

Glossary

Algae(pl), alga a collective term referring to several groups of simple photosynthetic plants, mostly microscopic, lacking roots, stems and leaves; they can be found in a variety of habitats; many species of algae exist as single cells, others form simple filaments like 'sewage fungus'

Awa river, sometimes refers to a localised stream

Catchment the area of land drained by a river and its tributaries; the watershed or dividing line between catchments is physically defined by mountains, crests, hills or the ridges of high ground

Coliform bacteria, found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, that aid in the digestion process; used as indicators of faecal contamination in water quality analyses

Conservation the act of conserving something such as water or part of the natural environment

Contaminant a substance that renders another substance impure by contact or mixture

Effluent sewage or industrial wastewater

Environmental Education a multi-disciplinary approach to learning that develops the knowledge, awareness, attitudes, values and skills that will enable individuals and the community to contribute towards maintaining and improving the quality of the environment

Erosion the wearing away of the land by running water, rainfall, wind or ice

- **Accelerated erosion** much more rapid than natural erosion, primarily involving the loss of soil material from the land as result of the influence of human activities
- **Soil erosion** the detachment and transportation of soil and its deposition at another site by wind, water or gravitational effects; although a component of natural erosion, it becomes the dominant component of accelerated erosion as a result of human activities, and includes the removal of chemical materials

Evaporation the process by which water changes its physical state from a liquid to a gas

Faecal relating to animal, including human, excrement

Fertiliser any substance, natural or manufactured, added to the soil to supply nutrients for plant growth, and thereby either maintaining or increasing the general level of crop yield and pasture productivity

Food chain a 'chain' of organisms, through which energy is transferred; each 'link in the chain' feeds on and obtains energy from the one preceding it; e.g. plant to herbivore to carnivore

Kai food or sustenance

Kaitiaki guardians

Kaitiakitanga the exercise of guardianship; and, in relation to a resource, includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself

Larvae(pl), larva the pre-adult form which differs distinctly from the sexually mature adult and usually requires an intermediate development stage (i.e. the pupa) before developing to the adult

Macroinvertebrate tiny animals without a backbone like insects, worms and snails.

Mauri the essence of all being inherent in things both animate and inanimate

Non-point-source pollution a source of pollution that cannot be pinpointed because it comes from many individual places or a widespread area (e.g. urban and agricultural run-off). In a soil conservation context, it typically applies to a sediment source that is spread over a wide area

Nutrient derived from living matter and including elements such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Nutrients are essential for plant growth but can adversely affect land and aquatic ecosystems if present at high levels

Pasture land covered by grass or herbage, usually used or suitable for the grazing of agricultural stock

Pollution substances that are not normally found in a watershed or natural environment

Riparian any land that is next to, or is influenced by a body of water

River a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water; and includes a stream and modified watercourse; but does not include an artificial watercourse

Run-off the portion of rainfall or irrigation (e.g. lawn sprinkler) water that flows across the land's surface, does not soak into the ground and eventually runs into a water body; it may pick up and carry a variety of pollutants

Sediment insoluble material suspended in water consisting mainly of particles derived from rocks, soil and organic materials; a major pollutant to which other pollutants may attach

Soil the natural dynamic system of unconsolidated mineral and organic material at the earth's surface; it is developed by physical, chemical and biological processes, including the weathering of rock and the decay of vegetation

Stream restoration work undertaken to restore the ecological health of a stream to a sustainable or natural state

Stormwater the excess rainwater that runs off impervious (hard) surfaces

Stormdrains the drains that collect stormwater and deliver it to streams, rivers or the sea

Taonga all things prized or treasured, both tangible and intangible

Transpiration the process by which water taken up by plants from the soil is evaporated from tiny pores on the leaf surface.

Tributary a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.

Turbidity a measure of the clarity of the water; is mainly indicative of the amount of solids suspended in the water and, to a lesser extent, the colour of the water; this is usually measured by some type of 'light penetration' test

Water cycle movement of water from the atmosphere to the earth and back to the atmosphere through precipitation, run-off, infiltration, percolation, storage, evaporation and transpiration

Watershed the area of land drained by a river and its tributaries; the dividing line between watersheds is physically defined by mountains, crests, hills, or the ridges of high ground