

Ready to get your consent to farm? Nice one!
We'll help you get started, so you can get sorted
by the **30 June 2017 deadline.**

Dear Landowner

Over the last year, Environment Canterbury has been working alongside farming industry bodies and the Selwyn community to help farmers understand how the 2017 consenting requirements will affect farms in the catchment.

This month, we are writing directly to all Selwyn farmers to help you determine whether your farm is one of the 900 in the catchment which will require a consent to farm by July this year. If it is, we can help you get the “thumbs up”.

Why are farming activity consents now required?

Within the Selwyn Te Waihora catchment, flows in the lowland streams and the Selwyn River have decreased, nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater and lowland streams have increased, and the health of Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere and your local rivers needs improving.

Your community, led by your local Zone Committee, has created a vision for addressing these issues, while maintaining Selwyn's thriving economy. Collectively, we can achieve better environmental outcomes in Selwyn.

First, will you need a consent to farm?

By July 2017, you will need to have applied for a land use consent to farm* if your farm is over 10 hectares, and;

- your nitrogen losses exceed 15 kilograms/hectare/year, and/or;
- any part of your property is within the Cultural or Phosphorus and Sediment Area (see map).

Establish whether your nitrogen losses exceed 15kg/ha/year by using OVERSEER® or the NCheck tool at www.canterburywater.farm.

What do you need to do?

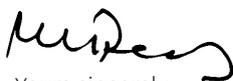
What you do matters. All farmers need to make sure they are using the Good Management Practices (GMP) developed by their industry body, and get consent (if needed), by this July.

If you haven't already, it's time to make a start.

All of the relevant forms, and links for help, can be found at www.canterburywater.farm, a website designed to help you.

Overleaf we have also outlined the key steps you need to take, and the support available from across the farming sector - the people you can call to help you take your next step.

Thanks for taking the time to get this done. It will mean a lot for our local lakes and rivers, and will ensure you get the most out of your land from generation to generation.



Yours sincerely

Michaela Rees

Selwyn Waihora Zone Manager, Environment Canterbury
0800 324 636

* Farms supplied by Central Plains Water will not need to obtain a separate land use consent.

The five steps to getting the thumbs up.

Need a consent to farm? Then let's get started.

1 Prepare your Nutrient Budget

If your nitrogen losses are less than 15 kg/ha/year you need to demonstrate this when you lodge your consent. You can use OVERSEER® or the NCheck tool at www.canterburywater.farm.

If you have greater losses, you will need to prepare a nitrogen baseline, using OVERSEER® or an approved alternative.

We know there may be a delay for some nutrient budgets to be completed, so let us know when you are on the waitlist to get yours done.

See www.canterburywater.farm for information.

2 Apply for your Resource Consent to farm

Apply before July 2017 if you need a consent to farm.

See www.canterburywater.farm for information.

3 Have your Farm Environment Plan audited

An audit of your FEP is required within one year of gaining your consent, to demonstrate you are operating at Good Management Practice.

See www.canterburywater.farm for auditing information.

4 Create your Farm Environment Plan

Use an approved template to create your FEP.

See www.canterburywater.farm for templates and industry contact details.

5 Plan for further nitrogen loss reductions

Start thinking about how you will make further improvements beyond GMP by 2022, if your losses are over 15kg/ha/year.

You will need to apply for a land use consent to farm* if your farm is over 10ha, and:

- Your nitrogen losses exceed 15 kg/ha/yr, and/or;
- Any part of your property is within the Cultural or Phosphorus and Sediment Area (see map)

* Farms supplied with Central Plains Water will not need to obtain a separate land use consent.

Need a hand? No worries!

Help is at hand

We know there is a lot to figure out, and July is just around the corner, so we're here to help. You can find the information you need by checking out our website or giving us a call.

www.canterburywater.farm
0800 324 636

Do I need consent?

If you need help to determine whether you need a farming activity consent, simply give us a call and we can help.

Industry support

Get support and advice for preparing your Farm Environment Plan, creating your nutrient budget and meeting Good Management Practice.

A variety of independent consultants also offer additional advice and support.

Contact details can be found on our website.

