TARANAKI CATCHMENT COMMUNITIES — CATCHMENT STRATEGY 2026

Waingongoro
Catchment Strategy

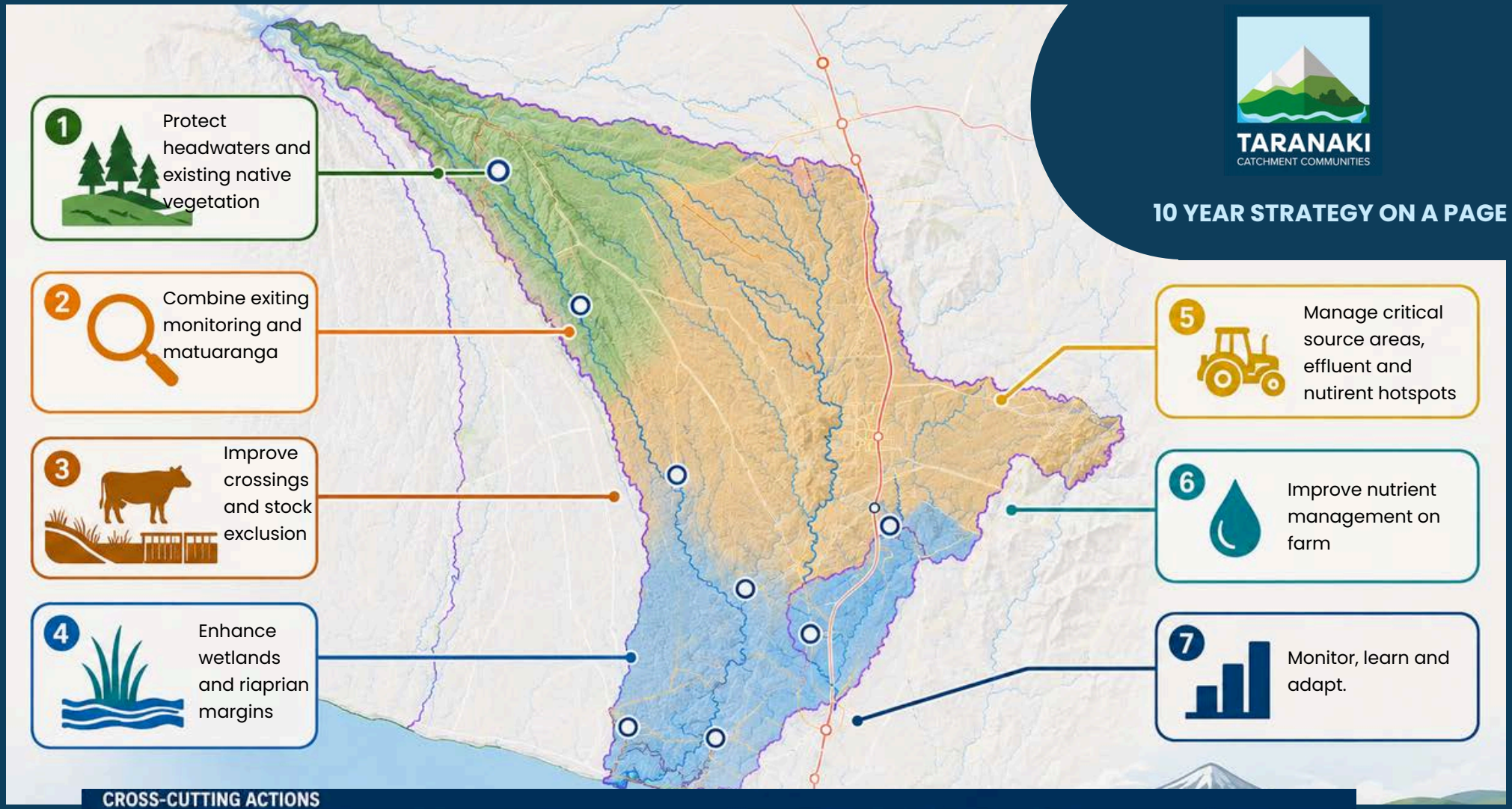
A practical, farmer-led approach to improving water quality across a highly productive pastoral catchment. Building shared understanding and targeting E. coli and nitrogen through practical on-farm action.

23,303 HECTARES OF LAND & WATER	**91%** PASTORAL LAND USE
3 yrs OF CONCERTED GROUP EFFORT	**1** INTEGRATED STRATEGY

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01: Objectives & Approach

Catchment Strategy Summary



Catchment Strategy Logic

PULLING IT ALL TOGTHER

PRIORITY CONFIRMED

Improving water quality across a highly productive pastoral catchment by building shared understanding and targeting E. coli and nitrogen through practical on-farm action.

23,303	91%	3 YRS
HECTARES OF LAND & WATER	PASTORAL LAND USE	OF CONCERTED GROUP EFFORT

INTEGRATED STRATEGY

STRATEGIC RESPONSE

Build a shared understanding of E. coli and nitrogen pressures, then use that knowledge to guide practical on-farm action so farming remains sustainable and waterways can recover.

Bring together local monitoring, hapù knowledge, science and farmer experience to identify priority areas and support practical CSA actions that make the greatest difference.

FOCUS AREAS

I. UNDERSTAND

Build a shared understanding of E. coli and nitrogen pressures using catchment data, hapiu monitoring, farmer knowledge and agency information.

2. IDENTIFY

Identify critical source areas and priority locations, including hotspots such as Tuikonga and Mangatoki, where contaminants are highest.

3. PLAN

Work with farmers to develop practical on-farm CSA actions and record them in Farm Environment Plans.

4. ACT

Implement targeted on-farm actions in priority areas to reduce E. coli and nitrogen loses.

5. MONITOR & ADAPT

Monitor water quality and action progress, evaluate results and adapt actions to achieve continuous improvement.

HOW WE WILL WORK

Farmers, Āu Kahu hapū and agencies working together.	Farmer-led and locally focused.	Practical, achievable actions on farm.	Use the best available information and local knowledge.	Learn, adapt and improve over time.

KEY ACTIONS (WHAT WE WILL DO)

• Continue catchment group water quality monitoring across 14 sites. • Support Āu Kahu hapū SMAK and flow monitoring.	• Analyse trends to pinpoint • E. coli and nitrogen hotspots (e.g., Tuikonga and Mangatoki). • Prioritize critical source areas and pathways.	• Work with landowners to plan practical CSA actions. • Record actions in • Farm Environment Plans.	• Implement on-farm actions that reduce E. coli and nitrogen losses. • Focus on priority source areas and farm systems.	• Track water quality trends and action progress. • Review and adapt actions for ongoing improvement.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

E. coli and nitrogen trends are moving toward national bottom lines in priority areas.	Critical source areas are identified, prioritised and actioned across multiple farms.	Farmers can see how water quality information links to practical on-farm decisions.	Catchment data, hapū monitoring, farmer knowledge and agency information are brought together to guide future action.	Farm Environment Plans are used to support and record targeted water quality actions.

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

A practical, farmer-led catchment where targeted on-farm CSA actions reduce E. coli and nitrogen losses, waterways recover, and farming remains productive and sustainable for future generations.

