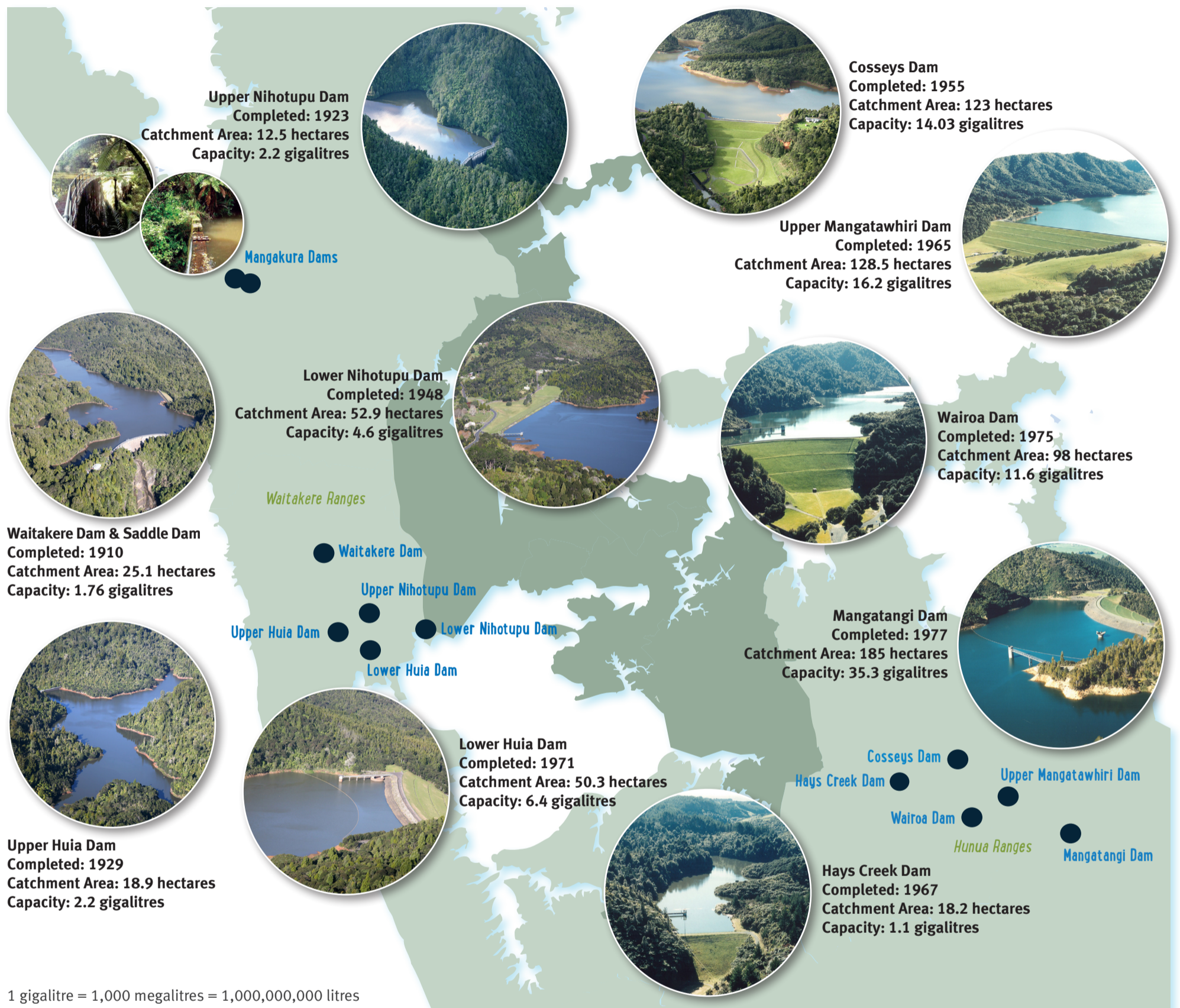


# Auckland's dams

Poster  
1D



Auckland's dams are located mainly in the Hunua and Waitakere Ranges. These hills receive about 50 per cent more rain than Auckland city. Watercare also operate the Mangakura Dams in Helensville which supply only the Helensville and Parakai area.

The dams are surrounded by protected catchments. This means that no human activities, such as housing, farming or industry are allowed in the catchments supplying the dams. A protected

catchment ensures better quality water is collected in the dams. Most of the dams are named after the rivers or streams that flow into them.

The structure of dams in Auckland are either compacted earth or concrete.

When water is stored in large amounts, sediment particles sink to the bottom, killing off bacteria. The water flows down to water treatment plants, where it is filtered and treated to meet drinking water standards.

To make sure our dams do not adversely impact the downstream environment, we release a small flow of water from each dam via a 'free discharge' valve to maintain plant and animal habitats. We call this a 'compensation flow' and this supports the environment when our dams are not full or spilling.

Altogether these 12 dams can hold around 95 billion litres of water. That is equal to 38,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools!