

7 Ruamāhanga Whaitua

Minimum flows, minimum water levels and **core allocation** referred to in the Plan are interim to the extent that they will be reviewed by **whaitua** committees and may be amended by plan changes or variations following recommendations of **whaitua** committees.

7.1 Policies

In addition to policies on **minimum flows, minimum water levels** and **core allocation** that follow, policies in chapter 4 of the Plan also apply equally to **minimum flows, minimum water levels** and **core allocation** for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua.

Policy R.P1: Minimum flows and water levels in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua

Minimum flows and **minimum water levels** in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua are:

- (a) for rivers (including **tributaries**), the **minimum flows** in Table 7.1, and
- (b) for rivers not in Table 7.1, 90% of the ~~seven-day~~¹ **mean annual low flow**, and
- (c) for Lake Wairarapa, the **minimum water level** in Table 7.2, and
- (d) for **natural lakes** (other than Lake Wairarapa), existing **minimum water levels**.

Policy R.P2: Core allocation in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua

The maximum amount of water available for allocation from rivers (including **tributaries**), Lake Wairarapa (including **tributaries**), and groundwater in the Ruamāhanga River catchment, above the Lake Wairarapa outflow, and in the Lake Wairarapa catchment, at the time an application is made for resource consent to take and use water, shall not exceed whichever is the greater of:

- (a) the total amount allocated by resource consents, or
- (b) the allocation amounts identified in Tables 7.3-7.5,

except for the taking and use of water identified in Policy P117 at flows above the **median flow**.

Policy R.P3: Cumulative effects on river reaches of allocating water

When allocating river water or ~~water directly connected~~ (Category A) groundwater and high-connection ~~(Category B) groundwater (stream depletion)~~², regard shall be given to cumulative adverse effects on aquatic

¹ Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.3

² Final Joint Witness Statement -Table 4.1, Reclassification Schedule and Allocation amounts, 30 November 2017

ecosystems in downstream river reaches as a result of flow depletion from loss of river water to groundwater.

7.2 Rules

~~In addition to rules for the take and use of water that follow, rules in Chapter 5 of the Plan also apply equally to rules for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua. If an activity is covered by more than one rule, then the rule that applies is the rule that is more specific for the relevant activity, area or resource, rather than a more general rule.³ This does not apply w~~Where a proposal includes a number of activities which trigger separate specific rules, ~~in that case, all of the relevant rules are considered when assessing the proposal. An activity needs to comply with all relevant rules in the Plan, including those in Chapter 5.⁴~~

Rule R.R1: Take and use of water in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua – restricted discretionary activity

The take and use of water from any river (including **tributaries**), Lake Wairarapa (including **tributaries**), and groundwater in the Ruamāhanga River catchment above the Lake Wairarapa outflow, and in the Lake Wairarapa catchment, that is not provided for in Rules R136, R137, R138, R139, R140, R140A, or R141⁵ is a restricted discretionary activity provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) the take and use shall not occur below the **minimum flows or water levels** in Table 7.1 or 7.2, except that this condition does not apply to:
 - (i) water for the **health needs of people** as part of a **group drinking water supply** or **community drinking water supply** or water for rootstock protection, and
 - (ii) water used by industry from a **community drinking water supply** for a period of seven years from the date of public notification of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (31.07.2015), and
 - (iii) taking groundwater, and
 - (iv) **water races for the purpose of supplying water for the health needs of people and animal drinking water, and⁶**
- (b) in any **catchment management unit** and **catchment management sub-unit** in Tables 7.3-7.5, the amount of water taken and used, in addition to all **existing resource consents**, does not exceed whichever is the greater of:
 - (i) the maximum amount allocated by resource consents at the date the consent application is lodged, or
 - (ii) the allocation amounts in Tables 7.3-7.5,

³ RoR Report: Water Quality, issue 10.1

⁴ s42A report: Overall policy framework of the proposed Plan – Part B, Issue 1.3

⁵ Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.6

⁶ Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.3

except that this condition does not apply to the take and use of water at river flows above the **median flow**, and

- (c) at flows above **median flow**:
- (i) the frequency of **flushing flows** that exceed three times the **median flow** of the river is not changed, and
 - ~~(ii) no more than 50% of the river flow above the **median flow** remains in the river is taken for rivers with mean flows greater than 5m³/sec,~~
For rivers (and their **tributaries**) listed in Table 1 of Schedule V no more than 50% of the portion of flow in the river above the **median flow** is taken at the point of abstraction, or
 - ~~(iii) no more than 10% of the total river flow is taken for rivers with mean flows of less than or equal to 5m³/sec.~~
For rivers (and their **tributaries**) listed in Table 2 of Schedule V no more than 10% of the total amount of flow in the river is taken at the point of abstraction
 - (iv) For rivers (and their **tributaries**) not listed in either Table 1 or 2 of Schedule V no more than 10% of the total amount of flow in the river at the point of abstraction.⁷

Matters for discretion

1. The reasonable and efficient use of water, including the criteria in Schedule Q (efficient use)
2. The timing, amount, and rate of taking of water; including instantaneous (L/sec), daily (m³/day), and seasonal requirements and duration and timing of peak daily take rate
3. For **group drinking water supplies** or **community drinking water supplies**, the amount and rate of water taken and used for the **health needs of people**
4. Reduction in the rate of take from surface water and **groundwater directly connected to surface water direct connection** (~~Category A~~) **groundwater and high connection** (~~Category B~~) **groundwater**⁹ at times of low flow and restrictions when rivers approach or fall below the **minimum flows or water level**¹⁰, including the guideline for stepdown allocation and flows in Schedule R (stepdown guideline)

⁷ Right of Reply: Water allocation Section 7.11

⁸ Final Joint Witness Statement -Table 4.1, Reclassification Schedule and Allocation amounts, 30 November 2017

⁹ Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.2

¹⁰Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.3

5. Effects due to local flow or water level depletion on wetlands, springs, or downstream river reaches in the same **catchment management sub-unit**
6. Interference effects on existing lawful water takes
7. Prevention of salt water intrusion into the **aquifer**, or landward movement of the salt water/fresh water interface
8. For a take and use from groundwater, the degree of connectivity and category according to Table 4.1 in category B groundwater (directly connected) or category B groundwater (not directly connected)¹¹
9. Preventing fish from entering water intakes
10. Measuring and reporting, including the guideline in Schedule S (measuring takes)

Rule R.R2: Taking and using water – discretionary activity

The take and use of water that is not provided for in Rules R136, R137, R138, R139, R140, 140A or R141¹² in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua from:

- (a) any river not in the Ruamāhanga River catchment, or
- (b) any river (or river reach) downstream of the confluence of the Ruamāhanga River and the Lake Wairarapa outflow, or
- (c) any lake other than Lake Wairarapa that is upstream of any river in the Ruamāhanga River catchment, or
- (d) any river at flows above the **median flow** that does not meet condition (c) of Rule R.R1

is a discretionary activity.