Catchment Objective

Waingongoro is a highly productive pastoral catchment where farmers, Āu Kahu hapū and agencies are working together to improve water quality. This strategy focuses on building a shared understanding of E. coli and nitrogen pressures, then using that knowledge to guide practical on-farm action so farming remains sustainable and waterways can recover.

ABOUT WAINGONGORO AND THIS CATCHMENT STRATEGY

The Waingongoro catchment runs from the slopes of Taranaki Maunga to the coast near Hāwera. It is a highly productive pastoral catchment, with sheep, beef and dairy farming across the lowlands and hill country, and remaining areas of indigenous forest in the upper catchment.

The strategy builds on work already underway, including catchment group water quality monitoring, Āu Kahu hapū SMAK and flow testing, Farm Environment Plans, and the Massey University bioreactor demonstration site.

Together, these provide a strong starting point for understanding where E. coli and nitrogen pressures are occurring and where practical on-farm action can make the greatest difference.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- E. coli and nitrogen trends are moving toward national bottom lines in priority areas.
- Critical source areas are identified, prioritised and actioned across multiple farms.
- Farmers can see how water quality information links to practical on-farm decisions.
- Catchment data, hapū monitoring, farmer knowledge and agency information are brought together to guide future action.
- Farm Environment Plans are used to support and record targeted water quality actions.

02: What Makes Waingongoro Great

Catchment State

Biophysical character

The Waingongoro catchment covers 23,303 hectares, running from the slopes of Taranaki Maunga through hill country, rolling pastoral land and a dense network of streams and drains before reaching the coast near Hāwera. As water can move quickly through this connected network, contaminants such as E. coli, sediment and nutrients can also move quickly from high-risk areas into waterways, particularly during wet weather.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR WATER QUALITY

- Productive volcanic soils occur across much of the catchment, especially through the pastoral lowlands and rolling country. These soils support strong farming systems and generally hold phosphorus well.
- Low-lying organic and peat-influenced soils occur around Eltham and former wetland areas. These areas can stay wet for longer and influence how water and nutrients move during wet conditions.
- The dense drainage network means runoff pathways, wet paddocks, drains and stock access points are useful places to focus water quality actions.
- Mid and lower catchment stream margins provide opportunities for targeted riparian planting to support shade, bank stability, habitat and contaminant interception
- The presence of freshwater species shows the catchment retains strong ecological connections, providing a positive foundation for future improvements.

WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

Waingongoro Water Quality Summary Result 2022 - 2025

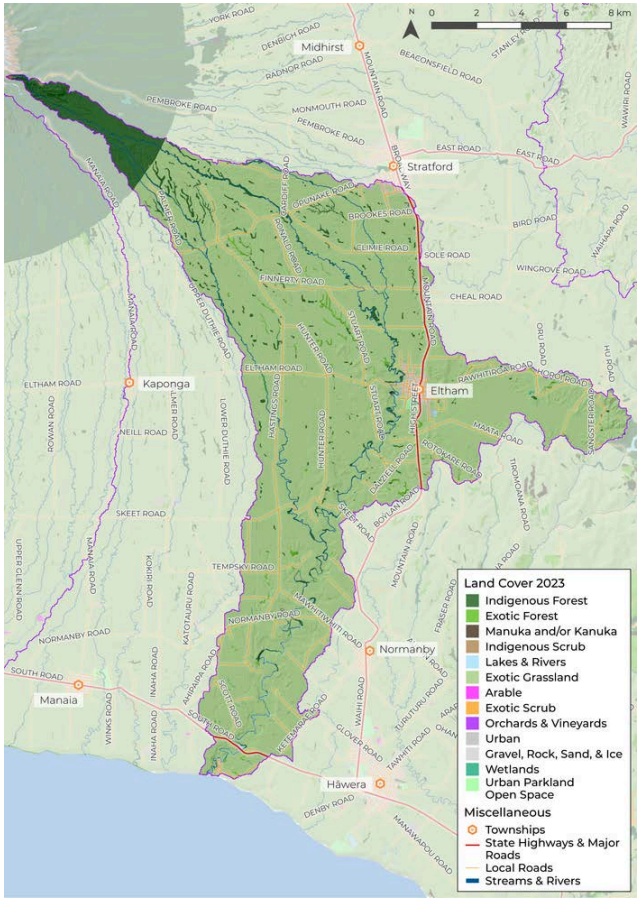
- Nitrogen (DIN) → Hotspots
- Elevated at specific sites, particularly Tuikonga (Cardiff Rd & Cornwall Rd) and Mangatoki (Skeet Rd & Eltham Rd)

- Phosphorus (DRP) → Generally low
- Mostly low across the catchment
- Occasional elevated values at sites such as Mangatoki and Tuikonga tributaries.

- Sediment → Event-driven
- Large spikes during rainfall/high flow events

- E. coli → Widespread risk
- Elevated across most sites, especially in Tuikonga, Mangawhero, and lower Waingongoro sites

CATCHMENT BOUNDARY



Community Context

Local Action

The Waingongoro catchment has a strong pastoral identity, with sheep, beef and dairy farming across hill country and lowland areas. Alongside productive land use, there is a clear interest in improving water quality in a way that is practical, locally led and supports the long-term viability of farming.

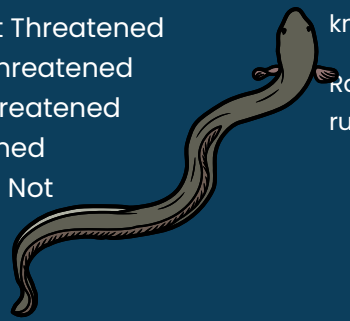
KEY PROGRESS

- Āu Kahu hapū are undertaking SMAK and flow monitoring, an important foundation of knowledge.
- The catchment group has monitored water quality across 14 sites for nearly four years, creating a valuable local evidence base.
- A Massey University bioreactor demonstration site is already underway and can help inform future nitrogen management options.
- Landowners are already undertaking riparian planting, farm planning and on-farm environmental improvements through Farm Environment Plans.
- The catchment group, coordinator and lead farmers provide a practical platform for coordinated catchment-scale action.
- The next step is to bring this information together, identify priority areas, and support targeted CSA actions that farmers can implement on farm.

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES

Many NZ fish species are found within the Waingongoro catchment, many of which require a connection to the sea to complete their life cycles.

- Lamprey – Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
- Longfin eel – At Risk (Declining)
- Brown mudfish – At Risk (Declining)
- Giant kōkopu – At Risk (Declining)
- Koaro – At Risk (Declining)
- Torrentfish – At Risk (Declining)
- Cran's bully – At Risk (Declining)
- Shortfin eel – Not Threatened
- Common bully – Not Threatened
- Upland bully – Not Threatened
- Redfin bully – Not Threatened
- Kōura – Not Threatened
- Freshwater shrimp – Not Threatened



Local Feedback

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

Good Management Practices	30%
Biodiversity	25%
Water and wetland quality	25%
Flood and weather resilience	14%

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Protect & enhance economic viability	30%
Support locally-led initiatives	30%
Strengthen agency collaboration	30%
Build community knowledge	10%
Raise the profile of rural management	0%

ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION STRATEGY

Key issues & pressures

WHAT SHAPES THE STRATEGY

Water quality pressues

E.COLI

E. coli concentrations increase through the pastoral parts of the catchment, with many monitoring sites exceeding national bottom line thresholds. Likely risk areas include stock access points, wet paddocks, drains, runoff pathways and areas where contaminants can move quickly to waterways during rainfall.

