

27 Waikato at Bridge Street Bridge

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 Bridge Street Bridge 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 Newstead and agricultural land in the east, the Mangaonua Stream gully system, the Waikato River and Hamilton Gardens. 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, 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 Bridge Street Bridge



- Longfin-eel, Tuna -



-- Shortfin-eel, Tuna --



- Common smelt -



- kahikatea-pukatea forest -

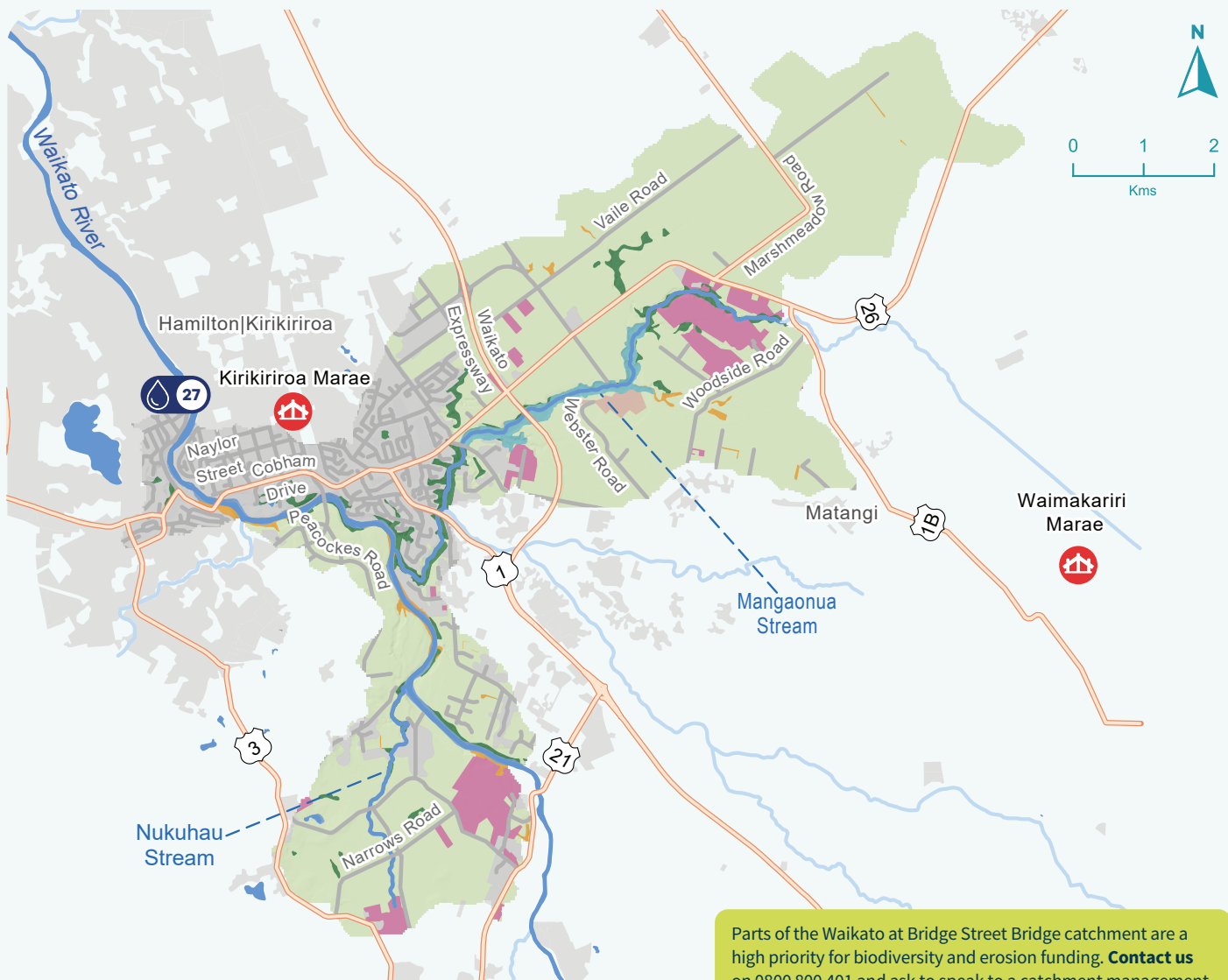


- Swamp mosaic -

Consider your farm's location in the catchment

The table shows how landform and soil characteristics shape primary risks and contaminant losses specific to Waikato at Bridge Street Bridge.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 88% of catchment	Allophanic: Well drained loam over sand.	Nitrogen loss.	Nitrogen <i>E. coli</i>
	Recent: Moderately well drained loam over sand.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	<i>E. coli</i>
	Gley: Poorly drained silt over clay.	Drainage contributes to ongoing peat subsidence including land level lowering. Pugging when wet and unstable substrate.	Phosphorus
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 8% of catchment	The majority of this landform is not in agricultural landuse.		
Steep land (>20 degrees) 4% of catchment	The majority of this landform is not in agricultural landuse.		



Catchment features

Waikato at Bridge Street Bridge catchment: 5072ha

Exotic forest (1%)	Pasture (70%)	Roads
Native forest (4%)	Urban (17%)	Rivers and streams
Orchard or cropland (7%)	Wetlands (1%)	Marae

Water quality monitoring point

The national land cover database (LCDB, version 6) was used to define land cover in this catchment.

Parts of the Waikato at Bridge Street Bridge catchment are a high priority for biodiversity and erosion 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.

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 Bridge Street Bridge 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.