Rule R.R3: Taking and use of water that exceeds minimum flows, lake levels or core allocation – prohibited activity

The take and use of water from any river (including **tributaries**), Lake Wairarapa (including **tributaries**), or groundwater in Tables 7.3-7.5 in the Ruamāhanga River catchment that does not meet conditions (a) or (b) of Rule R.R1 is a prohibited activity.

Table 7.1: Minimum flows for rivers in the Ruamāhanga River and Lake Wairarapa catchments

River (shown in Figure 7.1)	Management point	Minimum flow (L/s)
Kopuaranga River upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River	Palmers	270

¹¹ Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.2

¹² Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.6

River (shown in Figure 7.1)		Management point	Minimum flow (L/s)
Waipoua River upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River		Mikimiki Bridge	250
Waingawa River upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River		Kaituna	1,100
Parkvale Stream upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River		Renalls Weir recorder	100
Mangatarere Stream	upstream of Belvedere Road Bridge	Gorge recorder	240
	Between the confluence with the Waiohine River and the Belvedere Road Bridge	Gorge recorder	200
Waiohine River upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River		Gorge recorder	2,300
Papawai Stream upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River		Fabians Road recorder	180
Upper and Middle Ruamāhanga River upstream of the confluence with the Waiohine River		Wardells	2,400
Otukura Stream upstream of the confluence with Dock/Stonestead Creek		Weir recorder	95
Tauherenikau River upstream of Lake Wairarapa		Gorge recorder	1,100
Lower Ruamāhanga River between the boundary with the coastal marine area and the Waiohine River confluence		Waihenga recorder	8,500

Table 7.2: Minimum lake levels and minimum water levels for Lake Wairarapa

Time period	Minimum lake levels at Burlings recorder	Minimum water levels
1 December to 29 February	10.15m	For the purpose of allocating water, minimum water levels in Lake Wairarapa shall be determined by: (i) minimum lake levels, and (ii) the minimum flow for the Tauherenikau River in Table 7.1, and (iii) no net decline in lake level over the preceding five days.
1 March to 31 May	10.00m	
1 June to 30 September	9.95m	
1 October to 30 November	10.00m	

Table 7.3: Surface water allocation amounts for rivers and ~~direct connection (category A) groundwater and high connection (category B) groundwater directly connected to surface water~~¹³ in the Ruamāhanga River catchment above the Lake Wairarapa outflow

Catchment management unit ¹⁴	Allocation amount ¹⁵ (L/s)
Ruamāhanga River and tributaries , upstream of (but not including) the confluence with the Lake Wairarapa outflow, and all direct connection (category A groundwater) and high connection (category B groundwater (stream depletion))¹⁶ (directly connected) identified in the catchment management sub-units below in Table 7.3	7,535-7,430 ¹⁷
Catchment management sub-units in the upper Ruamāhanga catchment ¹ (shown in Figures 7.2 and 7.3)	Allocation amount ² (L/s)
Kopuaranga River and tributaries , direct connection (category A groundwater) and high connection (Upper Ruamahanga¹⁸ category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	180
Waipoua River and tributaries , direct connection (category A groundwater) and high connection (Upper Ruamahanga or Waingawa¹⁹ category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	145
Waingawa River and tributaries , direct connection (Waingawa category A groundwater) and high connection (Taratahi or Waingawa category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	920
Ruamāhanga River and tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Waingawa River, direct connection (Upper Ruamahanga category A groundwater) and high connection (Waingawa, Te Ore Ore or Upper Ruamahanga category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected) , excluding all the above catchment management sub-units in the Ruamāhanga catchment (above this row in Table 7.3)	1,200
Catchment management sub-units in the middle Ruamāhanga catchment ¹ (shown in Figures 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7)	Allocation amount ² (L/s)
Parkvale Stream and tributaries , and high connection (Taratahi or Parkvale category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	40
Booths Creek and tributaries and high connection (Parkvale, Mangatarere or Taratahi category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	25
Mangatarere Stream and tributaries , direct connection (Mangatarere category A groundwater) and high connection (Mangatarere category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	110

¹³ Section 42A Water allocation Issue 2.1

¹⁴ When assessing **surface water allocation**, both the relevant **catchment management unit** and **catchment management sub-unit** must be considered

¹⁵ This **allocation amount** has been derived as a default based upon one of two rules; for rivers with a mean flow of greater than 5,000 litres/sec, the **allocation limit** is equal to 50% of the natural seven-day **mean annual low flow (7d MALF)** and for rivers with a mean flow of less than 5,000 litres/sec, the **allocation limit** is equal to 30% of the 7d MALF.

¹⁶ Final Joint Witness Statement - Table 4.1, Reclassification Schedule and Allocation amounts, 30 November 2017

¹⁷ Final Joint Witness Statement - Table 4.1, Reclassification Schedule and Allocation amounts, 30 November 2017

¹⁸ Section 42A Water allocation Issue 2.4

¹⁹ Section 42A Water allocation Issue 2.4

Waiohine River and tributaries (excluding Mangatarere Stream and tributaries) direct connection (Waiohine category A groundwater) and high connection (Mangatarere category B groundwater (stream depletion)).	1,590
Papawai Stream and tributaries and direct connection (Waiohine category A groundwater)	65 105 ²⁰
Ruamāhanga River and tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Papawai Stream, and direct connection (Middle Ruamahanga category A groundwater) excluding all the above catchment management sub-units in the Ruamāhanga catchment (above this row in Table 7.3)	1,240
Catchment management sub-units in the lower Ruamāhanga catchment¹ (shown in Figure 7.8 and 7.9)	Allocation amount² (L/s)
Huangarua River and tributaries and direct connection (Huangarua category A groundwater) and high connection (Huangarua category B groundwater (stream depletion))	110
Lower Ruamāhanga River and tributaries upstream of (but not including) the confluence with the Lake Wairarapa outflow, and direct connection (Lower Ruamahanga category A groundwater) and high connection (Lake category B groundwater (stream depletion)) excluding all the above catchment management sub-units in the Ruamāhanga catchment (above this row in Table 7.3)	4,475 1,370 ²¹