NITROGEN

Most of the catchment has low to very low modelled nitrogen leaching susceptibility, but monitoring shows elevated dissolved inorganic nitrogen in the mid and lower catchment. This suggests nitrogen may be accumulating as water moves downstream, with drainage, soil type, land use intensity and subsurface movement likely to influence where action is needed.

PHOSPHORUS AND SEDIMENT

Phosphorus levels exceed poor-condition thresholds at many monitoring sites. Variation between sites suggests multiple sources and pathways may be involved, including sediment movement from hill country, runoff from high-risk areas and localised streambank or drain-edge losses.

Landscape & ecological pressures

RIPARIAN CORRIDORS

Many waterways in the mid and lower catchment have limited riparian vegetation, reducing shade, bank stability, habitat value and contaminant filtering. This creates a clear opportunity for targeted riparian enhancement in areas where planting will provide the greatest water quality and biodiversity benefit.

FRESHWATER CONNECTIVTY

Despite water quality pressures, the catchment still supports freshwater mussels, lamprey, kōura, galaxiids, giant kōkopu, brown mudfish, longfin eel and other native species. This shows the catchment retains important ecological connections, which can be strengthened through targeted habitat, riparian and water quality actions.



Priorities & connected actions

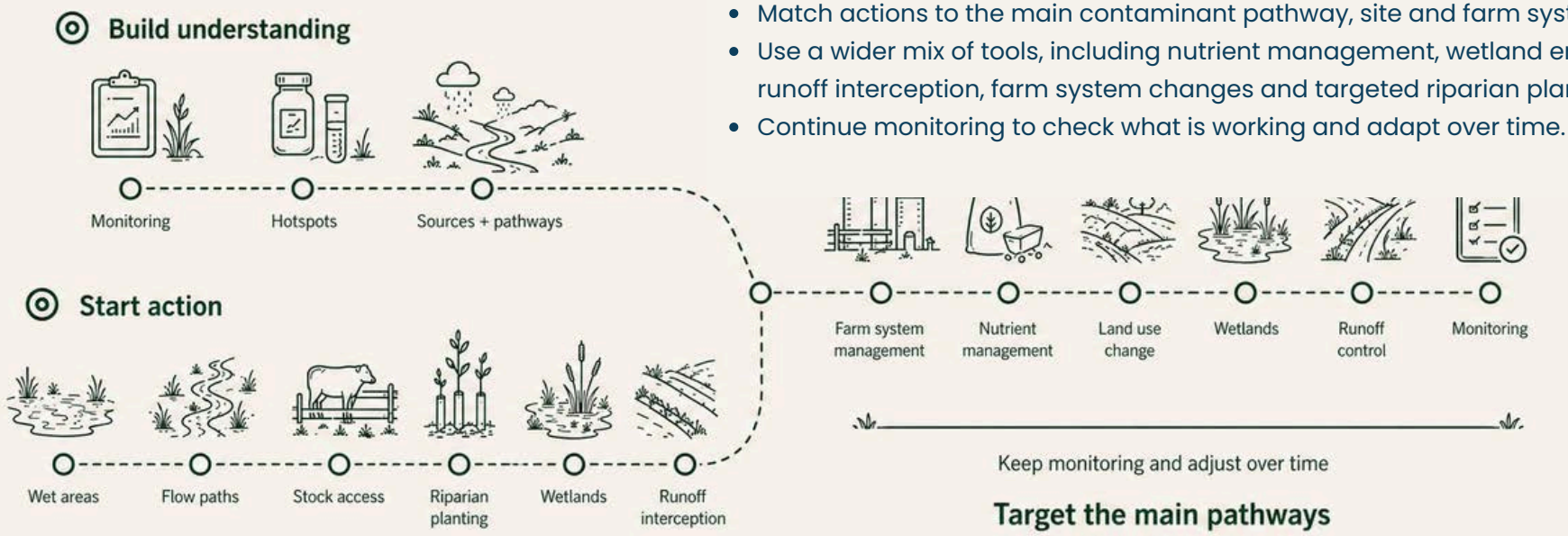
WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID — AND HOW THE STRATEGY RESPONDS

Priorities were identified through the Waingongoro Catchment Workshop (March 2026). Four participants attended, reflecting relatively low current engagement. The voting results below shaped the focus of this strategy — weaving together a practical, farm-focused approach that meets both environmental and community priorities.

A staged dual approach

The strategy starts with what is already known, while taking practical action where risks are clear. In the first two years, the catchment group should build a shared picture of water quality and begin targeted CSA action at the same time. This avoids waiting for perfect information before acting, while still making sure future investment is based on good evidence. interception, farm system changes and targeted riparian planting.

- Continue monitoring to check what is working and adapt over time.



Phase 1: Years 1–2 — Build understanding and start action

- Bring together existing water quality monitoring, Āu Kahu hapū data, farmer knowledge and agency information.
- Identify E. coli and nitrogen hotspots, priority areas, likely sources and contaminant pathways.
- Work with landowners to identify wet areas, flow paths, stock access points and other critical source areas.
- Start practical CSA actions where risks are clear.
- Use findings to support Farm Environment Plans and future investment decisions.

Phase 2: Years 3+ — Target action to the main pathways

- Focus investment in priority and high-risk areas.
- Match actions to the main contaminant pathway, site and farm system.
- Use a wider mix of tools, including nutrient management, wetland enhancement, runoff interception, farm system changes and targeted riparian planting.
- Continue monitoring to check what is working and adapt over time.

