

3 Whakapipi 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:

- Protect **critical source areas** with grass buffers.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.
- Manage periods of **exposed soil between crops** and re-grassing.
- Stabilise stream banks and gullies through planting.

Actions to include in a farm environment plan

Farm menus

The Whakapipi catchment is home to a range of natural and community features, including the Whakapipi Stream and Waikato River confluence, and the townships of Tūākau and Buckland. The catchment's productive soils lend it to diverse land use, particularly horticulture and agriculture. 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 Whakapipi catchment









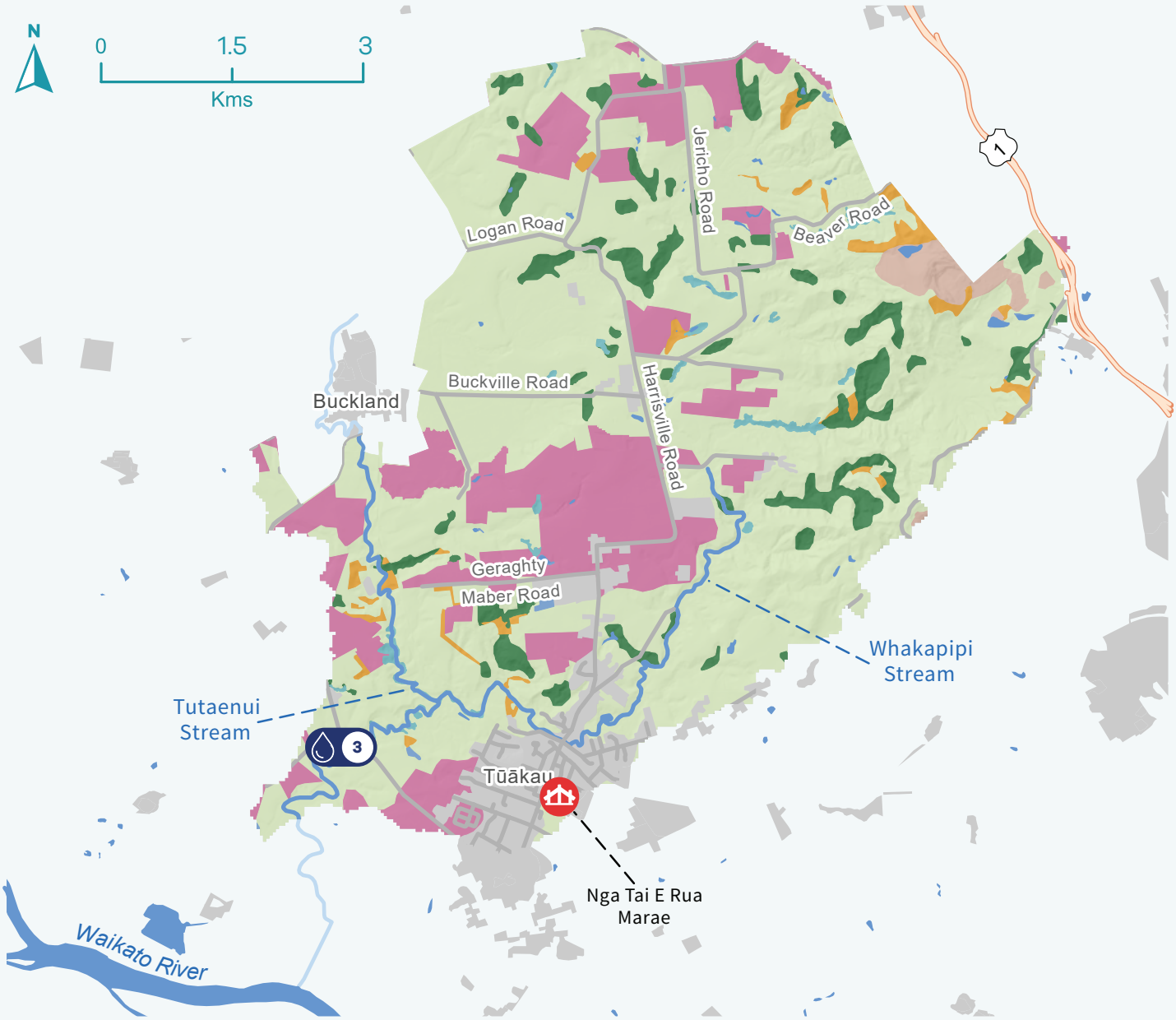


Consider your farm's location in the catchment

The table shows how landform and soil characteristics shape primary risks and contaminant losses specific to the Whakapipi catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 58% of catchment	**Granular:** Moderately well drained clay.	Slight to moderate sheet and rill erosion risk when cultivated. Moderate nitrogen loss risk	Nitrogen Sediment
	Gley: Poorly drained clay.	Slight to moderate sheet and rill erosion risk when cultivated.	Sediment *E. coli*
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 31% of catchment	**Brown:** Imperfectly drained loam.	Slight to moderate risk of shallow landslides, sheet and gully erosion during heavy rainfall events.	Sediment Phosphorus
Steep land (>20 degrees) 11% of catchment			

7707 September 2026



Catchment features

Whakapipi catchment: 3414ha

- Exotic forest (2%)
- Native forest (7%)
- Orchard or cropland (18%)
- Pasture (65%)
- Urban areas (6%)
- Waterbodies (1%)
- Wetlands (1%)
- 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 Whakapipi catchment and further downstream. Focus on best practices within your farm and catchment, while keeping your downstream neighbours in mind.