Table 7.4: Surface water allocation amounts for rivers, Lake Wairarapa and **direct connection (~~category A~~) **groundwater and high connection** (~~category B~~) (~~stream depletion~~) **groundwater directly connected to surface water**²² in the Lake Wairarapa catchment**

Catchment management unit²³ (shown in Figures 7.8 and 7.9)	Allocation amount²⁴ (L/s)
Lake Wairarapa and tributaries above the confluence of the Lake Wairarapa outflow with the Ruamāhanga River, and direct connection (Tauherenikau²⁵ category A groundwater) and high connection (Lake or Tauherenikau category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	1,800
Catchment management sub-units³ (shown in Figures 7.8 and 7.9)	Allocation amount⁴ (L/s)
Otukura Stream and tributaries above (but not including) the confluence with Dock/Stonestead Creek and high connection (Tauherenikau category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	30
Tauherenikau River and tributaries , and direct connection (Tauherenikau category A groundwater) and high connection (Tauherenikau category B groundwater (stream depletion)) (directly connected)	410

²⁰ Section 42A report: Water allocation Issue 2.4

²¹ Final Joint Witness Statement - Table 4.1, Reclassification Schedule and Allocation amounts, 30 November 2017

²² Section 42A Water allocation Issue 2.1

²³ When assessing **surface water allocation**, both the relevant catchment management–unit and catchment management sub-unit must be considered

²⁴ This **allocation amount** has been derived as a default based upon one of two rules; for rivers with a mean flow of greater than 5,000 litres/sec, the **allocation limit** is equal to 50% of the natural 7d **MALF** and for rivers with a mean flow of less than 5,000 litres/sec, the **allocation limit** is equal to 30% of the 7d **MALF**.

²⁵ Section 42A Water allocation Issue 2.4

Note: Where ~~high-connection~~ category B groundwater is referred to in ~~the~~ table 7.3, the calculated stream depletion effect (described in Table 4.1) is included in the surface water allocation for the relevant ~~sub~~ catchment management ~~sub~~ unit, while the remainder is included in the groundwater allocation the relevant ~~sub~~ catchment management ~~sub~~ unit.

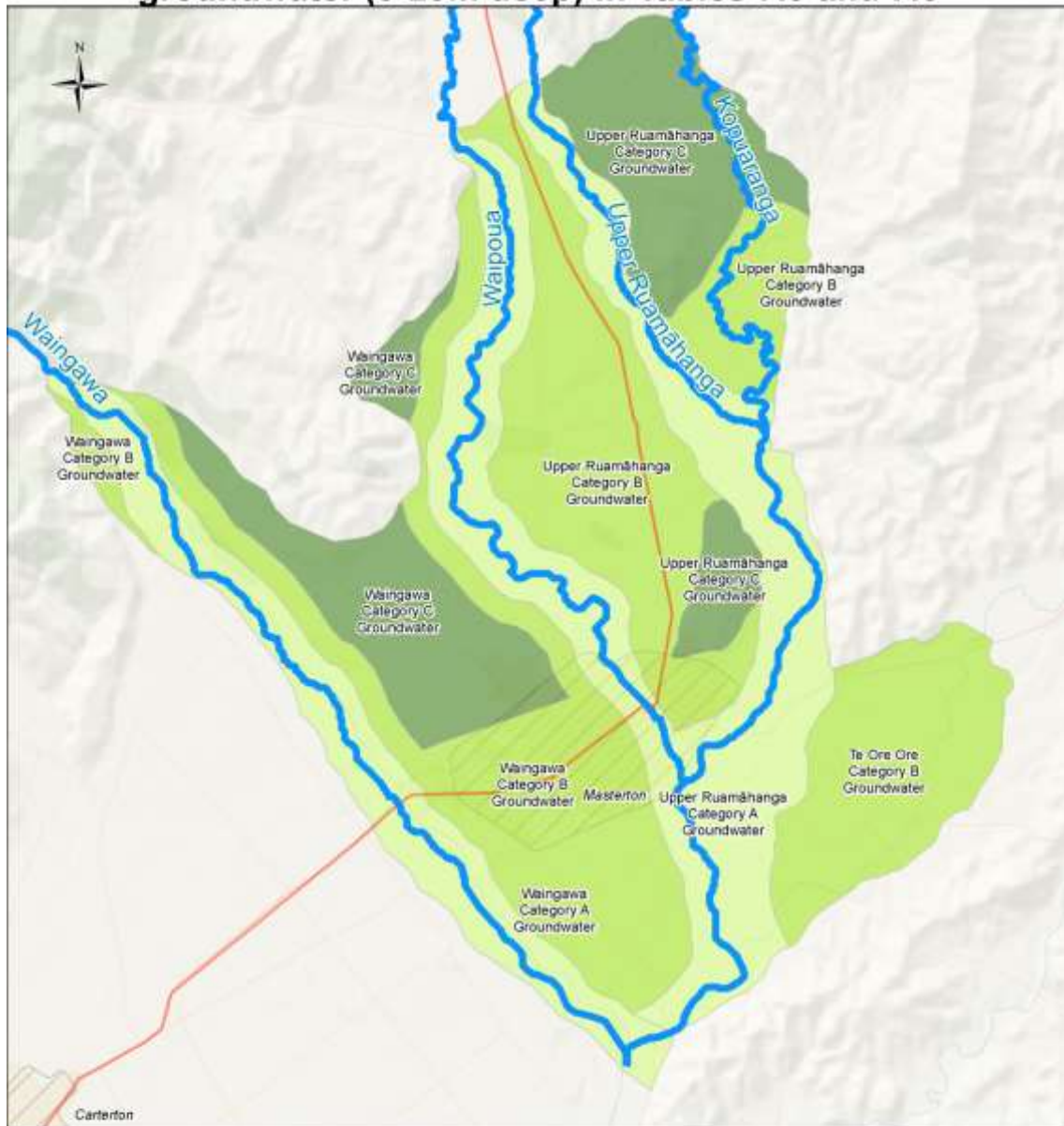
Table 7.5: Groundwater allocation amounts for ~~moderate connection (category B)~~ groundwater and limited connection (category C) groundwater not directly connected to surface water²⁶ in the Ruamāhanga River catchment

