

46 Waitomo at Ōtorohanga

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 or retire erosion prone land.
- Stabilise stream banks and gullies through planting.
- Manage livestock and run off around **critical source areas**.

Actions to include in a farm environment plan

Farm menus

The Waitomo at Ōtorohanga catchment is home to a diverse range of natural and community features, including Matakana conservation area, extensive tawa-pukatea forest and the township of Waitomo. These features provide recreational opportunities and support community wellbeing.

The catchment and its surrounding environments hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Maniapoto, the primary iwi for this region. Maniapoto 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 Waitomo 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 Waitomo at Ōtorohanga catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 25% of catchment	**Gley:** Poorly drained clay.	Slight wetness limitation, soil compaction and pugging when wet.	*E. coli* Sediment
	Recent: Imperfectly drained loam.	Slight to moderate stream bank erosion.	
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 36% of catchment	**Allophanic:** Well drained clay.	Moderate to severe sheet and rill erosion when cultivated.	Sediment Nitrogen
Steep land (>20 degrees) 39% of catchment	**Brown:** Imperfectly drained, silt over clay.	Moderate to severe slip, sheet and gully erosion.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Recent: Imperfectly drained, loam.		

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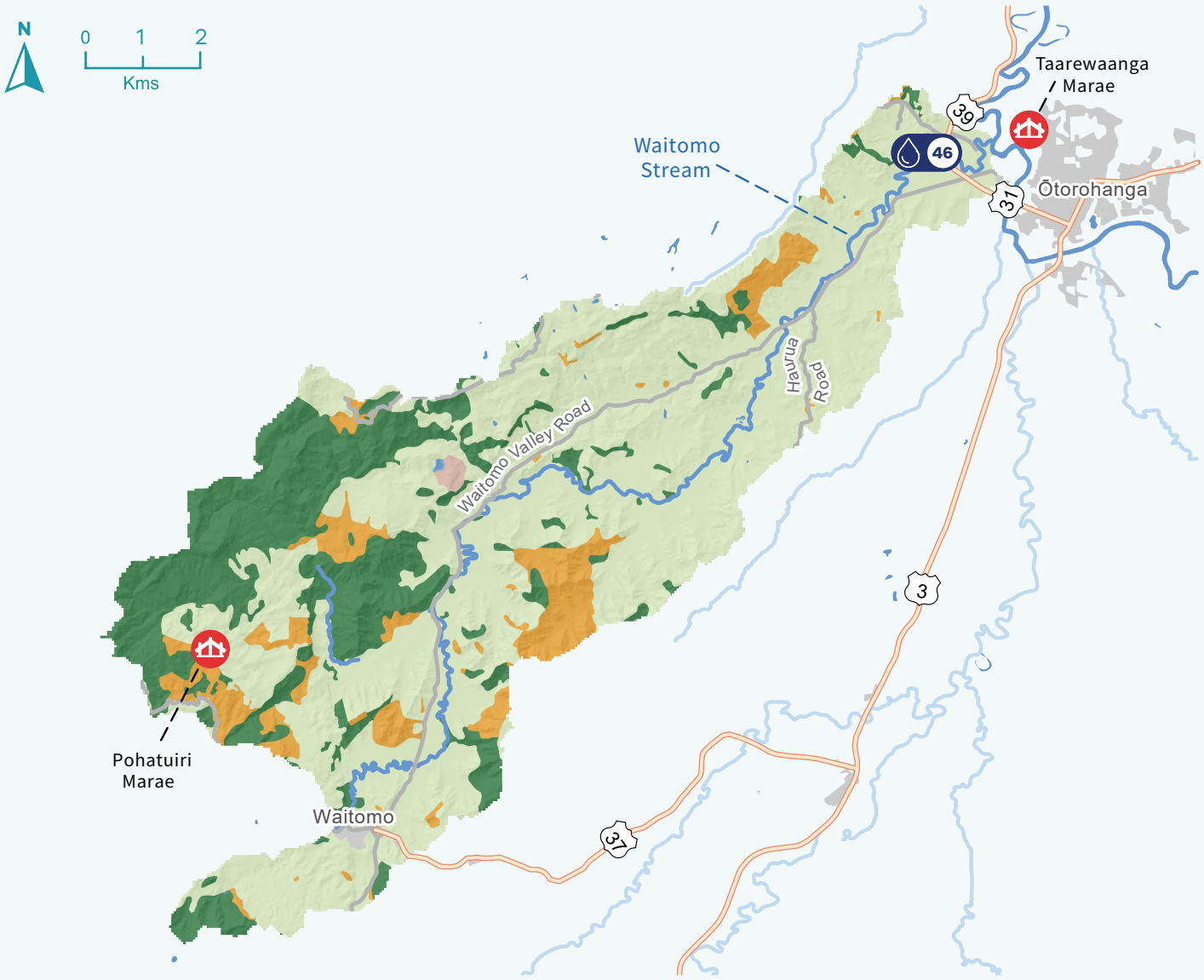


Catchment features

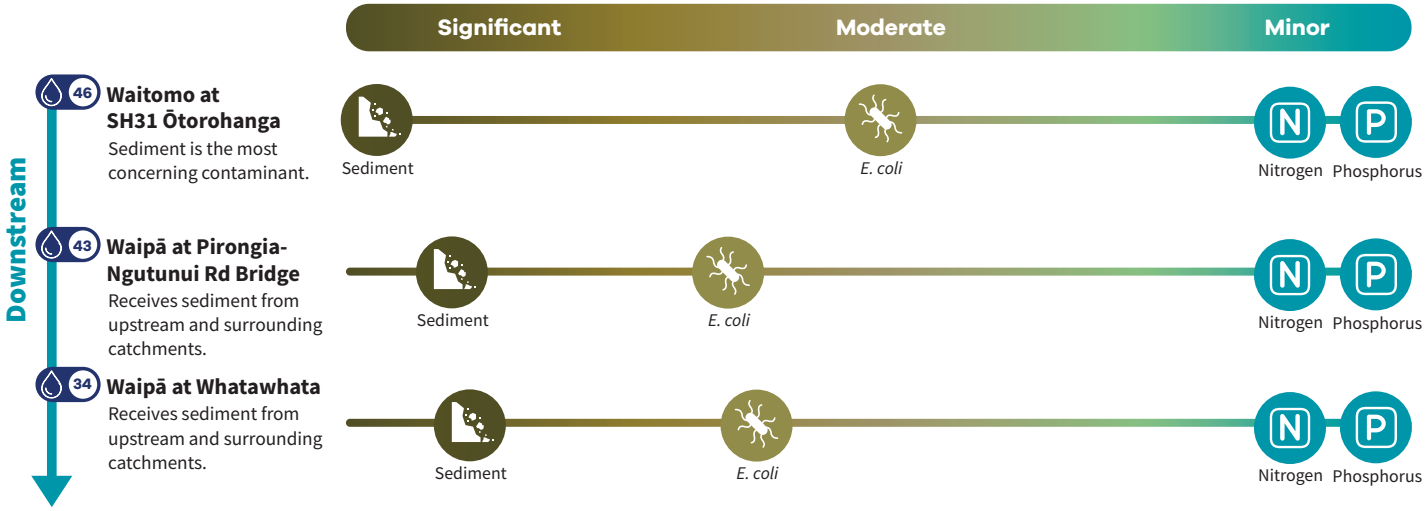
Waitomo at Ōtorohanga catchment: 4393ha

- Exotic forest (10%)
- Native forest (23%)
- Pasture (67%)
- Surface mine
- Urban areas
- Roads
- Rivers and streams
- 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 Waitomo catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.



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