

WHANGANUI CATCHMENT

STATE OF ENVIRONMENT SUMMARY 2019

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MAIN WATER BODIES

Whanganui River, Manganui o te Ao, Retaruke, Ohura, Ōngarue, Taringamotu, Whangamomona, Tāngarākau, Whakapapa and Pungapunga Rivers, upland and coastal lakes

CLIMATE AND AIR

Mean annual rainfall ranges from less than **900 mm** near the coast to over **2,000 mm** in the Central Plateau.

Potential climate impact: By 2090, the upper Whanganui is projected to receive up to 20% more rainfall in winter. People living along the coast and in hill country near Taumarunui can expect around an additional 20 hot days per year by 2040, and as many as 50-60 hot days per year by 2090.

The air quality monitoring site in Taumarunui currently meets the national standard for air quality and is expected to improve as more homes switch to more efficient heating sources.

LAND

CATCHMENT AREA: **761,100 hectares**

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND:
97,563 ha

13% OF THE CATCHMENT

VERSATILE SOILS:
17,658 ha

2% OF THE CATCHMENT

LAND USE:

33% Sheep and/or beef
51% Native cover
2% Dairy
8% Forestry
6% Other



BIODIVERSITY

KNOWN WETLANDS:
2,051 ha

71
SITES

KNOWN BUSH REMNANTS:
11,063 ha

69
SITES

GROUNDWATER QUALITY

PREDOMINANT TYPE: **REDUCING**

2

BORES MONITORED QUARTERLY FOR GROUNDWATER QUALITY

9

BORES SURVEYED MONTHLY FOR GROUNDWATER LEVEL

0% OF SITES SHOW **DECLINING WATER LEVELS**

56% OF SITES SHOW **INCREASING WATER LEVELS**

WATER QUANTITY

1 COMMERCIAL HYDROELECTRICITY SCHEME

2

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ZONES

WHANGANUI **59%** ALLOCATED

NORTHERN WHANGANUI UNSPECIFIED

11

WATER MANAGEMENT ZONES AND **32** SUB ZONES, OF WHICH:

24

HAVE WATER AVAILABLE

7

ARE WITHIN 95 - 100% OF TOTAL ALLOCATION

1

OVER-ALLOCATED

WATER USE

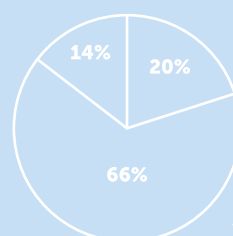
EXCLUDING HYDROELECTRICITY

CONSENTED WATER USE:

20% Agriculture and Horticulture

66% Municipal

14% Industry/Other



LAKES

LAKES OVER 1 HECTARE IN SIZE: **34**

8

LAKES SURVEYED FOR ECOLOGICAL HEALTH USING LAKESPI

1

EXCELLENT HEALTH

3

MODERATE - HIGH HEALTH

4

NON-VEGETATED OR POOR HEALTH

ESTUARIES AND COAST

TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTUARIES: **7**

VULNERABILITY TO SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENTS

LOW-MODERATE

6

MODERATE

0

MODERATE-HIGH

1

RIVER WATER QUALITY

PROPORTION OF SITES SHOWING IMPROVING TRENDS FOR THE 10 YEAR PERIOD ENDING JULY 2017



STATE COMPARED TO ONE PLAN TARGETS



SWIM SPOTS

Proportion of the length of large rivers (Order 4 and above) in the catchment currently assessed as suitable for swimming under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (**NPS-FM**): **51%**

TOTAL STREAM LENGTH IN THE CATCHMENT:
11,893 km

TOTAL STREAM LENGTH FOR LARGE RIVERS (> ORDER 4):
1,675 km