For information specific to your farm, visit:
www.canterburywater.farm

Pre-application meeting

Get prepared before lodging your consent, in a free one-hour pre-application meeting with a consent planner.

Central Plains Water

Are you, or will you be, supplied with water by CPW? Give them a call to find out, because you won't need to obtain a land use consent if your farm is managed under the CPW consent.

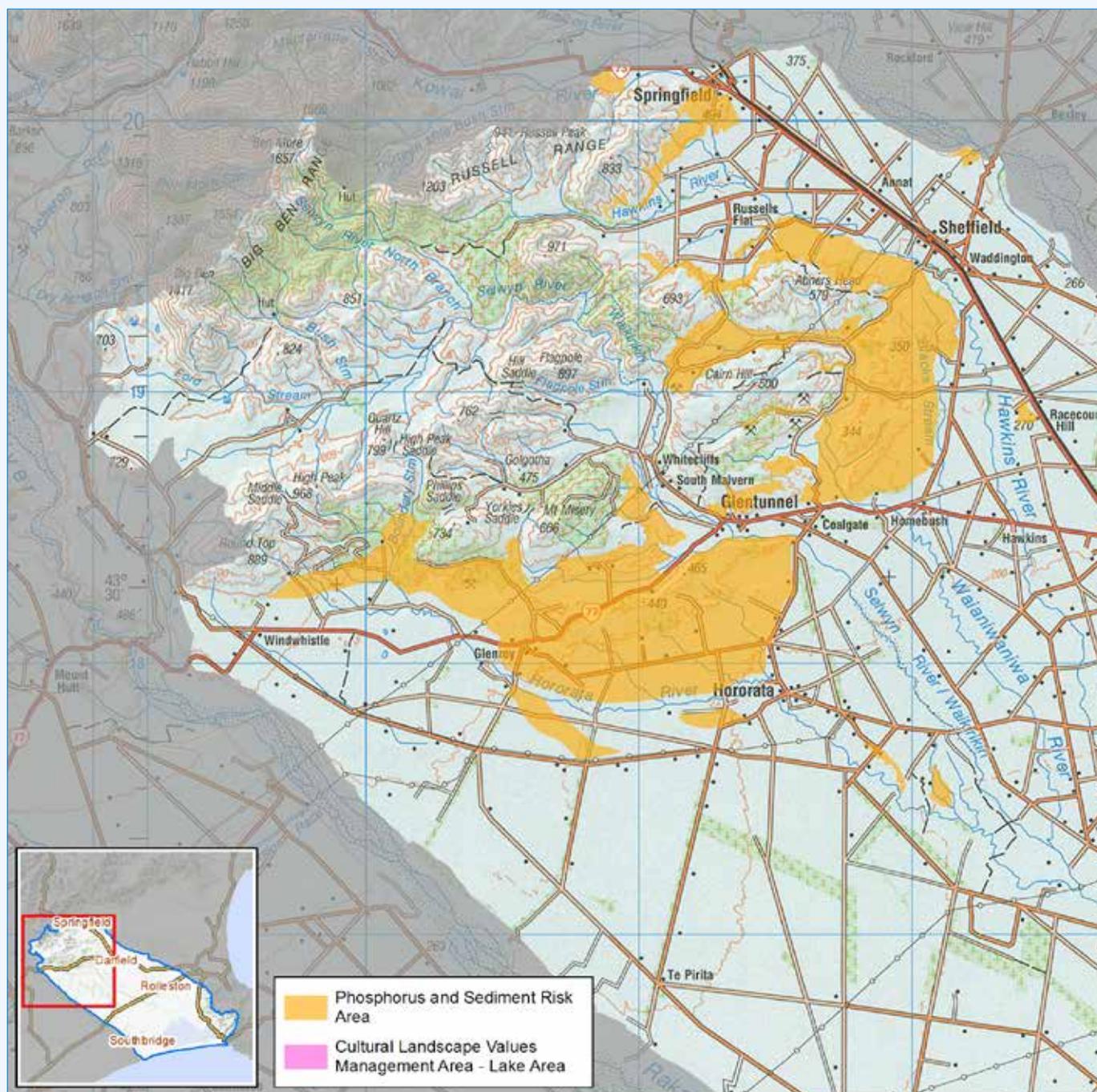
Drop-in sessions

Our Selwyn Waihora Zone Team regularly hosts drop-in days to provide advice, education and support in relation to resource use and Good Management Practices.