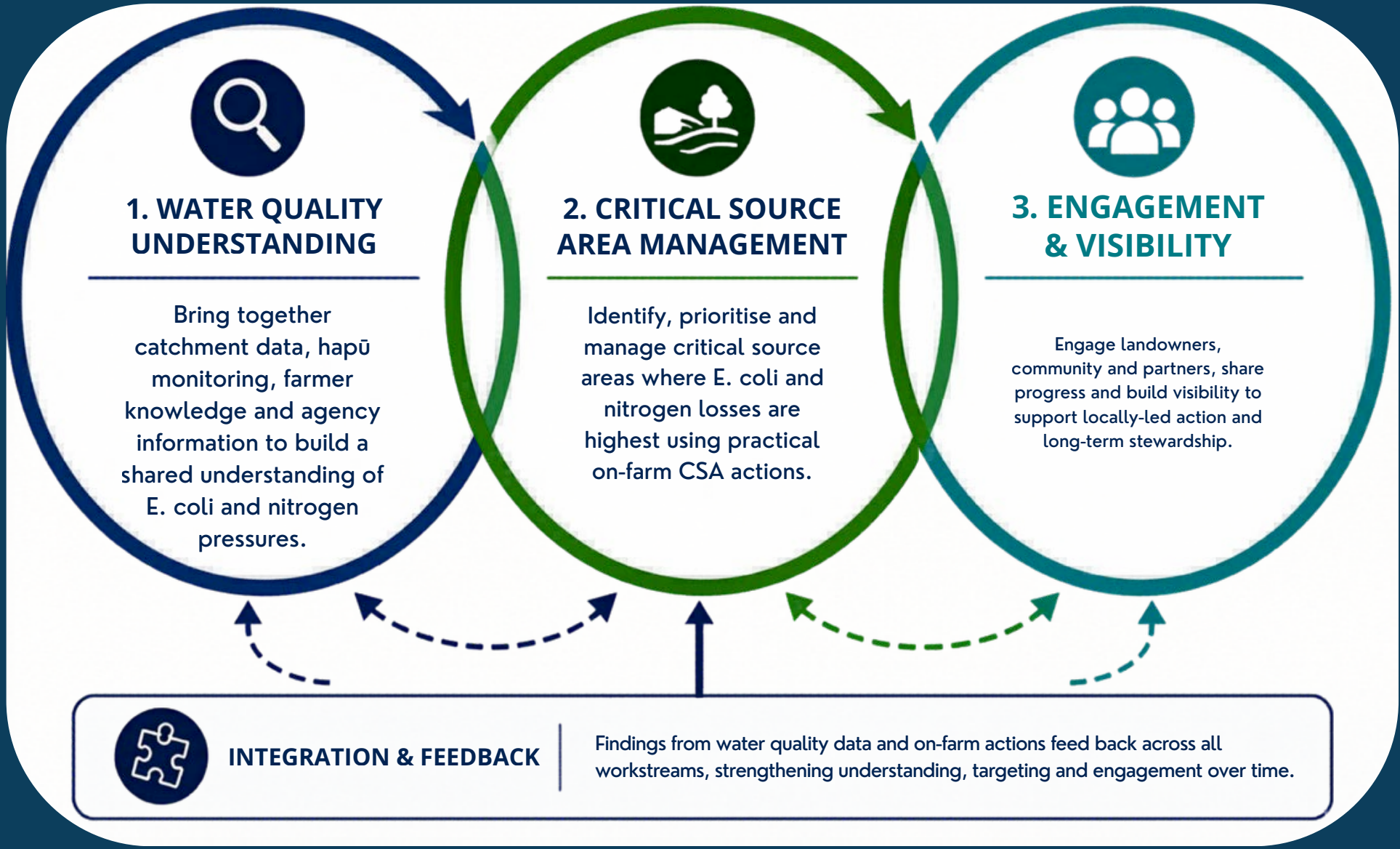
TARANAKI
CATCHMENT COMMUNITIES

03: Direction & Workstreams

ENVIRONMENT
INNOVATION
STRATEGY

Meet outcomes through 3 workstreams

ALIGNMENT OF THREE WORKSTREAMS ACROSS DIFFERENT SCALES OF ACTION



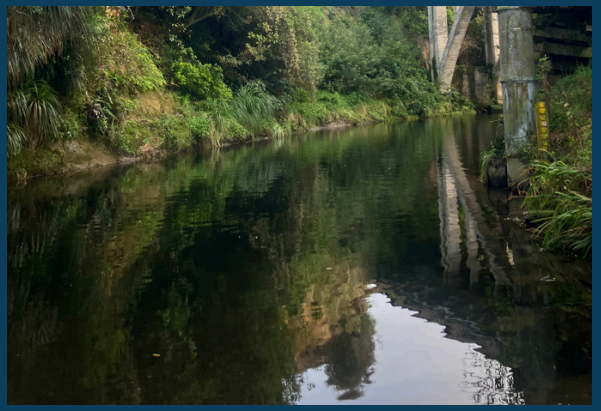
WORKSTREAM ONE

Water Quality Understanding

Phase 1 of this workstream develops a clear, shared understanding of water quality across the catchment. It brings together the catchment group's water quality monitoring from 14 sites, Āu Kahu hapū SMAK and flow data, farmer observations, agency information and the Massey University bioreactor trial.

The purpose is to identify E. coli and nitrogen hotspots, understand likely sources and pathways, and agree where action should be focused first.

Targeted monitoring should only be used where important gaps remain. The emphasis is on turning information into practical insights that support on-farm decision-making and Farm Environment Plans.



Actions across multiple scales

Individual / Landowner

Share what you know
Share local observations, farm data and water quality knowledge. Farmer knowledge helps explain what monitoring data alone cannot show.

Walk the farm in wet weather
Notice where water moves during rain, where paddocks stay wet, and where flow paths connect to drains or streams.

Use findings in your FEP
Use water quality findings to confirm or update priority actions in your Farm Environment Plan.

Local / Community

Bring together existing monitoring
Combine SMAK, flow, water quality, farmer and agency information into one shared catchment picture.

Identify hotspots and pathways
Use combined information to identify E. coli and nitrogen hotspots, priority sub-catchments, and likely contaminant pathways.

Fill monitoring gaps only where they exist
Use targeted monitoring only where gaps are preventing clear decisions about priority areas or actions.

Whole Catchment

Translate findings into practical information
Share results through simple maps, summaries and farm-relevant guidance.

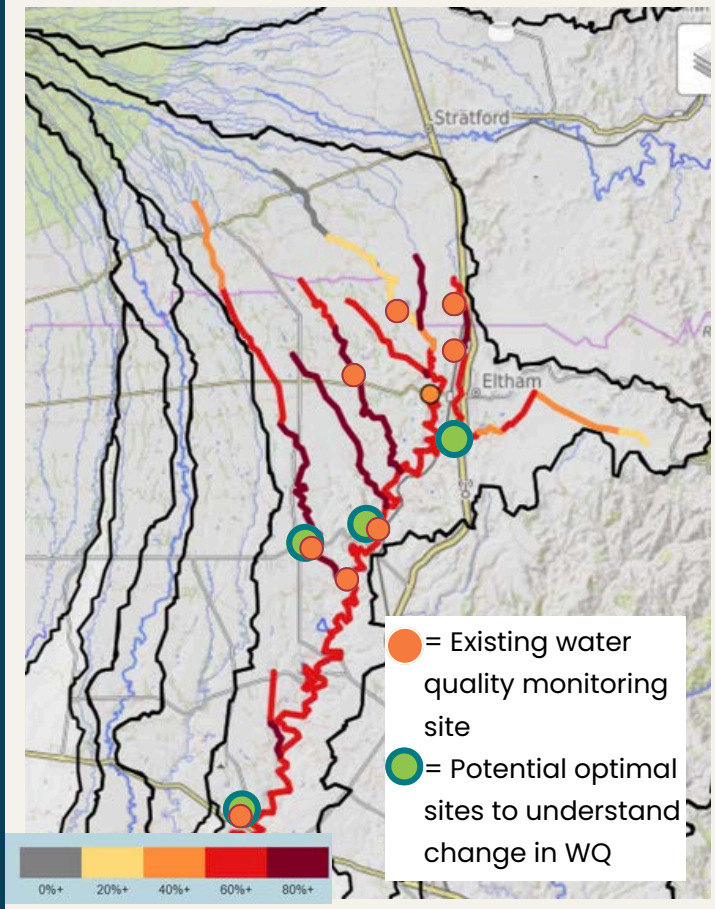
Agree priority areas for action
Use the shared evidence base to agree where CSA action, nutrient management and future investment should focus first.