Upper Ruamāhanga catchment management sub-units ³ (shown in Figures 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4)	Allocation amount (m ³ /year)
Moderate connection (Te Ore Ore category B) groundwater (not directly connected)	480,000
Moderate connection (Waingawa category B) groundwater (not directly connected) and Limited connection (Waingawa category C) groundwater	1,900,000
Moderate connection (Ruamāhanga category B) groundwater (not directly connected) and Limited connection (Ruamāhanga category C) groundwater	3,550,000
Middle Ruamāhanga catchment management sub-units ³ (shown in Figures 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7)	Allocation amount (m ³ /year)
Limited connection (Fernhill-Tiffen category C) groundwater (not directly connected)	1,200,000
Moderate connection (Taratahi category B) groundwater (not directly connected) and Limited connection (Taratahi category C) groundwater	1,400,000
Moderate connection (Parkvale category B) groundwater (not directly connected) and Limited connection (Parkvale category C) groundwater	350,000 [unconfined] 1,550,000 [confined]
Moderate connection (Mangatarere category B) groundwater (not directly connected) and Limited connection (Mangatarere category C) groundwater	2,300,000
Lower Ruamāhanga catchment management sub-units ³ (shown in Figures 7.8 and 7.9)	Allocation amount (m ³ /year)
Moderate connection (Tauherenikau category B) groundwater (not directly connected)	6,600,000
<u>Lower Ruamāhanga Category B groundwater</u>	<u>3,300,000²⁷</u>
Moderate connection (Lake Category B) groundwater (not directly connected) and Limited connection (Lake Category C) groundwater	6,750,000
Moderate connection (Huangarua Category B) groundwater (not directly connected)	650,000
Limited connection (Martinborough Category C) groundwater	800,000
Moderate connection (Dry River Category B) groundwater (not directly connected)	650,000
Limited connection (Onoke Category C) groundwater	2,100,000

²⁶ Section 42A Water allocation Issue 2.1

²⁷ Final Joint Witness Statement -Table 4.1, Reclassification Schedule and Allocation amounts, 30 November 2017

Figure 7.2: Upper Ruamāhanga catchment - rivers and groundwater (0-20m deep) in Tables 7.3 and 7.5

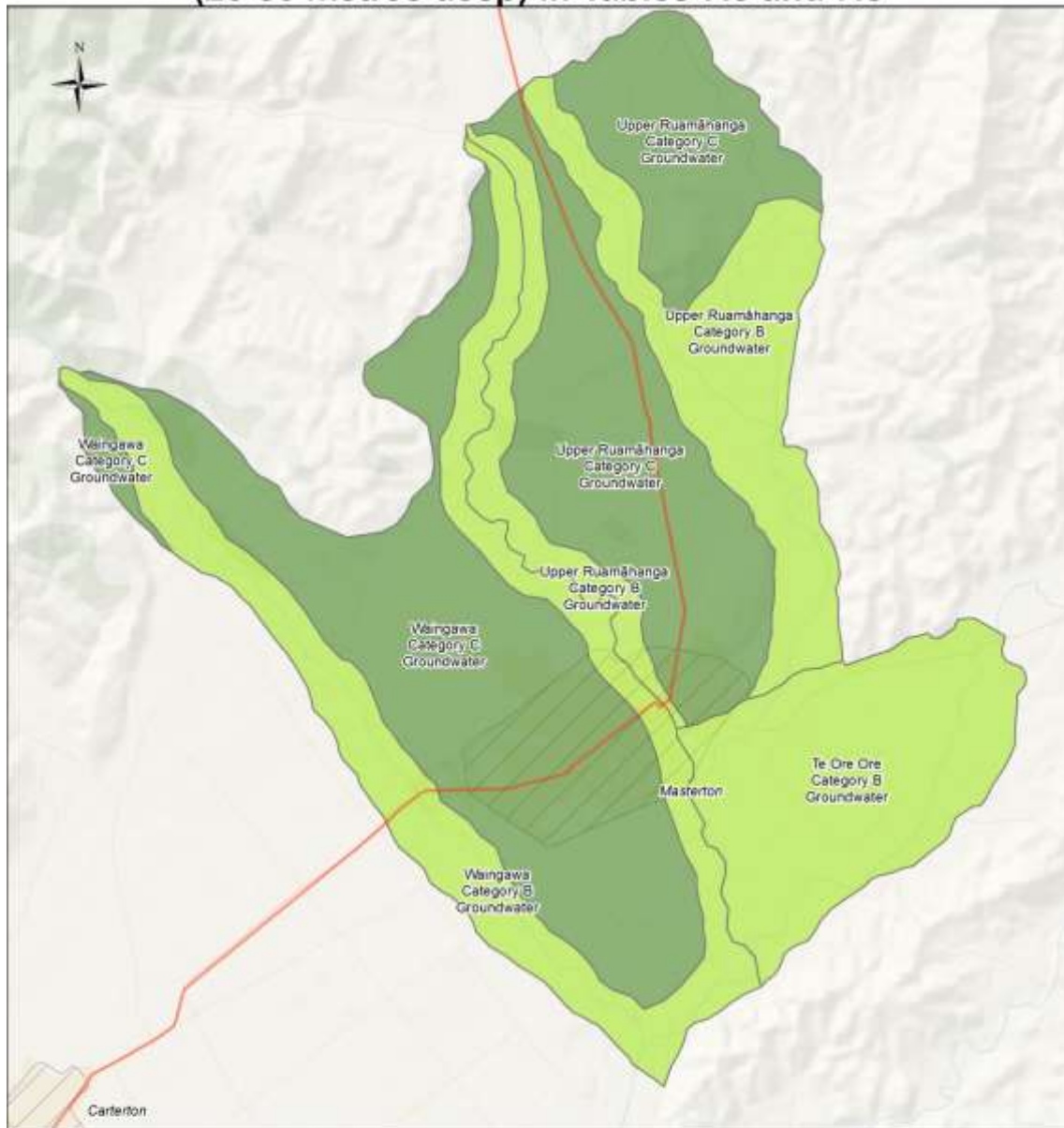


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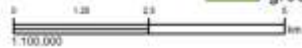
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Figure 7.3: Upper Ruamāhanga - groundwater (20-30 metres deep) in Tables 7.3 and 7.5



