Tukituki Land Care

DRAFT

Tukipo

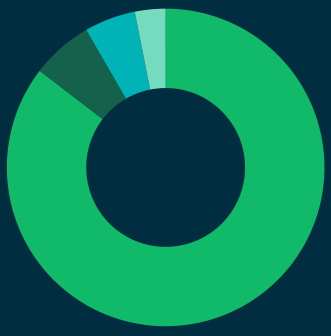
SUB-CATCHMENT PLAN: SUMMARY

TUKIPO AT A GLANCE

The Tukipo catchment, centred around Ashley Clinton, spans approximately 22,000ha and has a strong community committed to improving environmental outcomes while maintaining productive farmland.

One of the catchment's primary concerns is high nitrogen levels in streams, which can impact water quality and ecosystems. Phosphorus levels in waterways are also an issue, requiring targeted interventions such as waterway fencing, riparian planting and wetland development.

The Tukipo Catchment Care Group (TCCG) was formed in response to the Tukituki Plan Change and increasing regulatory requirements. The group recognised the need for a coordinated effort to address water quality and biodiversity challenges. Between 2018 and 2025, supported by Jobs for Nature funding, TCCG planted 75,000 native plants, installed 47 kilometres of riparian fencing, and completed 23 wetlands (fenced and planted), with 48 sites already approved and a goal of reaching 50.



- Pasture
- Indigenous Forest
- Arable
- Exotic Forest

82 percent is in pasture, six percent in indigenous forest, five percent in arable and three percent in exotic forest.

"Tukituki Land Care (TLC) is tackling the big issues sub-catchment by sub-catchment, to piece together The Big Picture."

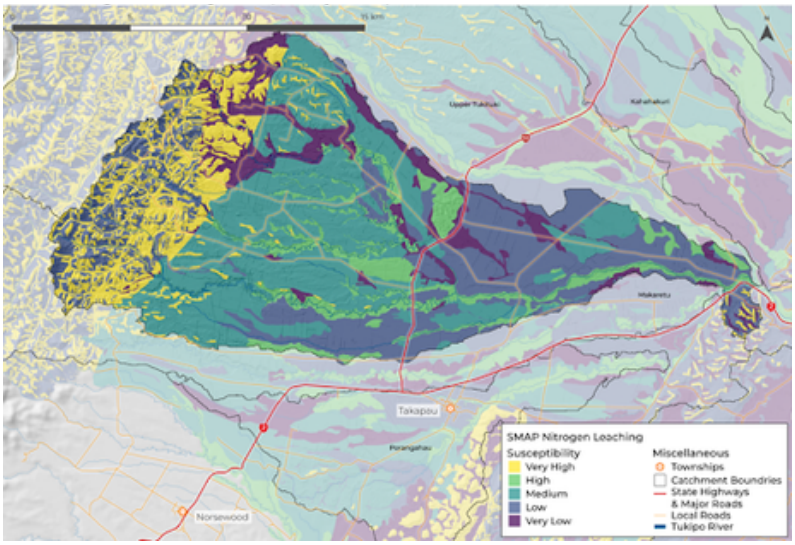
Richard Hilson
Chair, Tukituki Land Care

SCAN FOR FULL REPORT

TUKIPO CATCHMENT: CONTEXT

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

The Tukipo catchment is characterised by free-draining geology and soils, particularly in the upper catchment, leading to a high susceptibility to nitrogen leaching. The soils are relatively stable, though erosion is a concern, especially in areas with Allophanic soils, which are resistant to water erosion but prone to phosphorus loss. The lower slopes of the catchment contribute significantly to phosphorus runoff due to soil movement. The nitrogen leaching risk is high to very high across most of the catchment, making nutrient management a key concern.



SMAP Nitrogen Leaching Susceptibility - Tukipo

FOR MORE INFORMATION HEAD TO WWW.TUKITUKILANDCARE/TUKIPO

WATER QUALITY

Water quality in the Tukipo catchment is a concern, particularly with high nitrogen and phosphorus. To combat these issues, the TCCG has focused on reducing nutrient runoff through stock exclusion, riparian planting, wetland development, and careful management of water pathways. While the wetland projects have proven successful, attendees at a 2024 TLC Big Picture workshop emphasised the importance of a better understanding of how these interventions work.