Build a spatially targeted picture
Develop a clear picture of where contaminants are coming from, how they move, and where actions will have the greatest impact.

ACTION PLANNING: WORKSTREAM ONE

Water Quality - Optimal Monitoring

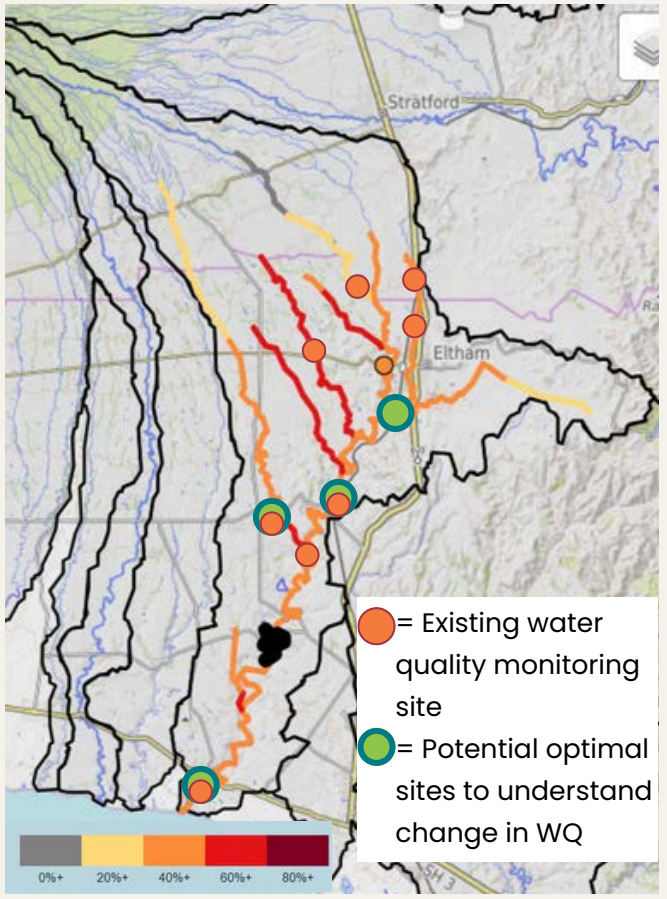
NITRATE



Water quality (WQ) monitoring in this catchment should focus on areas that help differentiate the sub catchments and can measure change through time. The images below show the Our Land and Water change detection tool, showing likelihood of detecting change over a 5 year sampling period, sampling monthly. For both the highest priority contaminants there is a high likelihood of detecting change over that sampling period, assuming that good management practices are implemented in the above catchment areas. The minimum recommended sampling should be implemented in the below sites (green dots). These sites will:

- Be easy and relatively safe to access as they are from bridges.
- Complement with existing water sampling sites.
- Differentiate sub catchments in the catchment to help differentiate change.
- Will show change and trends before or at 5 years.

E.COLI



ADDITIONAL MONITORING CONSIDERATIONS

- Gather data from other sources and partners to get the best picture of the area as possible.
- Supplement data with information on farm actions, photo points and case studies
- Build in other freshwater monitoring, partciularly ecological understanding (like eDNA, MCI and Fish)
- Build in focused monitoring around action areas as required to support communication extension and learning.

ACTION PLANNING: WORKSTREAM ONE

Monitoring Dashboard Example

Waingongoro Catchment

Water Quality Dashboard

14 Monitoring sites Active

Latest data May 2026

91% Pastoral land use

23,303 Hectares

CATCHMENT SUMMARY

This dashboard shows the latest water quality results across the Waingongoro Catchment.

Focus is on E. coli and nitrogen (DIN) which are key indicators of water quality.

Use the map and charts to understand where pressures are highest and where action should be prioritised.

WATER QUALITY STATUS

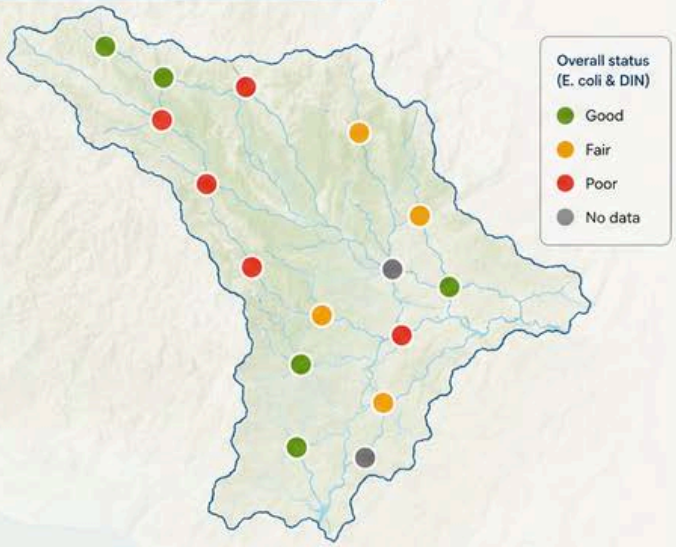
- Good (meeting guideline)
- Fair (watch)
- Poor (over guideline)
- No data

GUIDELINES (ANZ 2022)

E. coli 95th percentile	540	cfu/100 mL
DIN Median	0.26	mg/L

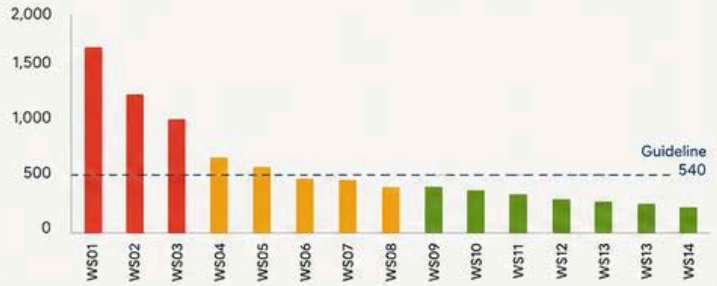
Guidelines shown for rivers and streams (lowland).

SITE MAP – LATEST OVERALL STATUS

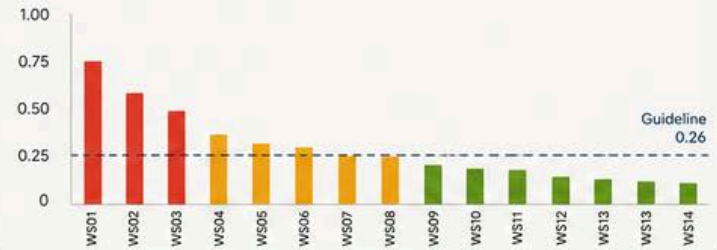


Click on a site to view more details and trends.

E. COLI – 95TH PERCENTILE (CFU/100 ML)

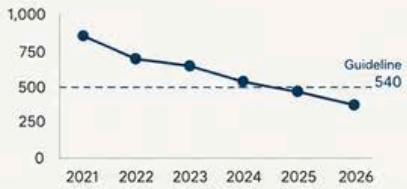


DIN – MEDIAN (MG/L)



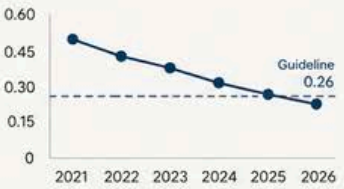
TREND OVERVIEW (5-YEAR MEDIAN)

E. COLI (CFU/100 ML)



Catchment-wide 95th percentile E. coli is improving.