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- State Highway
- ▨ Urban Areas
- Category A groundwater
- Category B groundwater
- Category C groundwater

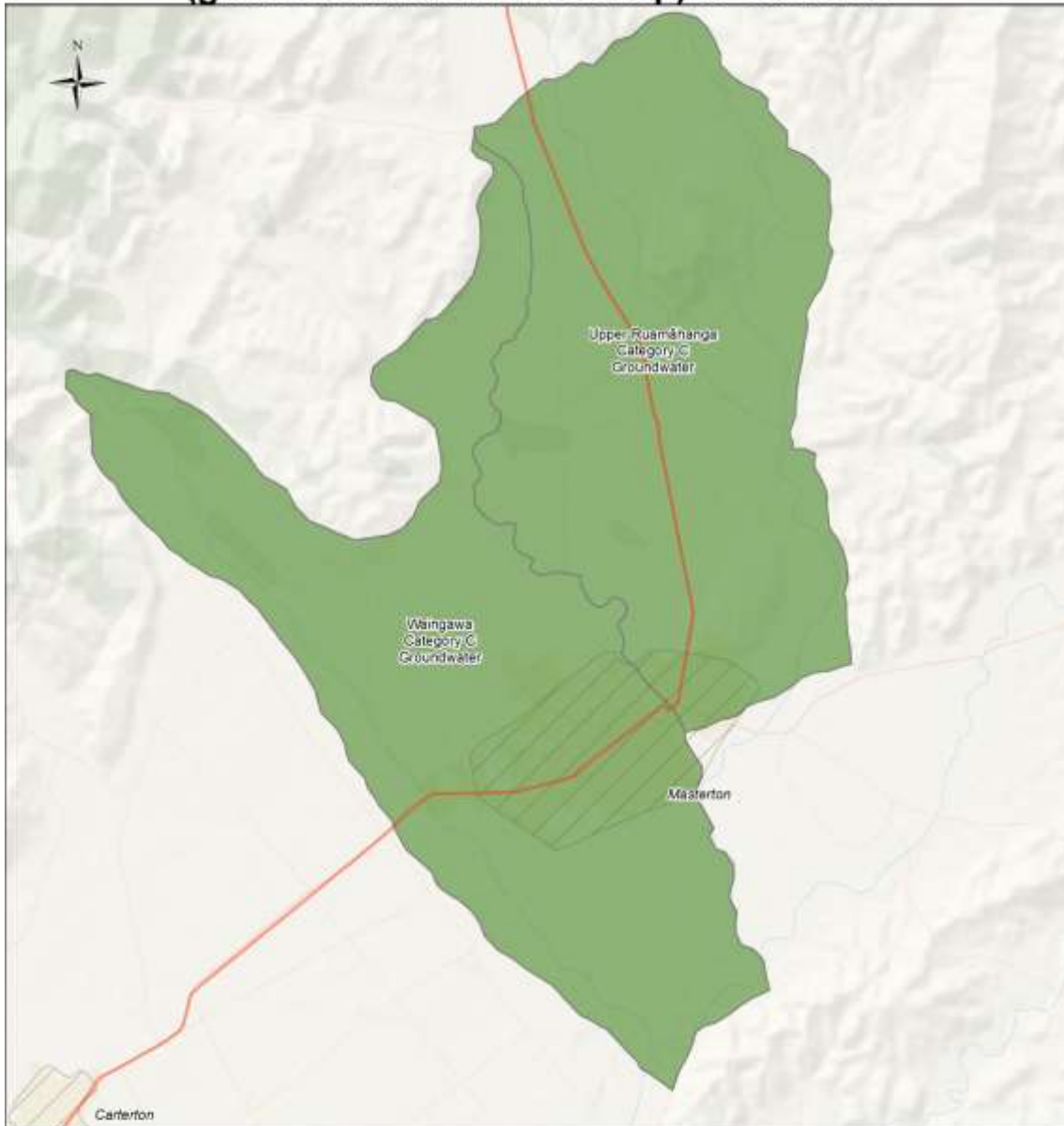


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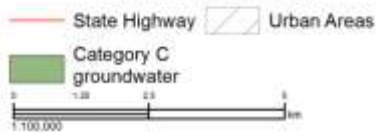


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Figure 7.4: Upper Ruamāhanga catchment - groundwater (greater than 30 metres deep) in Table 7.5



