

Waimatuku Catchment

Aparima Community Environment (ACE) Project: initial water quality results for the Waimatuku catchment.

As part of the Aparima Community Environment Project, the project is sampling 21 river sites in the Aparima Freshwater Management Unit. These sites have been selected to compliment the existing nine water quality sites that Environment Southland has maintained for close to 20 years. Environment Southland also maintains an additional nine sites where long-term macroinvertebrate data has been collected from. Macroinvertebrates are a useful monitoring tool to assess ecosystem health.

The sites selected by the ACE project are sampled on the same day as Environment Southland samples theirs, using the same sampling protocols and the same laboratory.

The purpose of this sampling is to see if we are able to identify any contaminant hotspots within the Aparima Freshwater Management Unit, identify if there are any contaminants that maybe worse than other and as an educational tool to help community members understand water quality patterns in the FMU and how our activities can influence this.

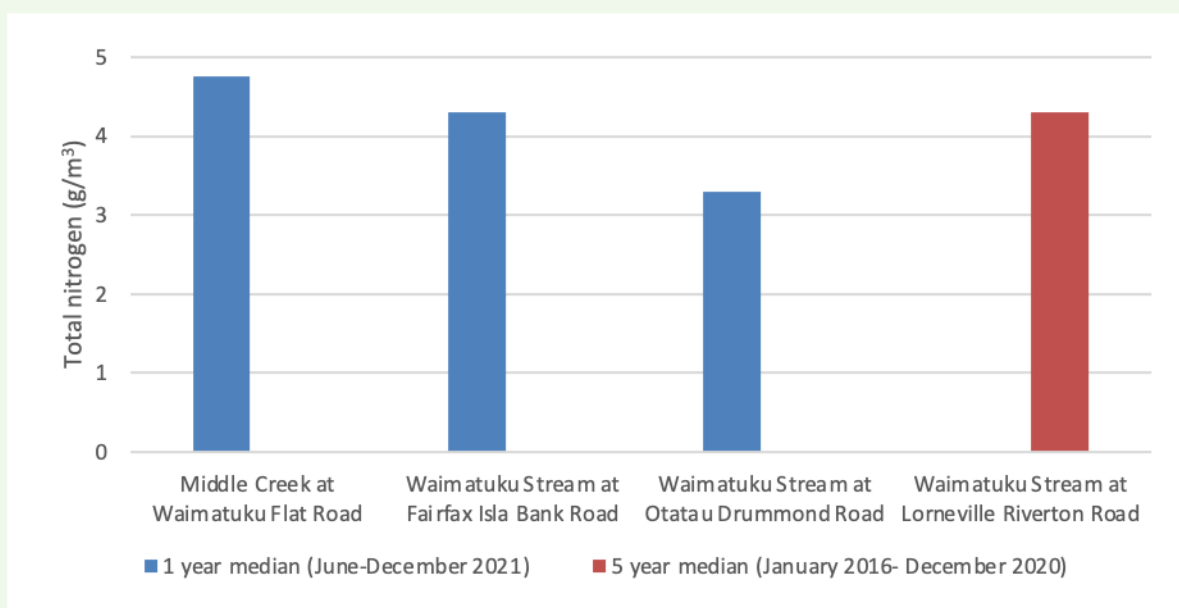
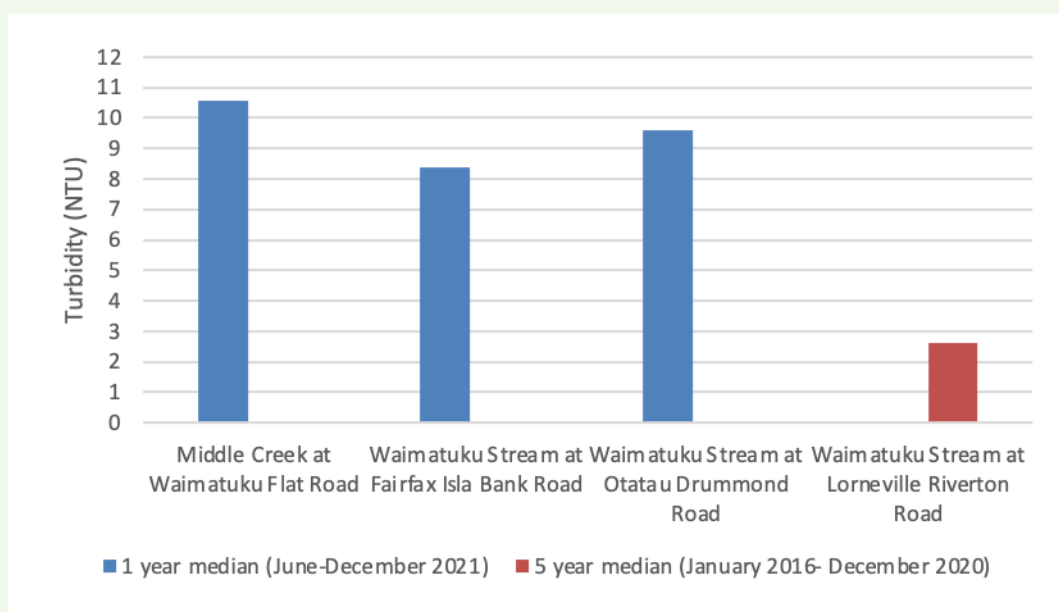
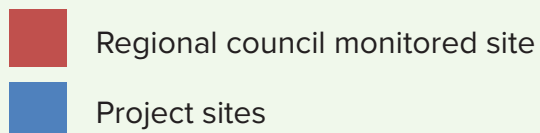
Below are the initial results from the first six months of sampling beginning in June 2021. We have presented the results as median values (the middle number when data is ranked from lowest to highest). Water quality state is often presented as a five year median. When assessing if water quality measures are acceptable or unacceptable, five years of data is often required. The use of five years' worth of data is to accommodate very wet or very dry years without skewing the results significantly.