DIN (MG/L)



Catchment-wide median DIN is improving.

SITE SNAPSHOT – LATEST RESULTS

Site ID	Site Name	E. coli (95th %ile) cfu/100 mL	DIN (median) mg/L	Overall Status
WS01	Tuikonga Stream	1,680	0.72	●
WS02	Mangatoki Stream	1,220	0.58	●
WS03	Kakaramea Stream	980	0.48	●
WS04	Puketaha Stream	610	0.31	●
WS05	Waingongoro at SH3	520	0.29	●

Click on a site in the table or map for full details and trends.

Critical Source Area Management

WORKSTREAM TWO

Actions across scale

Critical source area management reduces contaminant loss from the places where runoff, wet soils, stock movement and flow paths create the greatest risk to water quality. Building on farm knowledge, Farm Environment Plans and catchment water quality information, this workstream focuses on identifying and treating high-risk areas where E. coli, sediment and nutrients are most likely to enter waterways.

The outcome is early, visible progress in reducing contaminant loss from high-risk areas, while building farmer confidence and momentum for more targeted delivery in Phase 2.

Individual / Landowner

Identify your high-risk areas
Use farm knowledge, TWI maps and rainfall observations to identify wet areas, flow paths, drains, crossings and stock access points.

Take immediate targeted action
Start where the risk is clear, such as fencing wet areas, planting high-impact margins, intercepting runoff or managing grazing during wet periods.

Align actions with your FEP
Record CSA actions in your Farm Environment Plan so they support existing farm planning requirements.

Local / Community

Confirm CSAs with landowners on-farm
Walk priority areas with landowners to ground-truth mapped CSAs before actions are designed or funded.

Establish demonstration sites
Use visible, practical sites to show what CSA management looks like on local farms.

Provide practical guidance & training
Support landowners with simple tools, examples and advice to identify and manage CSAs.

Whole Catchment

Map and prioritise CSAs
Use mapping, water quality results and farmer knowledge to identify CSA patterns and priority areas for action.

Sequence implementation
Coordinate actions so priority areas, funding, plant supply, contractor availability and landowner readiness line up.

Monitor and refine
Track water quality and CSA effectiveness, especially during high-flow events, and use results to improve future actions.

ACTION PLANNING: WORKSTREAM TWO

Critical Source Area Management

CSA Management

Identify your high-risk areas

Use farm knowledge, TWI maps and rainfall observations to identify wet areas, flow paths, drains, crossings and stock access points.

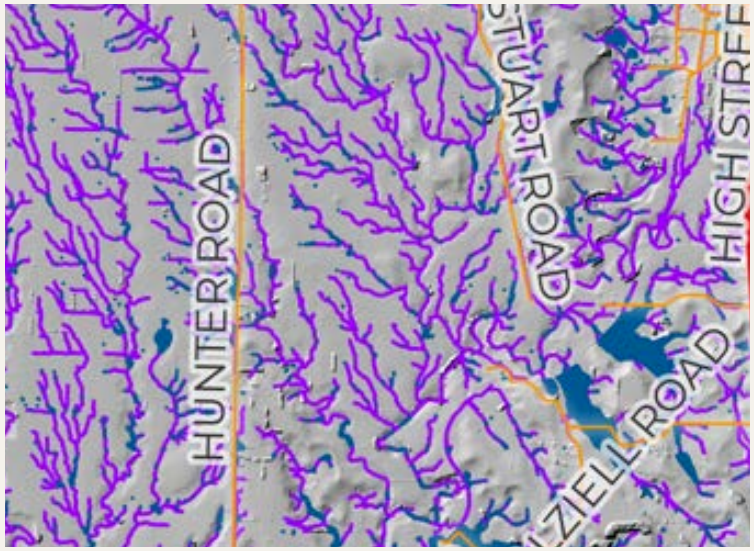
Take immediate targeted action

Start where the risk is clear, such as fencing wet areas, planting high-impact margins, intercepting runoff or managing grazing during wet periods.

Align actions with your FEP or FAACT

Record CSA actions in your Farm Environment Plan so they support existing farm planning requirements.

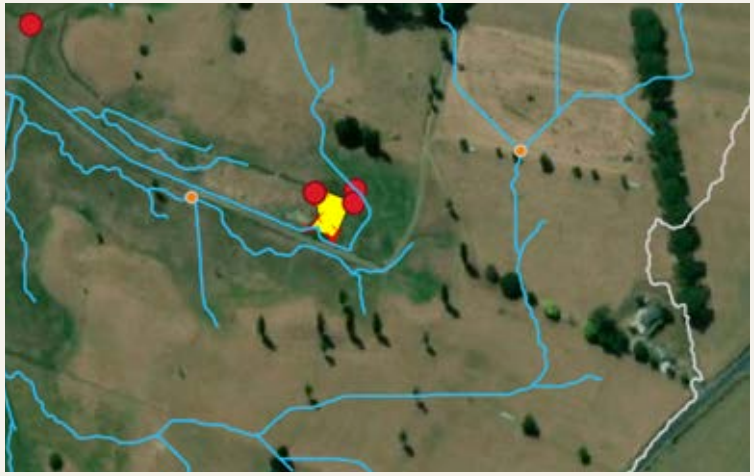
OVERLAND FLOW PATH AND CSA MAPS TCC HAS THESE AVAILABLE





CSA management can:

- **Help create biodiversity corridor**
- **Reduce overland flow and capture seidment and bacteria**
- **Create conditions for denitrification**