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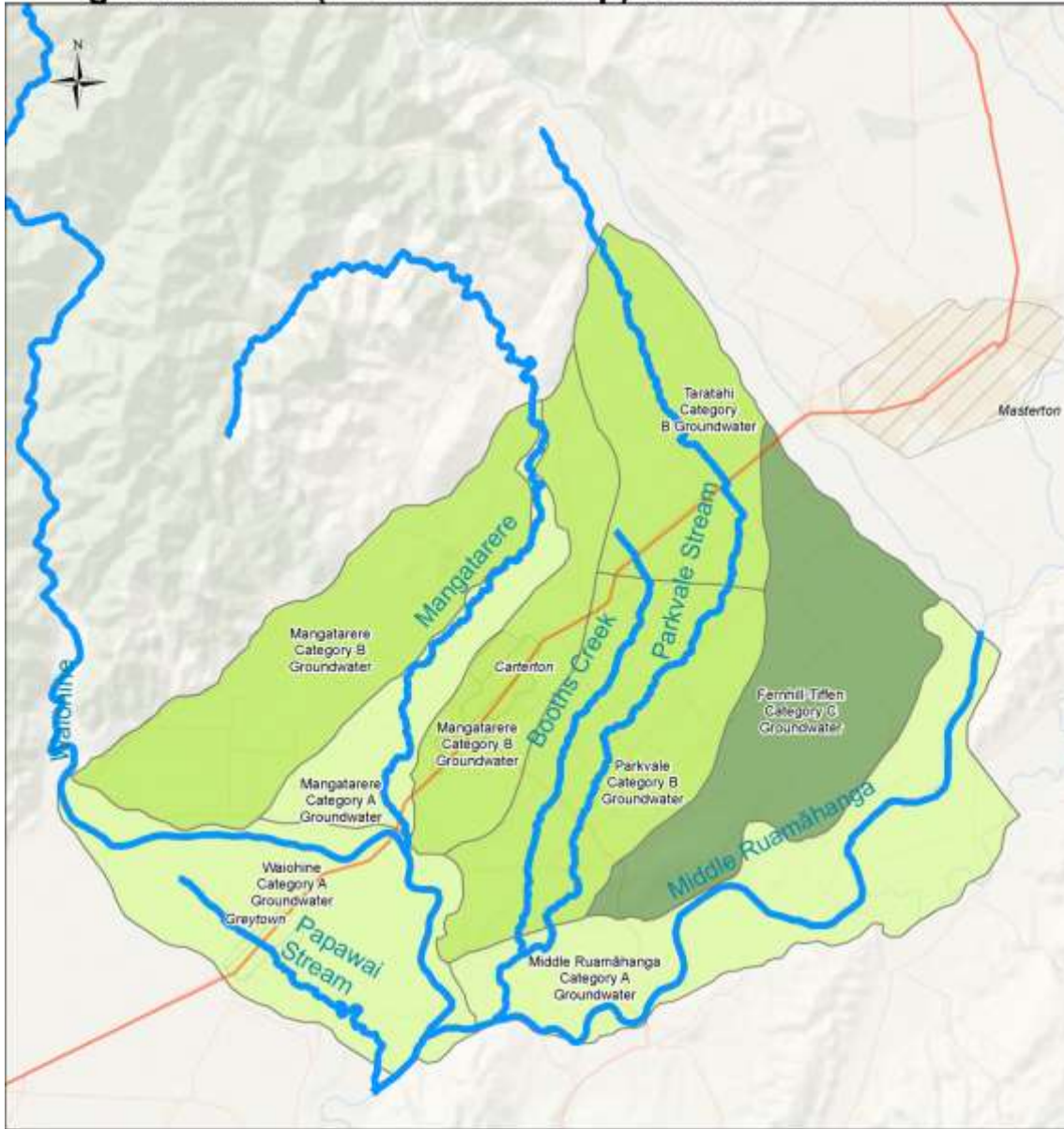


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Figure 7.5: Middle Ruamāhanga catchment - rivers and groundwater (0-20 metres deep) in Tables 7.3 and 7.5



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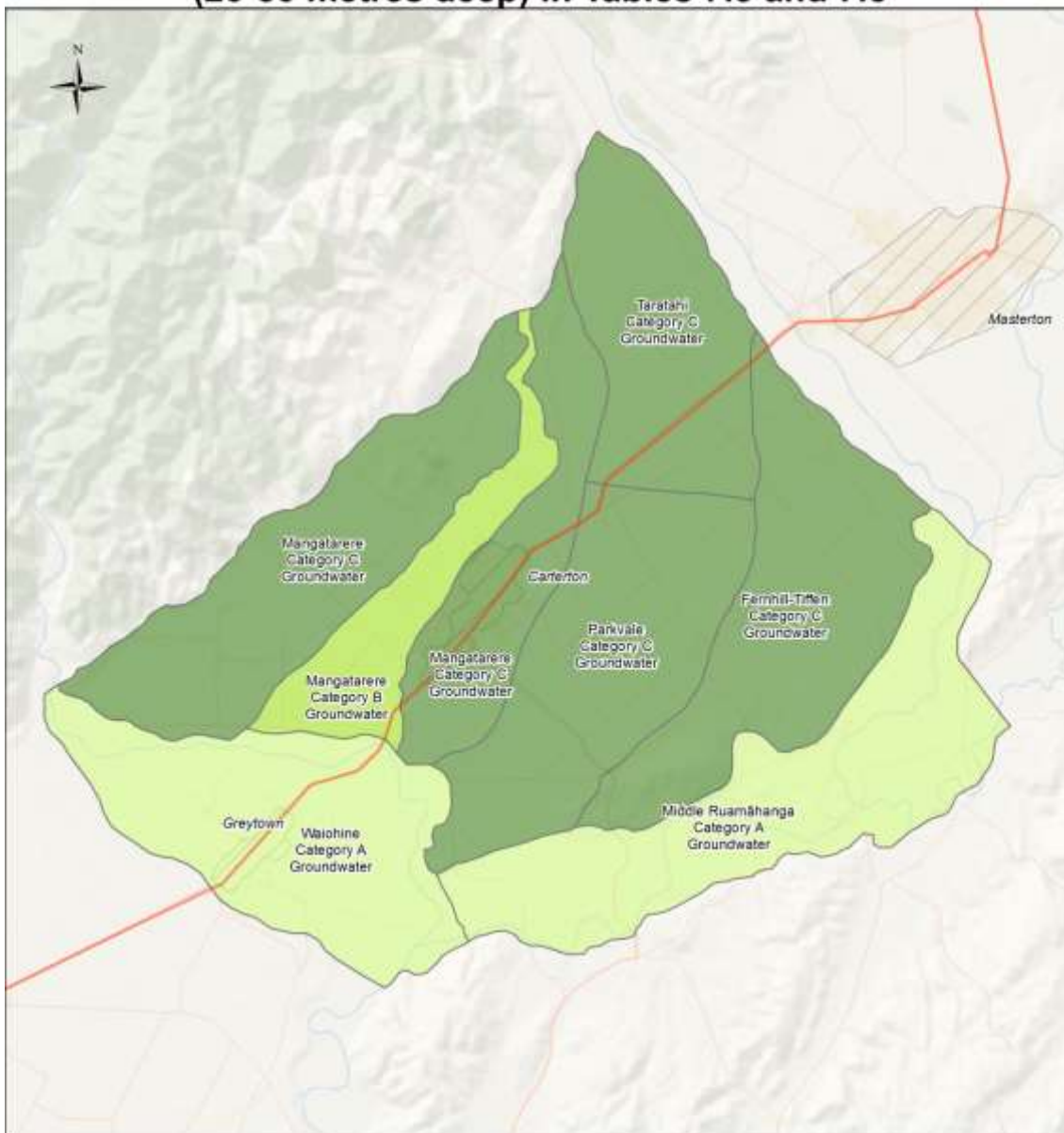


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Figure 7.6: Middle Ruamāhanga - groundwater (20-30 metres deep) in Tables 7.3 and 7.5



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- State Highway
- ▨ Urban Area
- Category A groundwater
- Category B groundwater
- Category C groundwater

