**LOWER - MID REACHES**

**Melling Bridge to Taita**

This is where the Hutt River starts to take on a more classic rapid/riffle-pool configuration. The river here is highly modified for flood protection and although there is a degree of meander with the old gravel bank, it is still largely confined to a managed channel. Rock groyne installed to prevent erosion are good places to find trout in the absence of natural groynes installed to prevent erosion are good places to find trout. Rock protection and although there is a degree of meander with the odd

1. **Lower Reaches**
2. **Mid Reaches**
3. **Upper Reaches**

**Tackle Tip**

**Riverbank Market** - Public carpark provides excellent access upstream and downstream of Melling Bridge on true left.

**Block Road Carpark** - Look for the Fish & Game sign. Access to true right upstream of Melling Bridge.

**Harcourt Werry Drive (Boulcott)** - The Hutt River Trail runs adjacent to this road and provides numerous access and parking options on the true left. Parallel to this road.

**Belmont School** - A short road beside the school leads down to a public parking area beside the river on the true right.

**Owen Street** - Parking at end of road provides the last reasonable access to the river on the true right for quite a way upstream.

**Harcourt Werry Drive (Avalon)** - The Hutt River Trail runs adjacent to this road and provides numerous access and parking options on the true left.

**Taita Drive** - Numerous access points lead off the stopbank that runs parallel to this road.

**What is True Left and True Right?**

‘True right’ or ‘true left’ refers to the side of the river when you are facing downstream.

**Riverbank Market**

- Access to the lower reaches on the true left.
- Access to the estuary and river mouth on the true right.

**Belmont School**

- Access below Ewen Bridge to the true left side.
- Access to the estuary and river mouth on the true right.
- Numerous access points lead off the stopbank.

**Harcourt Werry Drive (Avalon)**

- Access to the estuary and river mouth on the true left.
- Access to the lower reaches on the true right adjacent to the golf course.

**Fishing Access Guide**

A guide to help anglers make the most of this exceptional recreational fishery - defining access to the lower, middle and upper river reaches.

**LOWER REACHES**

**Harbour to Ewen Bridge**

The lower reaches of the Hutt River are defined by slower moving influence. Although not the most aesthetic part of the river, it is nonetheless very productive with marine fish species following the tide up and down. This provides a very rich food source for trout which congregate in good numbers to make the most of the high-protein diet. Unlike further up in the catchment where fish tend to be more sedentary, remaining in defined pools for most of the year, the trout of the lower reaches are constantly on the move, following the prey with the tide. An understanding of the tidal movements is beneficial, otherwise a bit of experimenting will ultimately result in good catches of small to medium, hard-fighting brown trout. A great advantage of the lower section of the river is the added benefit of kahawai bycatch, making it a great place to take the family because of the high catch rate and excellent chance of success. From October to mid-December the fishing really heats up in this section amid the whitebait run, as trout and kahawai feast on these large schools of tiny fish which can often be seen breaking the surface in panic as they try to evade hungry predators. Good, well-marked access exists up both sides of the river.

**TACKLE TIP**

Use silvery or white spinners to emulate bait fish like even green rabbit flies) will look like the prey items in this part of the river. Look to cast into defined current lines, having trouble locating trout, keep casting and moving – item in distress and provoke a predator to strike. If you’re seeking refuge. An erratic retrieve will also imitate a prey

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The most visible reach of the Hutt River because it runs adjacent to State Highway 2, this stretch is quite similar to the Lower Middle Reaches section described elsewhere. Don’t be put off by the traffic through – Fish & Game consistently counts its highest trout numbers for the Hutt in this reach. There is also excellent access directly off SH2 on the true right downstream of the Moonshine Bridge, with a gravel road following alongside the river for much of its length here.

Please take extra care when slowing to turn off the motorway! Because of the continual river engineering there aren’t too many pools left but the fish still hold in the shallow riffles, runs at the head of deeper sections, and drift off to the far side of less accessible parts. Also, because of the lack of deep pools and the cooler water they offer, trout will favor any areas where the river narrows, thereby increasing water velocity and oxygenation. Similar tactics apply to that of the downstream reach, with dry fly/nymph dropper rigs working best. Try a Parachute Adams and bead-head pleasant fall nymph. It is also worth prospecting around the confluence of the Whakatikei (near Poets Park – access point 21), which is a good fishery in its own right.

HUTT RIVER TRAIL
- Provides walking and bike access upstream on the true left. Offers a few access points to river.
- Access at confluence on true left of Hutt. The Hutt River Trail upstream offers limited fishing access but the river is wadeable in normal low flows.
- Access up and downstream of the bridge.
- Provides walking and bike access upstream on the true left. Note: No access on true right through golf course.
- Good car park and facilities offering access up the Akatarawa river bend upstream, near Maoribank.
- Access to both sides of the river at bridge.
- Footbridge at end of the street links to Hutt River Trail on the true left. Note: No access on true right.
- Public walkway to Hutt River Trail at the end of this street. Offers a few access points to river.
- Public walkway to Hutt River Trail at the end of the street. A few informal tracks lead down to the river. Access from here up is in the river during normal low flow.
- Fishing upstream as far as the weir.
- Access from carpark along road to Strainer House. Several tracks lead down to river from the walkway, then access through the river bed back up to the swingbridge.
- Blind fish this section as often the trout will hide deep in the riffles. Use long leaders and heavy nymph in the fast water.

Tackle Tip
- Stanley tactics apply to that of the downstream reach, with any streamers and weighted nymphs preferred. It’s best when there is an olive Wooly Bugger with a squid or cicada pattern (when they are about) and a dark caddis (or claret) pattern (when there are none) with a white body and a nice, dry, junglegreen used for baitfish to give a jerky retrieve. The best use of the walkway would be to position yourself at the swingbridge and fish back up to the fish in the river.

How Good is the Hutt?
The Hutt River is an amazing fishery and unique in the accessible to the populations of Wellington City and the Hutt locales. Poets Park (access point 21) is a good fishery in its own right.

Tackle Tip
- This is more classic nymph and dry fly fishing water here but pay attention to the fly lures, particularly when there is a hatch and watch for it. A Royal Wulff, dry fly, wet or nymph work well; upstream or downstream; or claret pattern (when they are about) and a dark caddis pattern (when there are none) with a white body and a nice, dry, junglegreen used for baitfish to give a jerky retrieve. The best use of the walkway would be to position yourself at the swingbridge and fish back up to the fish in the river.

UPPER REACHES

Kaitoke Regional Park
The pristine section of the river as it flows through bush-clad hills and native surrounds, with deep, stable pools and crystal clear emerald-green water. Here you’ll find backcountry-style angling to large wily brown trout right on Wellington’s doorstep!

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