

Lake Taupō Nitrogen Cap-and-Trade — Waikato Regional Council's Water-Quality Trading Scheme

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · New Zealand

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Facing rising nitrogen from pastoral farms, Waikato Regional Council capped and allocated tradeable nitrogen-discharge allowances across Lake Taupō's catchment, backed by an NZ\$81.5m public buyout fund. The scheme met its target: a 20% cut in nitrogen reaching the lake.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

[Waikato Regional Council / Lake Taupō Protection Trust](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

[Beehive.govt.nz — Lake Taupo Protection Trust \\$81.5m go-ahead](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

[Motu Economic and Public Policy Research working paper](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

Cite this — Evidoria. *Lake Taupō Nitrogen Cap-and-Trade — Waikato Regional Council's Water-Quality Trading Scheme*. Persistent ID: d71d84f4-a2ed-47e8-8fd4-09b18ae07047.