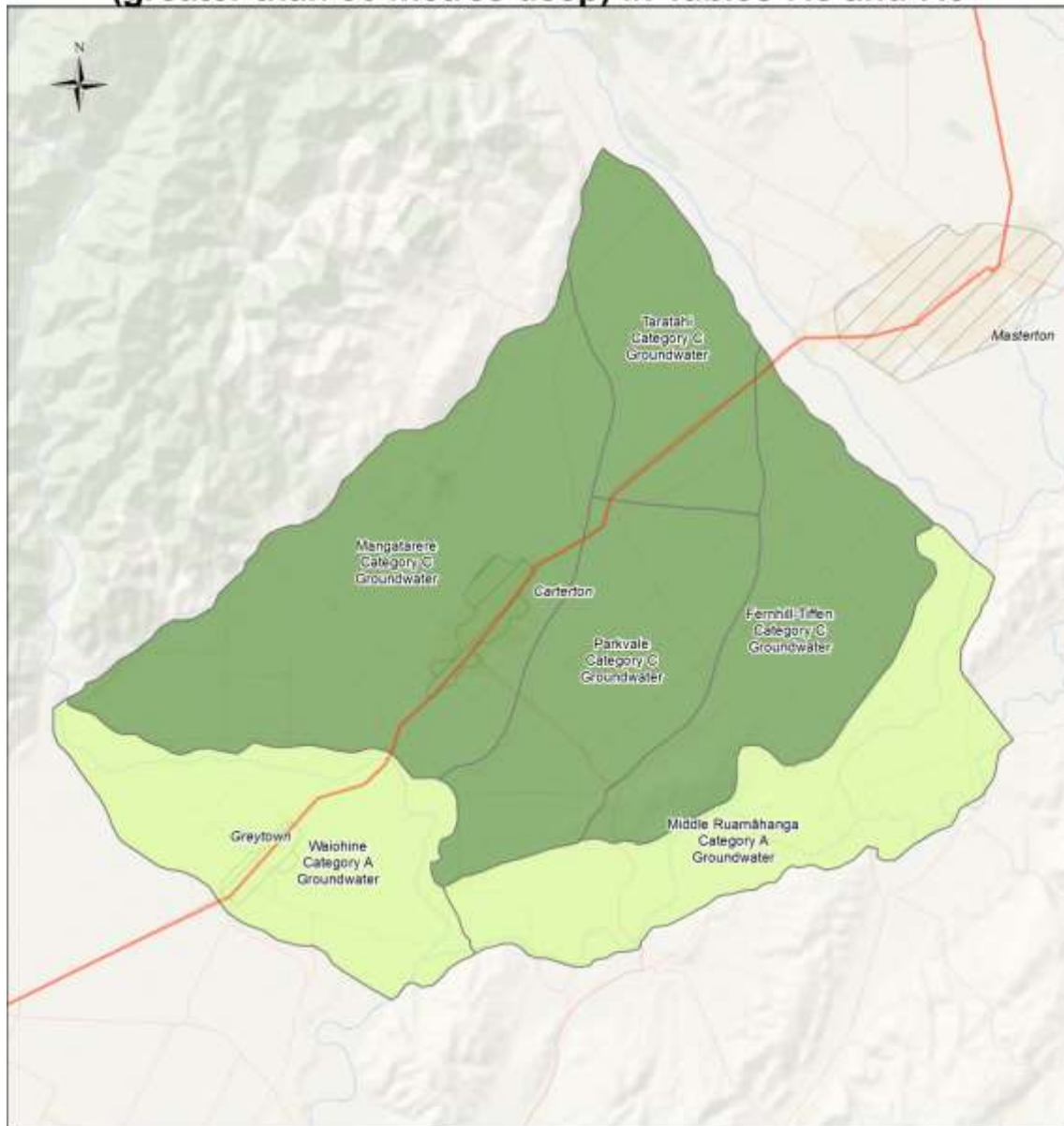


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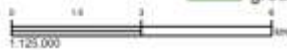
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Figure 7.7: Middle Ruamāhanga catchment - groundwater (greater than 30 metres deep) in Tables 7.3 and 7.5



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-  State Highway
-  Urban Area
-  Category A groundwater
-  Category C groundwater

