



Waitakere Ranges Water Supply Catchments

Figure 10: Water Catchments

5.8 Ecology of Waitakere's Rural Areas

Golder Associates, October 2007 (Figure 11)

The Golder Associates Report provides an ecological assessment of the rural areas in Waitakere City. The approach used was to divide the rural areas into ecological units for a consideration of their natural values, constraints and matters associated with privately owned land in the Heritage Area.

Of particular interest are the Oratia Headwaters and Oratia Structure Plan units. These units are described below;

Oratia Headwaters

The Oratia Headwaters Ecological Unit is located on the boundary between Waitakere and Tamaki Ecological Districts. It encompasses the forested upper reaches of the Oratia Stream catchment, including Potter Stream, Bendall Creek and Cantys Stream. Boundaries of this Ecological Unit are delineated by Forest Hill Road to the north and west, Kellys Road and Parker Road to the north and east, and Scenic Drive to the south. This ecological unit also includes a small 'outlier' area of residential development along Quinns Road to the west of Scenic Drive. Topography is rolling to steep, and dissected by numerous watercourses. While most of the catchment is forested, with bush living residential development in a 'ribbon-like' pattern along the roads.

Oratia Structure Plan

The Oratia Structure Plan Ecological Unit encompasses the existing Oratia Structure Plan area, within the Tamaki Ecological District. Topography within this ecological unit is undulating, with short, steep slopes around catchment headwaters. The catchment is intersected with numerous watercourses including Allen Swamp, Malam Gully, Cochrane, Cantwell, Sundae, Cable, Kaurimu and Sharpe Streams. Small holding subdivision for lifestyle purposes is replacing orcharding as the predominant land use.

The ecological characteristics of the area such as its vegetation type and fauna habitat, spatial context, and ecological 'health' issues such as pests and weeds, and fragmentation, were useful in terms of gaining an understanding of Waiatarua. However, were not significant factors in determining the location of the boundary.