ACTION PLANNING: WORKSTREAM TWO

CSA for Biodiversity Corridor

CSA CONNECTION ACROSS THE CATCHMENT

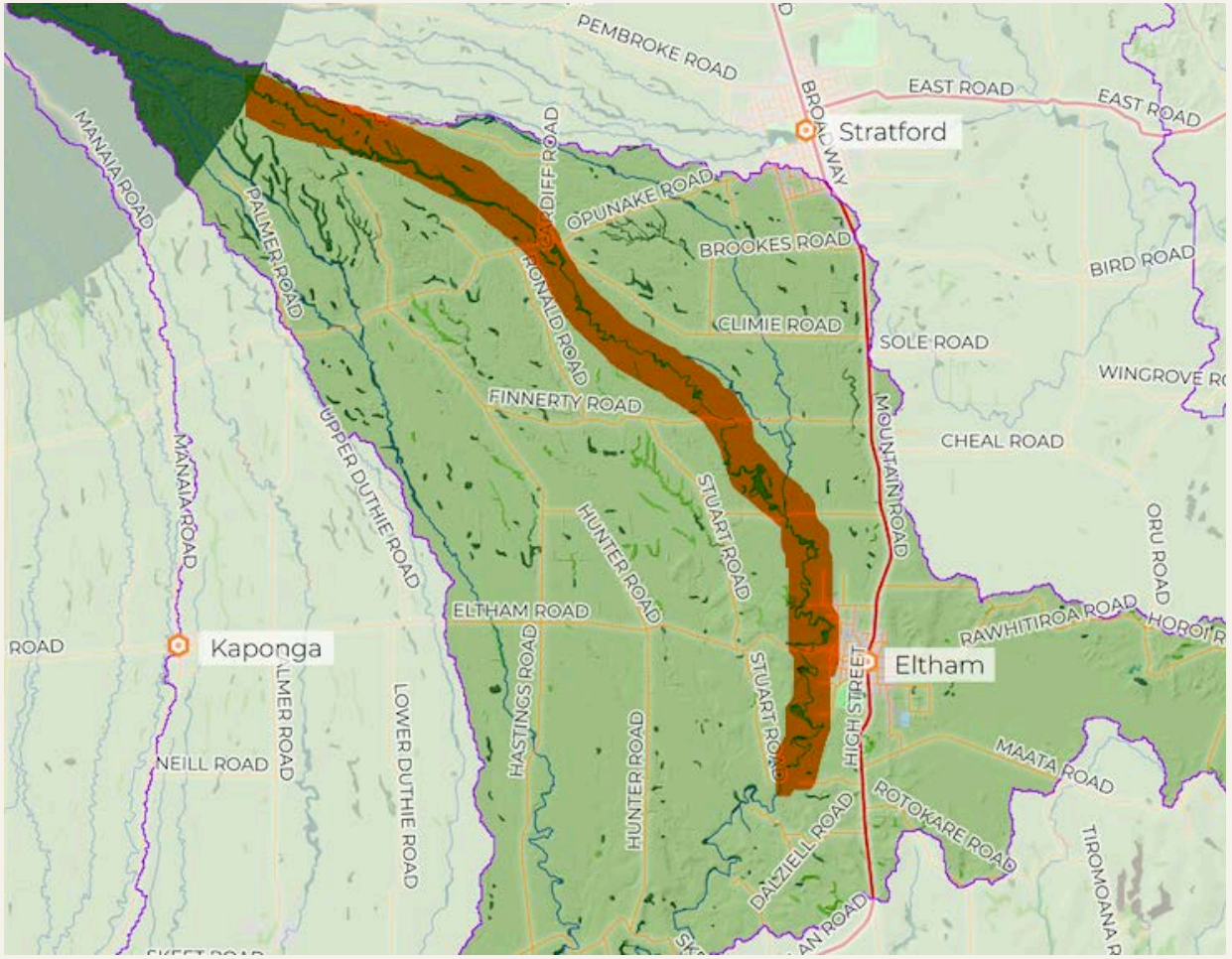
Critical Source Areas (CSAs) that occur adjacent to, or connect with, existing native bush, wetlands, riparian margins or other natural habitats should be prioritised for management wherever practical.

Targeting these locations delivers multiple benefits by reducing sediment and nutrient losses while simultaneously strengthening ecological connectivity. By restoring and linking these habitats landowners can create biodiversity corridors that allow native birds, insects and other wildlife to move more freely between habitat patches. Over time, these connected networks are typically more resilient, support greater biodiversity, and provide broader environmental benefits than isolated restoration projects.

A major focus for a bio-corridor should be from the mountain to south of Eltham as this will connect the mountain to the town , bringing biodievrsity closer to people. It will also make the most of existing native habitat areas along this section of the river.

CATCHMENT SCALE CSA PRIORITISATION FOR A BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

Focusing on a single corridor for CSA management, at least initially, with help meet multiple outcomes: Water quality, habitat, and biological corridors (e.g., orange highlighted area).



Engagement & Visibility

WORKSTREAM THREE

Engagement is the key ingredient. In a catchment with relatively low current engagement, the strategy needs to be simple, practical and visible. Farmers need to see that the work is useful, locally relevant and connected to what they are already doing through Farm Environment Plans.

This workstream is about making progress visible, sharing results in plain language, celebrating early wins and creating easy ways for landowners to get involved.



Actions across scale

Individual / Landowner

Record what you see
Record runoff, erosion, stock access, wet areas, drain flow, planting progress and changes made on farm.

Invite neighbours in
Host a farm walk or informal visit so others can see CSA action working in practice.

Ask for support
Identify where help is needed, such as mapping, funding, plants, advice, monitoring or FEP updates.

Local / Community

Use demonstration sites
Establish visible farm-scale sites that show practical CSA management, monitoring and restoration actions.

Create easy entry points
Support participation through farm walks, working bees, monitoring days, planting days or practical workshops.

Coordinate local effort
Connect landowners with advice, funding and support through the coordinator, lead farmers and partners.

Coordinate with schools
Make the most of the opportunities with schools to craete demonstration sites, and even grow native plants.

Whole Catchment

Maintain a progress map
Map monitoring sites, CSA actions, demonstration sites, planting areas and priority sub-catchments.

Use results to guide future support
Provide short, practical updates on what the data shows, what actions are underway, and what it means for farmers.

Guide future support
Use monitoring and CSA results to identify what is working, where support is needed, and where investment should focus next.

04: Implementation

Actions matched to resourcing

TARANAKI CATCHMENT COMMUNITIES

IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVELY RESOURCING FLUCUATIONS

The Waingongoro Catchment Group will use a flexible delivery model that matches the resources available at any point in time.

The group can start with low-cost coordination, shared information and demonstration sites, then increase direct landowner support as funding, partnerships and capability grow.



Different approaches, matched to resourcing levels

LOW RESOURCING
Coordination and influence

Focus on enabling existing action.

- Share information, maps and practical guidance.
- Connect landowners with funding and advice.
- Support partner and council programmes.
- Promote good practice and FEP alignment
- Maintain communication and visibility.

MEDIUM RESOURCING
Hybrid Delivery

Coordinate local action and targeted support.

- Establish demonstration sites.
- Support priority landowners one-on-one.
- Coordinate funding applications.
- Run practical workshops and farm walks.
- Track actions and share progress.

HIGH RESOURCING
Direct Delivery

Work directly with landowners to scale implementation.

- Provide dedicated staff or contractor support.
- Develop farm-level action plans.
- Coordinate fencing, planting, wetlands and CSA works.
- Monitor and report outcomes.
- Deliver catchment-wide programmes in priority areas.

Building Capability → **Targeting Investment** → **Scaling Impact**

YEARS 1–2:
Build Foundations

- Build relationships and trust.
- Bring existing monitoring and local knowledge together.
- Map priority areas and CSAs.
- Establish demonstration sites.
- Secure funding and partnerships.
- Share practical information with farmers.

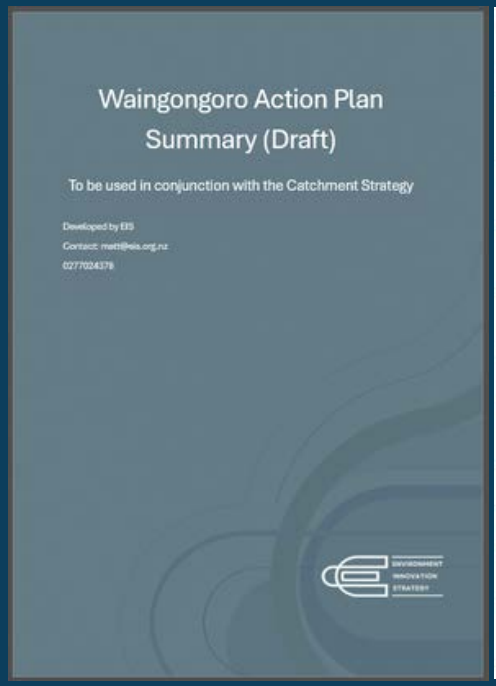
YEARS 3–5:
Targeted Delivery

- Increase one-on-one landowner support.
- Implement actions in priority sub-catchments.
- Develop farm and restoration plans where needed.
- Coordinate funding, contractors and plant supply.
- Monitor progress and adapt actions.

