk of shallow landslides earthflows.	Sediment Phosphorus

7707 November 2026

Parts of this Waipā catchment are a high priority for biodiversity, erosion and wetland 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

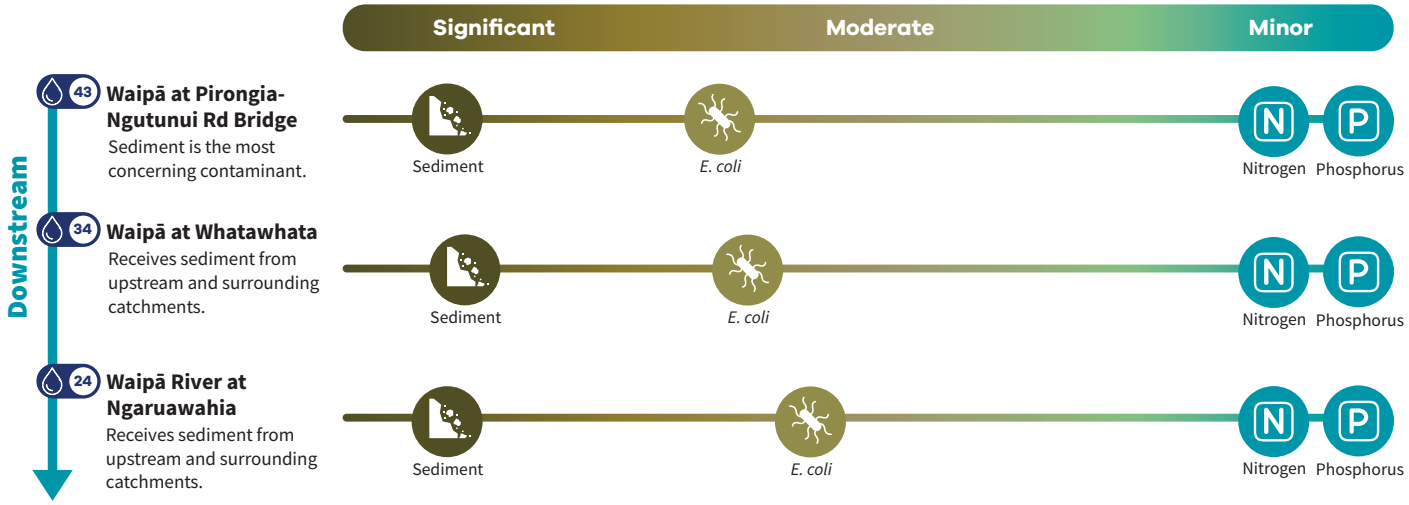
Waipā at Pirongia catchment: 43607ha

- Exotic forest (2%)
- Native forest (10%)
- Orchard or cropland (1%)
- Pasture (85%)
- 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 Waipā 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.



7707 November 2026