With two-thirds of the TCCG project funding spent and 18 months remaining, the group is now looking ahead. Landowners are eager to embrace more proactive, community-driven efforts that create long-term ecological and economic benefits.

Water Quality Parameter	Tukipo	Standard
Nitrogen (DIN)	1.975 mg/ L	0.8
Phosphorus (DRP)	0.015 mg/ L	0.015
Bacteria (E.coli)	39.5 (count)	260
Freshwater invertebrates (MCI)	104.44 (index)	100
Sediment (Turbidity)	0.81 mg/ L	4.1 FNU (light)

AND CHALLENGES

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ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

An ongoing objective for the catchment is to enhance biodiversity corridors through pest control and habitat restoration, which will strengthen ecological connectivity.

Existing native vegetation, waterways, and sheltered gullies provide a strong foundation for restoration efforts.

Continuing with actions such as protecting existing forest patches, planting along waterways, and fencing off sensitive areas can further support native wildlife while also improving soil health, erosion control, and water retention.

SCAN FOR FULL REPORT

DISOLVED INORGANIC NITROGEN (DIN)

Another outcome for the catchment is to reduce Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) levels by implementing targeted interventions in high-nitrogen seepage springs and waterways. The components are high priority options for the catchment.

TUKIPO CATCHMENT: SUMMARY AND ACTIONS

Tukituki Land Care

Objective	Enhance biodiversity	Water quality	Informed decision making to implement good practice planting
Challenge	Introduced predators (stoats, rats, possums, feral cats) are threatening native wildlife populations.	High DIN levels, but little information about where it is coming from or how to manage it.	Planting is a key activity that increases biodiversity, reduces soil loss, builds ETS revenue, and increases flood resilience. However, information is lacking to support farmers.
Impact	Declining native wildlife numbers, disrupted ecosystems, and reduced seed dispersal for regenerating forests.	Waterway health reduced. Decline in aquatic biodiversity. Regulation risks.	Planting can support many positive outcomes. The impact of uninformed decision-making is that objectives are met and resources are wasted.
Priority action	Focus on expanding the connection of biodiversity corridors through applying for funding, predator control and habitat restoration.	Implement high priority good practice on farms through farm planning. Focus on understanding water quality in different areas/springs and manage nitrate through constructed or enhance wetland areas.	Build and communicate a decision support tool for planting to meet multiple outcomes. Support farmers to make appropriate decisions through effective communication and training.

WANT MORE DETAIL? HEAD TO WWW.TUKITUKILANDCARE/TUKIPO

Check out the online TLC Farmer Toolbox www.tukitukilandcare.org/toolbox

TUKIPO CATCHMENT: NEXT STEPS

- Get involved with the TCCG to review The TLC Catchment Plan, share knowledge and coordinate actions.
- Plan for the future of the TCCG when funding expires in June 2026.
- Develop erosion management strategy. Consider poplar planting, oversowing with legumes, strategic fencing to retire or manage grazing, and native or exotic afforestation. Use TLC's Surface Erosion Tool*, TLC's On-Farm Action Planning Tool* and TLC's Plant Selection Tool*.
- Address water quality issues, in particular P and N. Use TLC's On-Farm Action Planning Tool*
- Set up or maintain existing trapping programmes in important biodiversity areas.
- Secure funding and resources to support predator control and habitat restoration.
- Use local knowledge and nursery for planting advice or use TLC's Plant Selection Tool*.
- Identify potential sites for wetlands, dams or detention bunds. Use TLC's Water Runoff Mapping Tool*.
- Connect with local advisors* for tailored advice and potential funding opportunities.
- Commit to TLC's THR3E: three practical steps you can implement on your farm over the next three years.

*** The TLC Toolbox and the full catchment report are now available on the TLC website www.tukitukilandcare.org**