YEARS 5+:
Scaled Impact

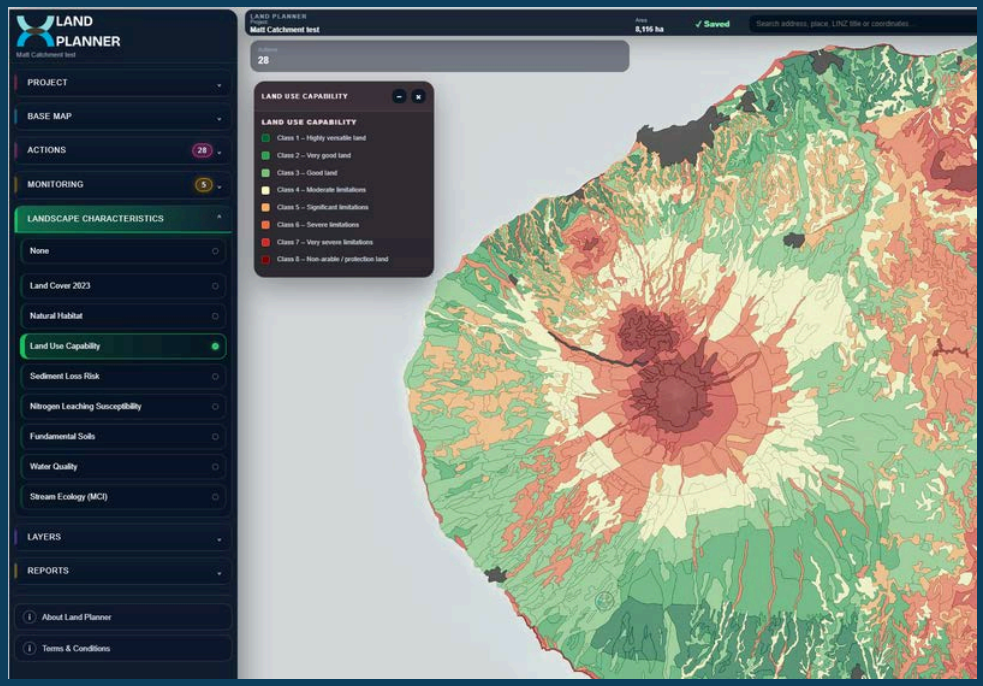
- Expand implementation across priority areas.
- Maintain a dedicated delivery team where possible.
- Secure larger funding streams.
- Continue monitoring and reporting.
- Demonstrate measurable environmental outcomes.

Action planning is a live approach



Waingongoro Action Summary

Year	Quarter	Workstream	Key Implementation Action
2026	Q3	Water Quality Understanding	Compile and dashboard existing catchment data, communicate the strategy and establish partnerships.
2026	Q4	Water Quality Understanding	Produce hotspot, corridor and priority area maps using monitoring, farmer knowledge and existing information.
2027	Q1	Critical Source Area Management	Undertake farm visits, confirm priority Critical Source Areas and prepare CSA action plans.
2027	Q2	Critical Source Area Management	Support FAACT/Farm Environment Plan updates and establish demonstration projects.
2027	Q2	Engagement & Visibility	Hold the first demonstration field day and share early learning.
2027	Q3	Critical Source Area Management	Implement CSA, wetland, riparian and stream management projects at priority sites.
2027	Q4	Water Quality Understanding	Review monitoring results and publish the first annual progress report.
2028	Q2	Engagement & Visibility	Establish additional demonstration sites and hold a second field day.
2028	Q3	Critical Source Area Management	Refine priorities using monitoring results and expand successful approaches.
2028	Q4	Water Quality Understanding	Complete the three-year review and prepare the next implementation plan (2029 onwards).



Actions planning for this catchment has been templated by EIS into a word document. The key for this approach is that action planning:

- Remains live
- Discussed at regular intervals by the group
- Is adjusted as resources change
- Notes budget requirements for actions
- Includes monitoring and how to tell the story

The Land Planner Software will be avialable for TCC use in September 2026. This will enable visualisation of data, access to monitoring data, planning of actions and reporting.

05: Measuring success

What success looks like

MEASURING PROGRESS ACROSS THE CATCHMENT

Progress should be measured by whether the strategy builds shared understanding, supports early action, and then shifts into more targeted implementation as evidence improves. The focus is not just on the number of actions completed, but whether those actions are helping farmers, hapū and agencies make better decisions and improve water quality over time.

Focus Area	Individual / Landowner	Local Community	Whole Catchment
Water Quality Understanding Phase 1	Farmer understands the key water quality risks relevant to their property and has identified priority areas for action through their FEP.	Existing monitoring, hapū data, farmer observations and agency information are brought together and translated into practical insights.	E. coli and nitrogen hotspots, priority areas and likely contaminant pathways are identified.
CSA Management Phase 1	High-risk areas are identified and ground-truthed, with at least one practical CSA action underway or planned.	Demonstration sites are established and used to support farmer learning and wider uptake.	CSAs are mapped, prioritised and sequenced for action across priority areas.
Targeted Implementation Phase 2	Farmer is applying a broader mix of actions, such as CSA treatment, nutrient management, grazing changes, riparian planting or wetland enhancement, where these fit the farm system.	Monitoring and demonstration results are used to refine actions and guide support.	nterventions are targeted to the dominant contaminant drivers and pathways in each priority area.
Long-term Water Quality Outcomes	On-farm actions are understood, recorded and connected to wider catchment water quality outcomes.	Water quality trends and local progress are visible, regularly shared and used to sustain farmer confidence and participation.	Sustained catchment action is contributing to measurable improvement, with E. coli and nitrogen trends moving toward national bottom lines in priority areas.

The Core Principle

The staged dual approach is designed to avoid delays from over-analysis while still making sure future investment is well-targeted. It starts with existing knowledge and practical CSA action, then uses monitoring and local evidence to refine where effort should go next.

Shared kaitiakitanga

A SHARED GOAL FOR THE WAINGONGORO GROUP

Improving water quality in the Waingongoro will only succeed if it is carried by the people who live, farm and care for this catchment. Every CSA actioned, every water quality result shared, every monitoring site maintained and every farmer involved adds to the wider improvement effort.

This strategy builds on work already underway and the commitment of local farmers. It brings this work together into a shared direction: understand the issues, act where risks are clear, and target future investment where it will make the biggest difference.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Want to be part of the catchment group?

Work with your catchment coordinator or Taranaki Catchment Communities to identify where your effort can contribute most — whether that is sharing farm knowledge, hosting a demonstration site, joining monitoring, managing a critical source area, planting, or helping build the next stage of catchment action.

Read the full TCC Strategy to see how this work connects with wider catchment priorities and locally-led action across Taranaki.

