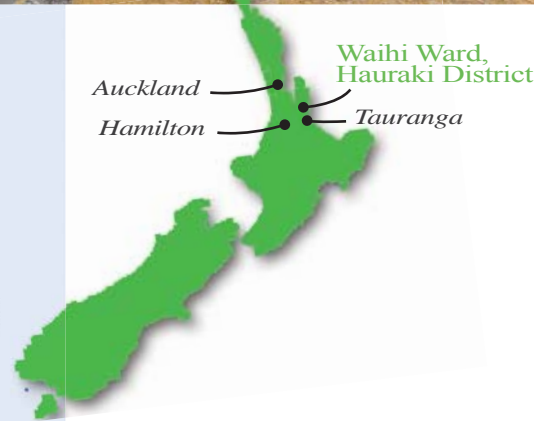


Hauraki District WAIHI

New Zealand's Heart of Gold

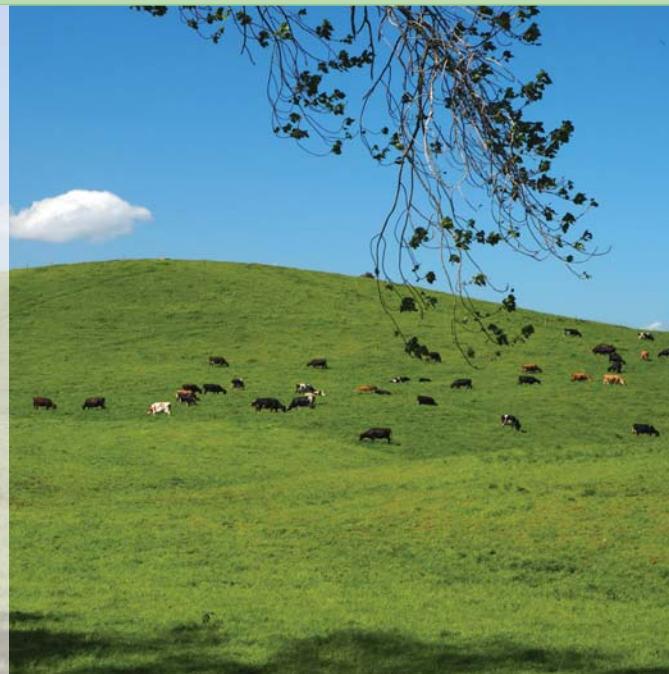


Waihi is a rural town in the Hauraki District, well positioned for business within the 'golden triangle', lying on a major transport route between the major cities of Auckland, Tauranga and Hamilton.

Waihi is a great place to live, and is close to a wide range of attractions that put local natural beauty on display with the Hauraki Rail Trail, the Karangahake Gorge as well as being close to pristine golden beaches.

Environmental features

Features that make the soils in the Waikato Region (includes Waihi) very productive and versatile are the predominantly lowland landscapes with gentle topography, the typically warm climate with mild winters and humid summers and the widespread cover of tephra.



Population

Hauraki District
19,100¹

Waihi Ward
6,660²

Waihi township
4,527¹

¹ Statistics New Zealand, (2013)
² Statistics New Zealand, (2011)

Proximity to main ports

A major business advantage of doing business in the Waihi Ward is central location to the **major international and national ports** of three cities of:

Auckland



144 km
1 hour 45 minutes



131 km
1 hour 35 minutes

Tauranga



68 km
1 hour

Hamilton



93 km
1 hour 15 minutes



Soils in Waihi

Soils in the Waihi area are predominantly of volcanic origin including Whakatane-Waihi ashes and to a lesser extent, Mayor Island/Tuhua ashes.

The prominent soils in the Waihi area are allophanic soils, due to the dominance of the mineral allophane (Al₂O).

The allophane in the soils fixes phosphate into a form only slowly available to plants meaning relatively high levels of phosphate fertiliser are needed for high dairy or crop production. However, it is the allophane that imparts the good physical properties on the soil.

The benefits of allophanic soils are that:

- they are crumbly in texture (friable), free-draining to a great depth and are easy to dig,
- due to low bulk density the soil does not have root restricting layers,
- they have a high plant available water storage capacity,
- they contain large populations of soil organisms, particularly in the A horizons (topsoil),
- they're in general moderately to strongly leached with low levels of exchangeable calcium, potassium, magnesium and sodium. The low nutrient levels mean that topdressing is necessary when using for dairy or cropping,
- they're considered to be high-value soils that have excellent physical properties for plant growth and can be used for a variety of different purposes.

Along the coast, these are ideal soils for deep-rooting subtropical plants such as kiwifruit, provided they are sheltered from salt-laden winds. Additional uses of allophanic soils are:

- Pasture (dairying, dry stock)
- Forestry on steeper slopes
- Cropping, e.g. maize, however the soil needs careful management to preserve topsoil structure.

Typical Cation Exchange Capacity Values

Rating	CEC (me/100g)	Comment
Low	5 - 12	Soil very low in organic matter. Typical of sandy soils.
Medium	12 - 25	Pumice soils often in the range 12-18; lower fertility mineral soils in the range 15-25.
High	25 - 40	High fertility soils may be in the range 25-35. Also may have high clay content.
Very High	40 +	Values typically found in peat soils. Consolidated peats typically in range 40-65; raw peat may be as high as 100.

Source: Hill Laboratories, (2016)



Waihi Ward's climate



temperature

Average annual temperature - 14.1 °C

Warmest month - February 18.9 °C

Coldest month - July 9.2 °C



rainfall

Average annual rainfall - 2.6 m

Most precipitation - June (Ø 220 mm)

Least precipitation - January (Ø 128 mm)



frost

Average annual ground frost - 12.4 days

Average annual air frost - 3.8 days

**Air frosts occur when air temperature measured in a screen by a thermometer 1.3 m above the ground falls below 0°C. Ground frosts are recorded when the air temperature 2.5 cm above a clipped grass surface falls to -1.0°C or lower.*

Source: NIWA, (1974) and Climate-Data.org