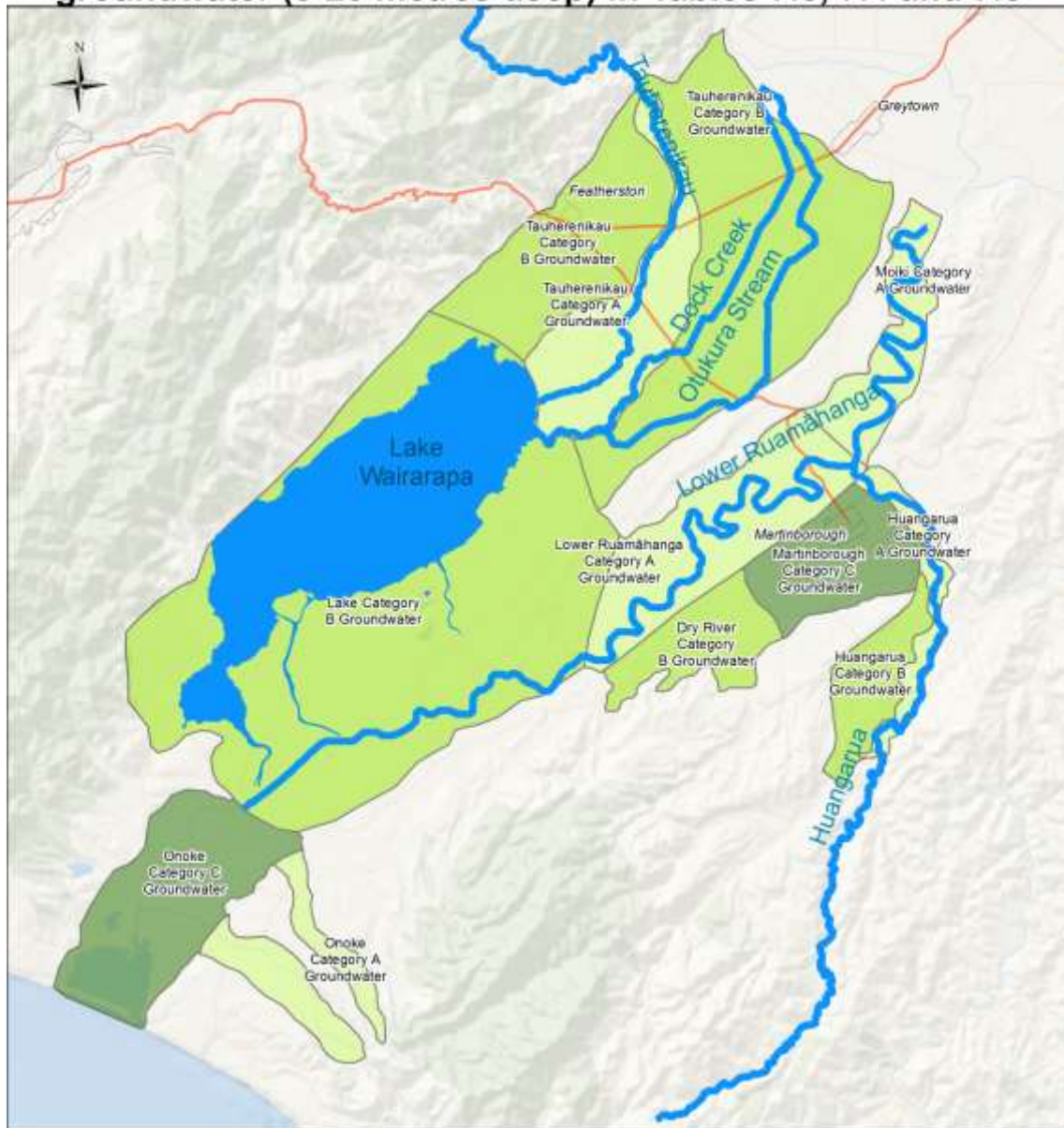


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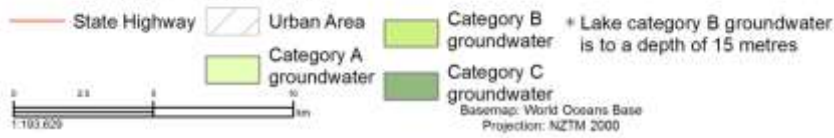


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Figure 7.8: Lower Ruamahānga - rivers and groundwater (0-20 metres deep) in Tables 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5

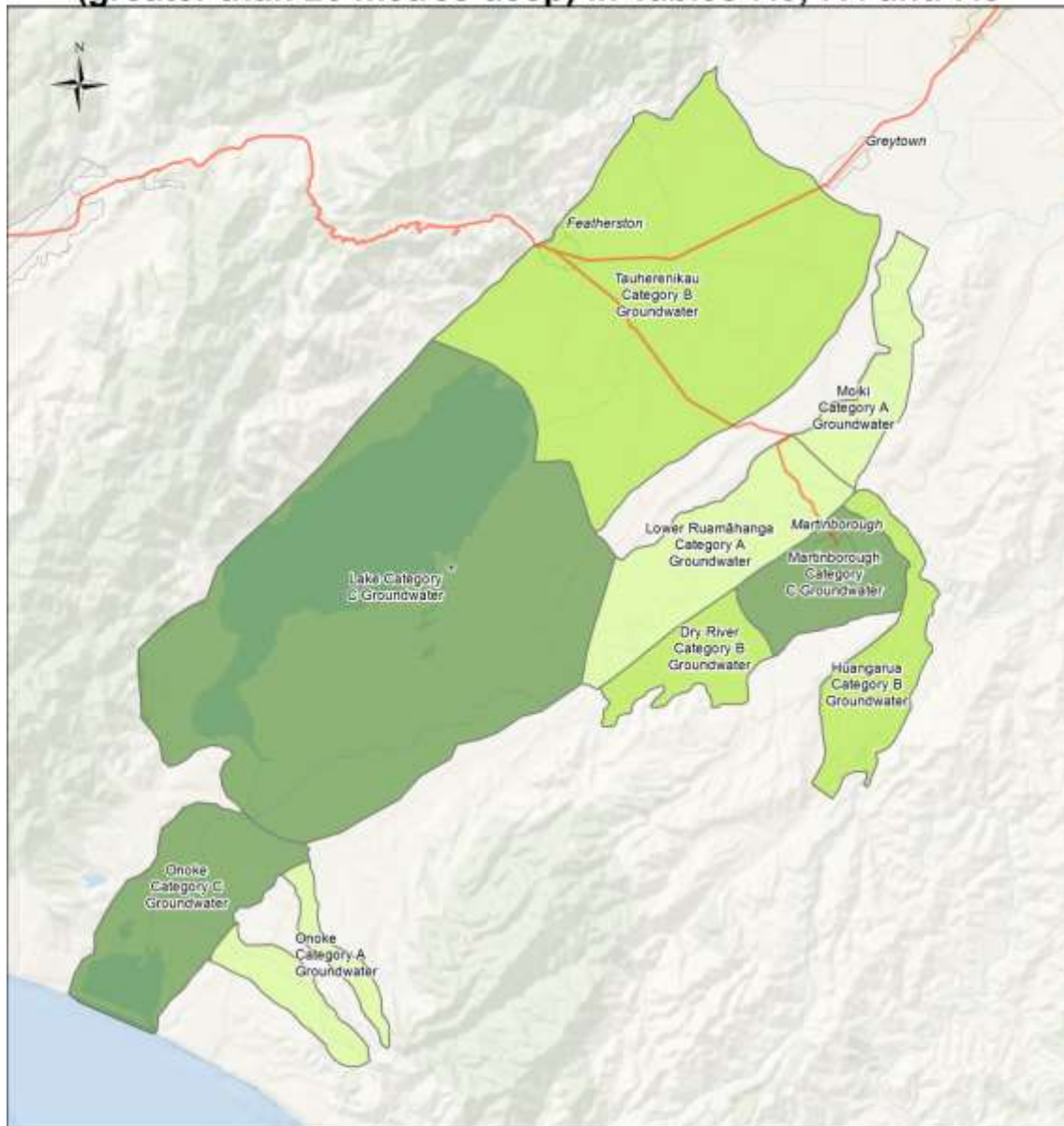


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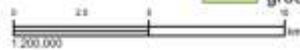
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Figure 7.9: Lower Ruamāhanga catchment - groundwater (greater than 20 metres deep) in Tables 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5



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- State Highway
- ▨ Urban Area
- Category A groundwater
- Category B groundwater
- Category C groundwater
- + Lake category C groundwater is from a depth of 15 metres



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