

33 Waikato at Narrows

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 and run off around **critical source areas**.
- Select appropriate livestock and stocking rates for grazing.
- Stabilise stream banks and provide habitat through planting.
- Keep stock away from waterbodies.

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

 **Farm menus**

This catchment connects the Waikato River to extensive lakes and wetlands, the urban townships of Cambridge and Ōhaupō and surrounding farms. Community and natural features include Hamilton Airport, Mystery Creek and Moanatuatua Peat Reserve, which is the best remaining example of a restiad rushland in the Hamilton Ecological District and hosts the rare giant cane rush (*Sporadanthus*).

The catchment and its 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. Respect for te mana o te awa (the spiritual authority, protective power and prestige of the Waikato River) must be actively protected and restored.

While the catchment is shaped by diverse land use, land drainage and pest fish such as koi carp, 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.

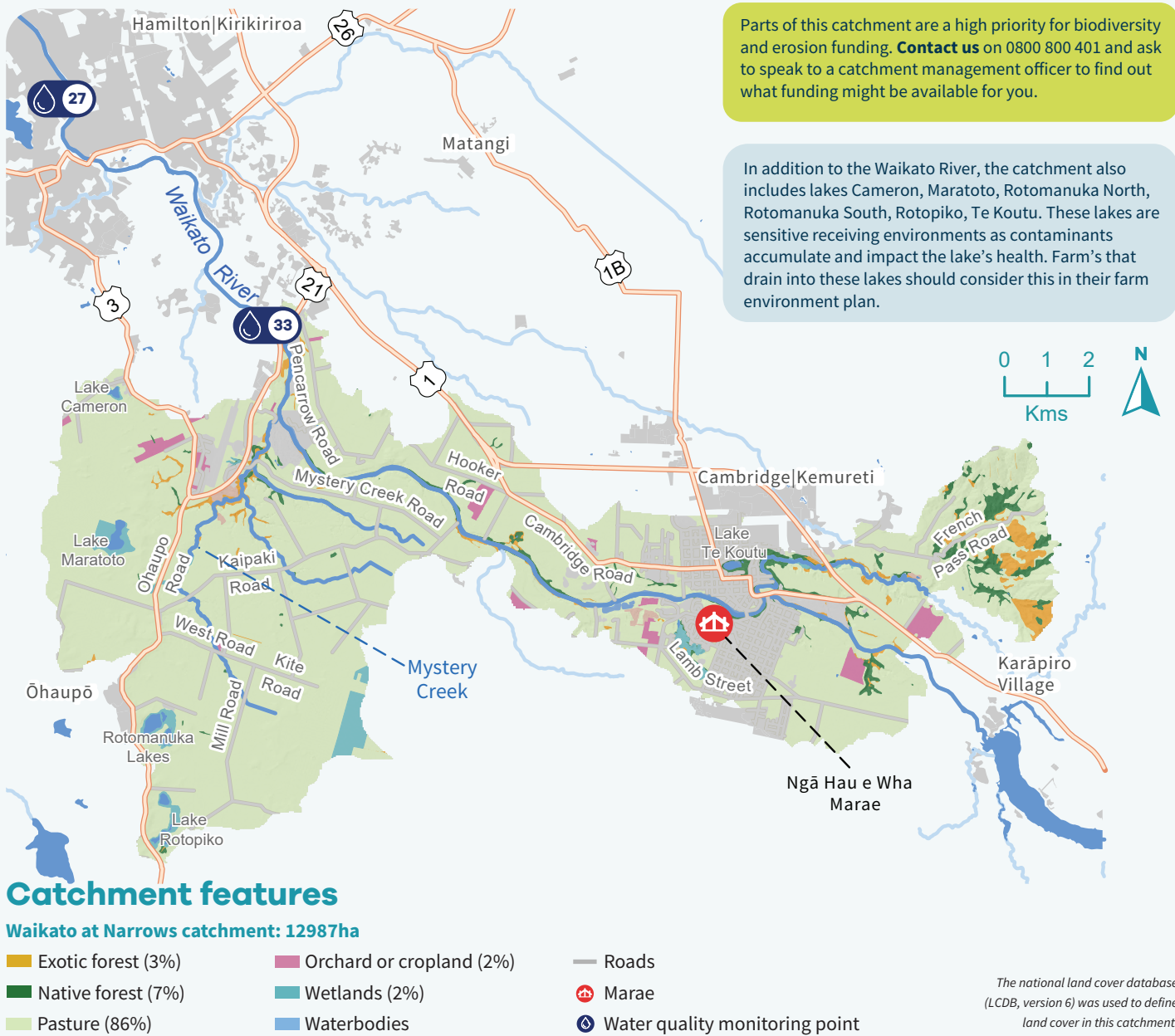
Taonga (treasured) species found in the Waikato catchment



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 Narrows catchment.

Landform	Main soils + properties	Primary risks	Primary contaminant loss
Flat to undulating land (0-7 degrees) 81% of catchment	Organic: Very poorly drained peat.	Drainage contributes to shrinkage which lowers the land surface. Unstable surface; flooding occurs if drainage is not maintained; pugging when wet.	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
	Allophanic: Well drained loam over sand.	Weak structure is prone to erosion; nitrogen leaching.	Nitrogen Sediment (if cultivated)
	Pumice: Well drained sand.	Gully erosion; nitrogen leaching ; drought prone.	Nitrogen Sediment
	Gley: Poorly drained silt over clay.	Soil compaction and pugging when wet.	<i>E. coli</i> Phosphorus
Rolling land (8-20 degrees) 12% of catchment	Brown: Moderately well drained clay.	Moderate to severe sheet and rill erosion, if cultivated.	Sediment Phosphorus
Steep land (>20 degrees) 7% of catchment	Recent: Well drained silt.	Slight to moderate earth slip, sheet and gully erosion, particularly during heavy rainfall events.	Sediment Phosphorus
	Brown: Moderately well drained clay.		



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 Narrows 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.

