

# HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR WATERWAY?

Assess the following health indicators and add your scores to rate the overall health of the awa.

## KŪKŪPANGO

What is the riverbed like?

- Lots of stones **3**
- Mostly gravel **2**
- Muddy and sandy **1**

## TE RONGO O TE WAI

What does it smell like?

- No smell **3**
- A bit of a smell **2**
- A strong smell **1**

## TOHU O TE TANGATA

Are there signs of human impact?

- No signs of human impact **3**
- Minor signs of human impact **2**
- Destructive signs of human impact **1**

## TE TĀHEKE O TE WAI

Are there a variety of water flows?

- Yes - pools, runs and riffles **3**
- Some - two of three present **2**
- No - one type of water flow **1**

## PŪKOHU WAI

Is there much algae?

- A thin film with short strands **3**
- A medium film or mat **2**
- A thick film with long strands **1**

## NGĀ RAKAU

What is the tree cover like?

- Lots of tree cover **3**
- Some tree cover **2**
- No tree cover **1**

14 - 18 Fair/Excellent

10 - 14 OK

6 - 10 Very poor/Poor

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

is in

health

name of awa

insert health rating

because

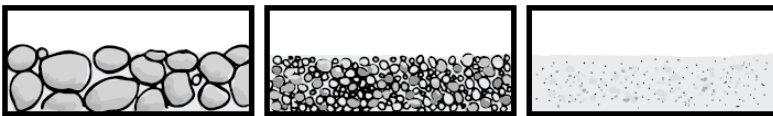
# A HEALTHY WATERWAY WILL HAVE...

Use this information to help complete the assessment over the page.

There are a variety of different signs that a waterway is healthy. These include:

## A stony stream bed

A stony stream bed provides freshwater fish and aquatic invertebrates with places to live on and in between the stones. Sediment from soil erosion (eg, as a result of deforestation, earthworks or storms) in the catchment can cover the stones and degrade the habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates.



## Short strands of algae

Algae grows on stones and is a source of food for aquatic invertebrates. But, when the waterway is out of balance and lacking the positive signs for a healthy waterway in this list, algae can grow longer and thicker and invertebrates can no longer eat it.



## A variety of pools, runs and riffles

A variety of water flows provide different of habitat for aquatic animals.

- Pool: slow flowing, deep water, often on the outside bend of a stream.
- Riffle: fast flowing, shallow water.
- Run: a smooth, unbroken flow of water that connects pools and riffles.

## Shade from trees

Shade from trees reduces temperature extremes, limits light and keeps water cooler to help limit algal growth, and provides falling leaves and insects as a year round supply of food for aquatic animals.



## No signs of human impact

- The way we use land in and around waterways has a direct effect on the water and the animals who live there, such as storm water pipes or grazing animals, culverts and weirs and concreted stream beds.



## No obvious smell

A pungent smell can indicate possible contamination from sediment, rubbish, animal faeces, sewerage or other contaminants.



# KUPU HOU

**Here is a glossary of words in te reo Māori and technical terms that are used in this resource.**

## **Te reo Māori**

Awa	River, stream or creek
Reo	Voice, language
Wai	Water
Taonga	Treasure
Tamariki	Children
Whakataukī	Proverb
Wānanga	Discuss, consider
Titiro	Observe
Whakataū	Conclude
Ki te hoe	Take action
Kūkūpango	Riverbed
Tākere	Water flow
Rongo	Smell
Pūkōhu	Algae
Tohu	Sign
Rakau	Tree

## **Technical terms**

Aquatic invertebrates	Animals without a backbone that live beneath the surface of the water or its surface. For example: crayfish, clams, snails and insects.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal
Culverts	A drain or channel crossing under a road or sidewalk
Weirs	A small dam in a river or stream

Credit: Ngā mihi to Greater Wellington Regional Council for allowing us to use the graphics from their stream health assessment guide in the information sheet.