During the week of 13 February, we will also hold drop-in sessions in Darfield, Lincoln, Templeton, Leeston and Coalgate.

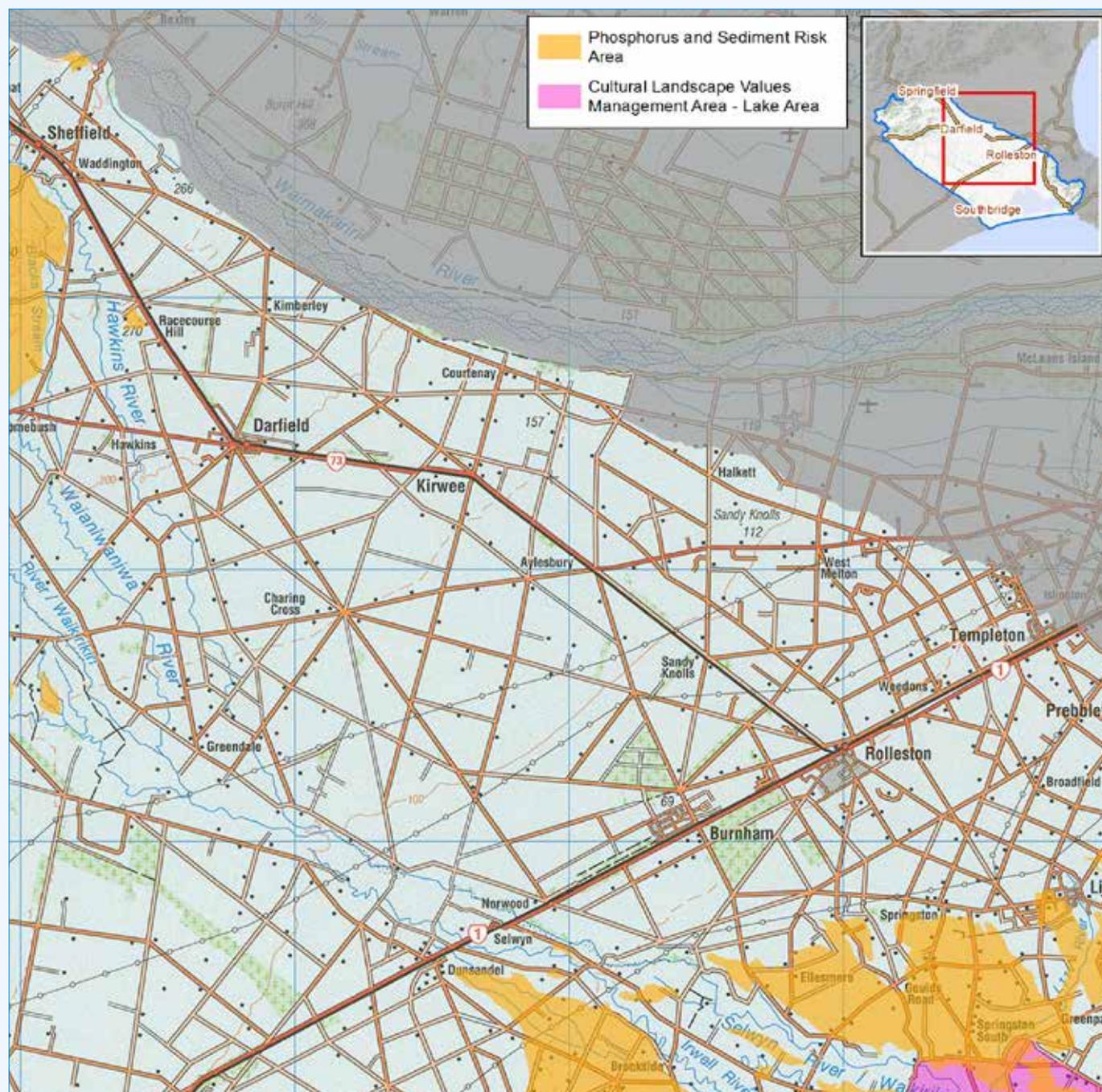
Dates and locations can be found on our website.