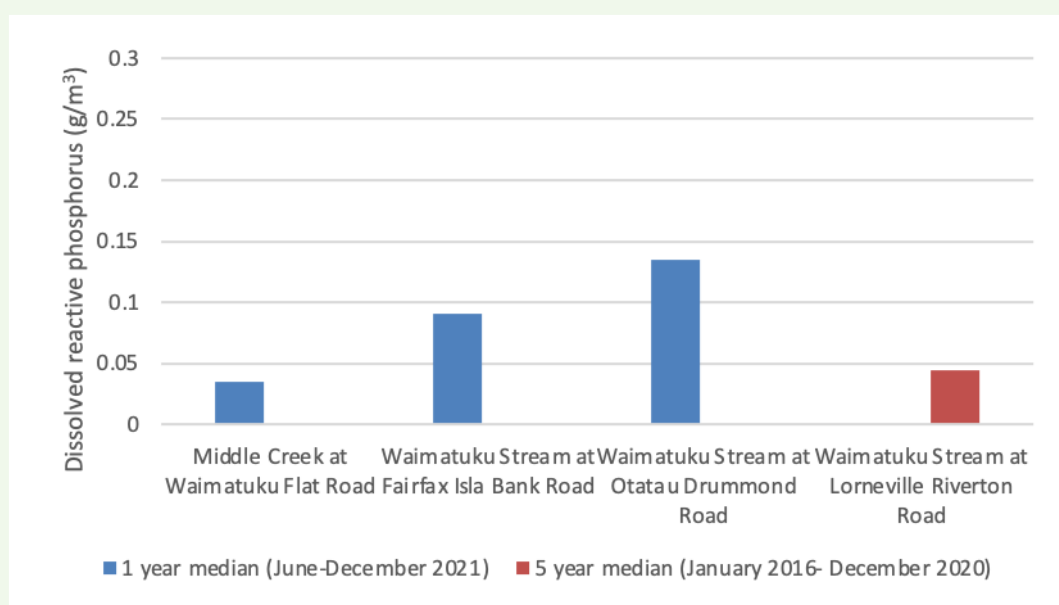
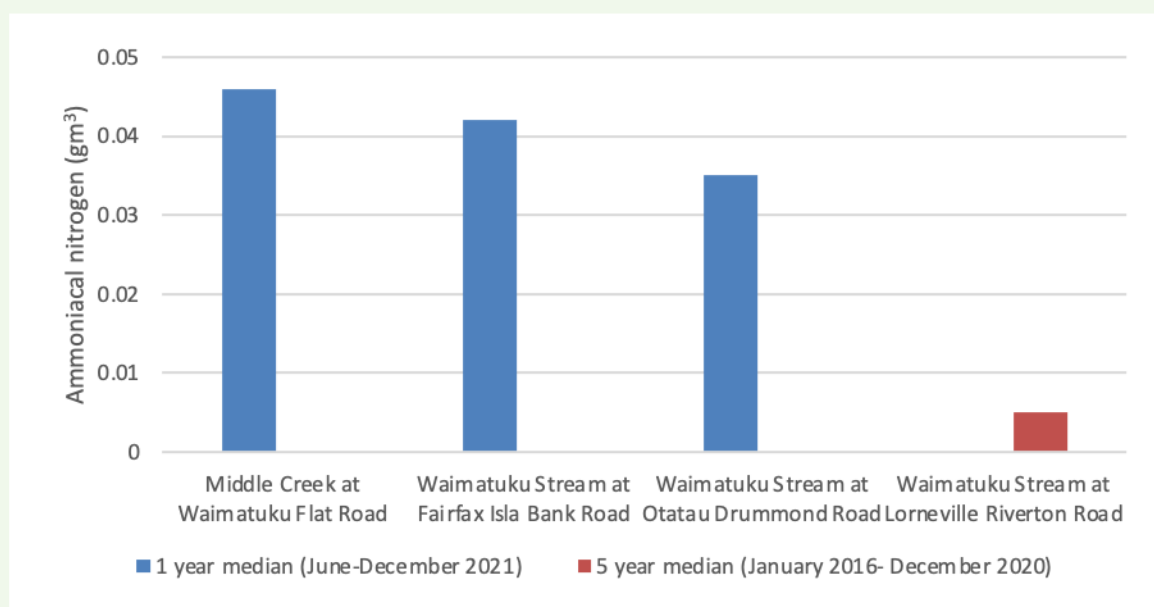
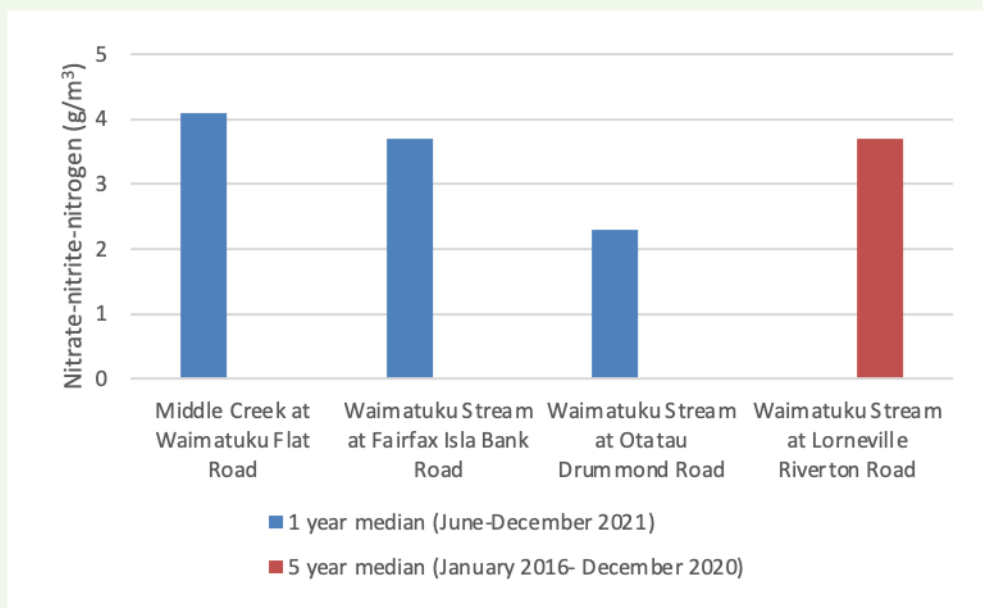
We have presented our sampling site data as a median for the date we have. We have also compared the data from the three Environment Southland sites for the same time period (i.e. June to December 2021). We have also included the five-year median (January 2016-December 2021). This five-year median data was accessed from the Land and Water Aotearoa website which hosts data from all regional councils.