Are you in the Lake Area of the Cultural Landscape Values Management Area or the Phosphorus and Sediment Risk Area?



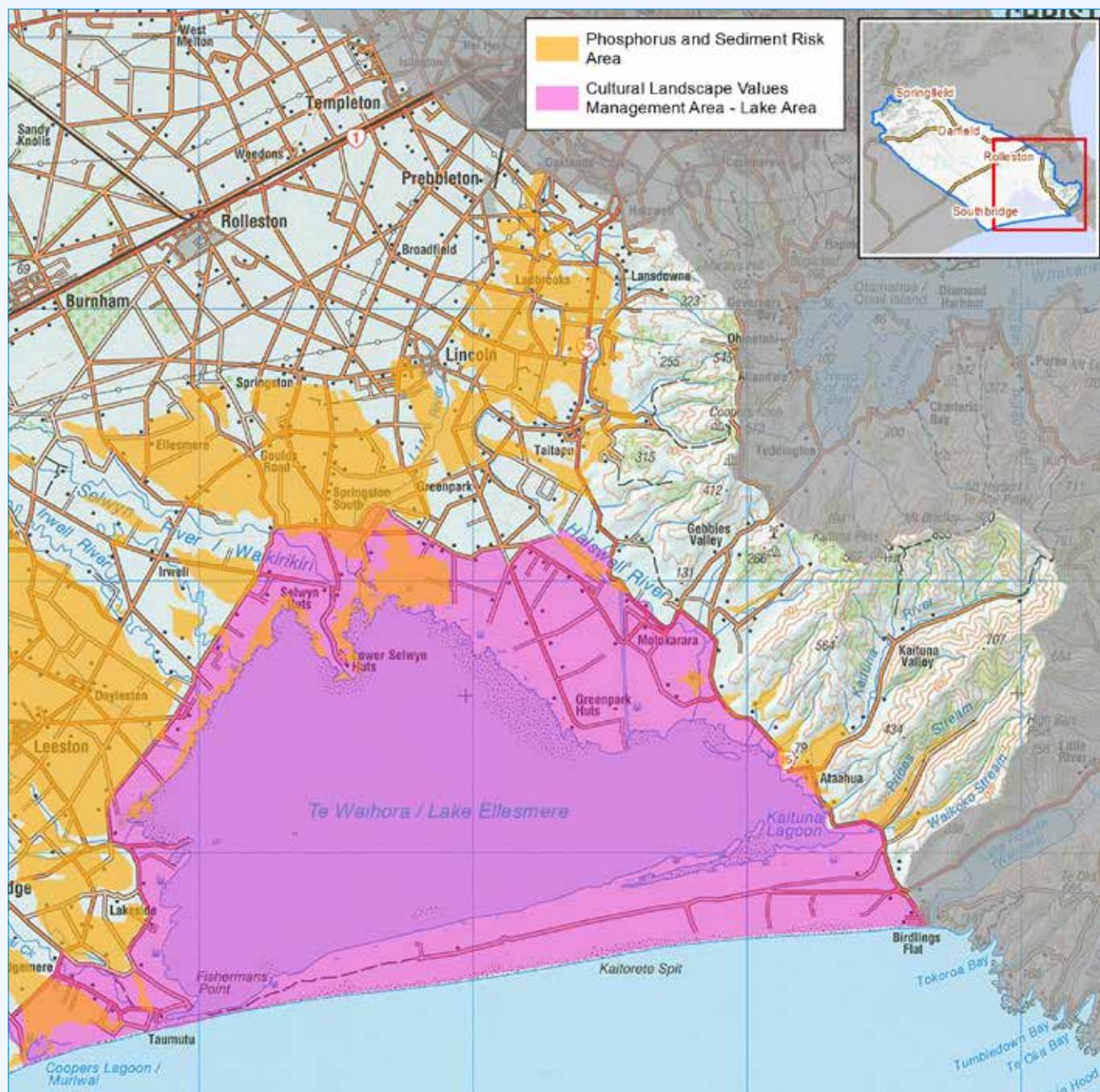
Full map information is on the Selwyn page of www.canterburywater.farm