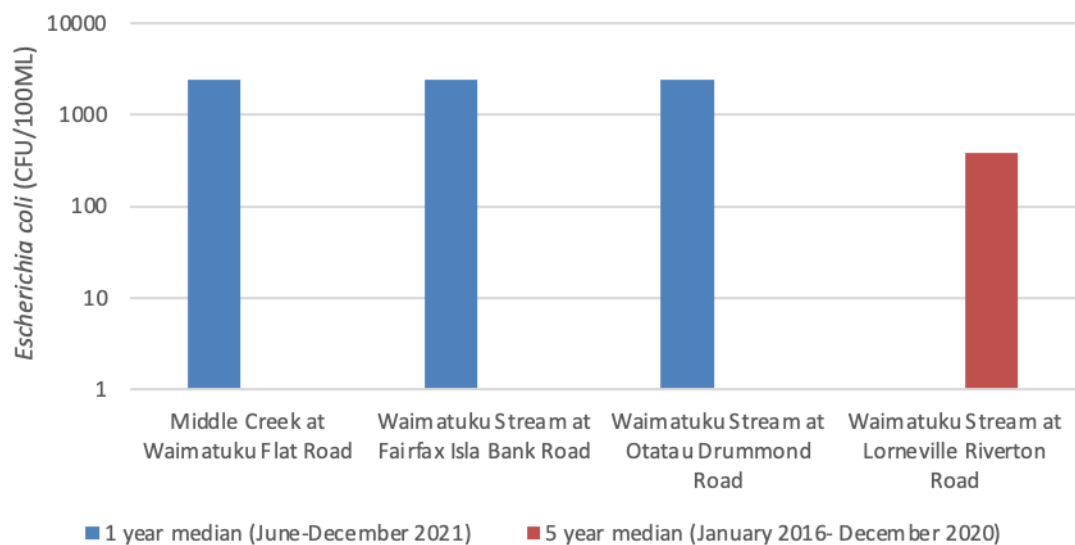
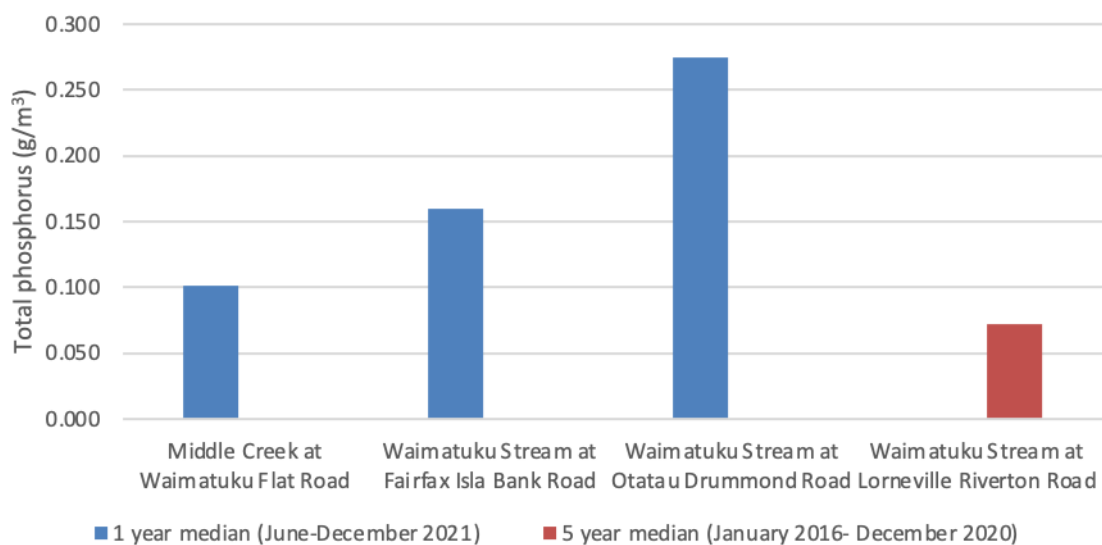
To determine if current state is acceptable or not, we can compare this data against relevant thresholds. At this stage we have avoided doing this as these thresholds are still being debated in the as part of the Water and Land Process.

Not all measures have a proposed limit (e.g. Total nitrogen and total phosphorus) and some (turbidity) do but are specific to certain types of rivers which we haven't had time to process yet.

RESULTS FROM: June - November 2021







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