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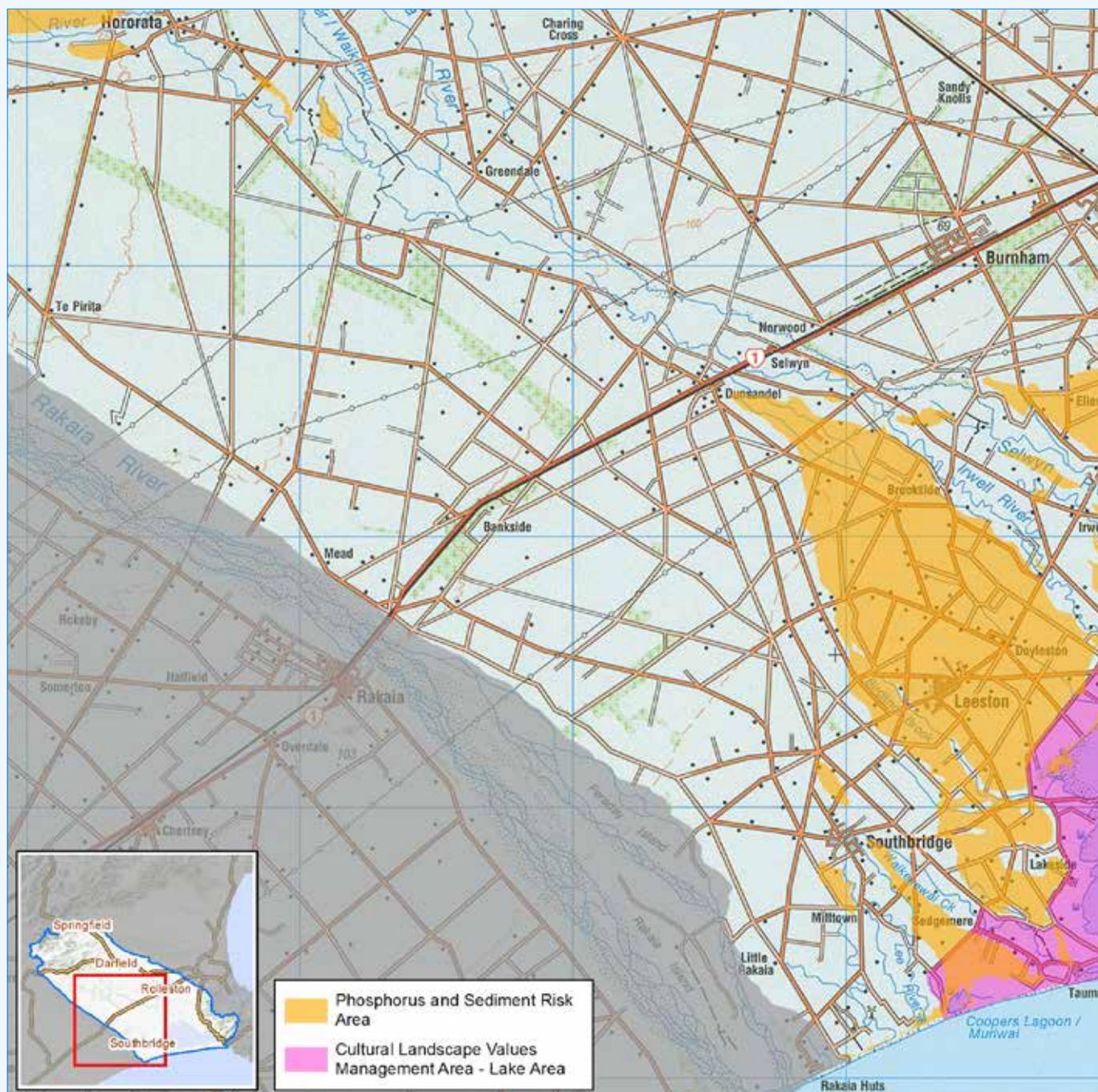
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