



Excluding Stock from Waterways

MARCH 2021



Impacts of Stock

Stock access to waterways can damage the bed and banks and smother stream life. It may also result in discharges of dung, urine and sediment directly to water. This can have a serious impact on water quality and mahinga kai values. Further, production losses and reduced live-weight gain may result in water-borne parasites and diseases.

Sheep are much less of a problem, unless they are present in very high densities as might happen when they are break fed on a forage crop with no action taken to prevent direct access to water.

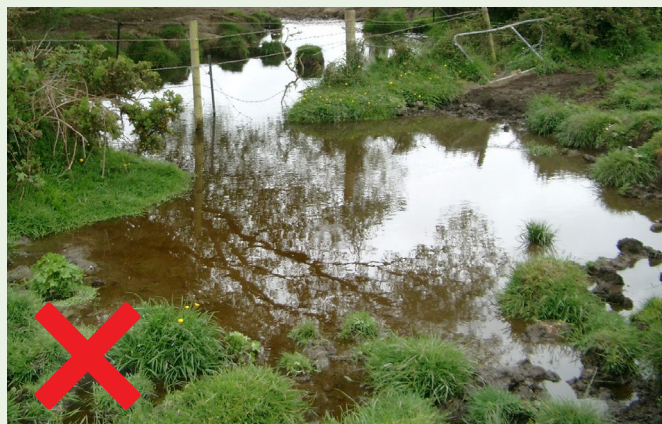
More information on winter grazing: <https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub/farming-resources/winter-grazing/>

Important Note

The rules outlined in this information sheet cover the regional rules around access by livestock to waterbodies under the Land & Water Regional Plan and the new rules in the Government's Essential Freshwater package. This is a summary only and should not be relied on as a complete set of rules. There are additional requirements for the Selwyn, Wairewa, Hinds, and South Coastal Canterbury Streams catchments. Check out ecan.govt.nz/farmers-hub or contact Customer Services on 0800 324 636 for more information.



Unfenced waterways - not permitted



Pugging damage - not permitted



Summary of rules

What's prohibited?

Access by farmed cattle, deer or pigs to the following areas within the bed (including the banks) of lakes and rivers is not allowed (see Land & Water Regional Plan, rule 5.71):

- In an inanga spawning habitat or a salmon spawning site
- Within a community drinking water protection zone
- The bed of a lake or river within 1000 metres upstream of a freshwater bathing site
- Within 1000 metres upstream of a freshwater bathing site
- Within a spring-fed plains river.

Contact Customer Services or your local Zone Team if you think you might have these features on your farm.

Conditions for permitted access

Except for areas where stock access is prohibited (see above), access by stock to a lake, river or wetland may happen, provided the access is by non-intensively farmed stock and does not result in:

- Pugging or de-vegetation that exposes bare earth in the bed or banks
- A conspicuous change in clarity or colour of the water outside the mixing zone
- For lakes, cattle standing in a lake located within a Lake Zone, classified as a High Naturalness Waterbody, or located outside the Hill and High Country Area (as defined in the Land & Water Regional Plan).

Different conditions apply to stock-crossing points. Please contact Customer Services for more information.

What requires a resource consent?

A resource consent is required if the permitted access conditions are not met, or for access of intensively farmed stock to any river over one metre wide or 10 centimetres deep, or to a lake or wetland.

Intensively farmed stock (as defined in the Land and Water Regional Plan) are:

- Cattle or deer grazed on irrigated land or contained for break-feeding of winter feed crops
- Dairy cattle including cows, whether dry or milking, and whether on irrigated land or not
- Farmed pigs.

Do I need to apply for a consent?

The first step is to consider whether resource consent is needed for what you wish to do. Contact Customer Services to find out more.

Essential Freshwater Package

In August 2020, the Government released the Essential Freshwater package. The package includes, among other things, stock exclusion regulations for the whole of New Zealand.

The regulations require some classes of cattle, deer, and pigs to be excluded from lakes and rivers with a bed wider than one metre (with a three-metre minimum setback¹), and natural wetlands.

The new regulations apply at various dates depending on stock type and which environment is focused on - lake, river or wetland.

In most cases, the new rules are more restrictive than those that already apply in Canterbury under the Land & Water Regional Plan (LWRP).

Stock access that may be a permitted activity or have an option to obtain a consent now could be prohibited by the new regulations in future. See both the LWRP and these regulations to determine whether your activity is permitted or prohibited, or whether it may require consent.

See the tables for specific information on when and to what the regulations apply.

Table 1: Stock to be excluded from lakes and rivers

	DAIRY CATTLE	DAIRY SUPPORT CATTLE	BEEF CATTLE	DEER	PIGS
By 3 September 2020	Where stock are on new pastoral systems				
By 1 July 2023	Where stock are on existing pastoral systems		Where stock are intensively grazed on any terrain	Where stock are intensively grazed on any terrain	Where stock are on existing pastoral systems
By 1 July 2025		Where stock are on an existing pastoral system	Where stock are on "low slope" land as shown on MfE maps, www.mfe.govt.nz	Where stock are on "low slope" land as shown on MfE maps, www.mfe.govt.nz	

¹ The three-metre setback doesn't apply to a lake or river with a *permanent fence* or riparian vegetation that effectively excludes stock already in place as at 3 September 2020.

Permanent fence means:

- A post and batten fence with driven or dug fence posts; or
- An electric fence with at least 2 electrified wires and driven or dug fence posts; or
- A deer fence

Table 2: Stock to be excluded from wetlands

	DAIRY CATTLE	DAIRY SUPPORT CATTLE	BEEF CATTLE	DEER	PIGS
By 3 September 2020	Where stock are on new pastoral systems they must be excluded from natural wetlands				
By 1 July 2023	Where stock are on existing pastoral systems they must be excluded from natural wetlands identified in an operative regional plan, district plan or regional policy statement as at 3 September 2020				
By 1 July 2025	Where stock are on existing pastoral systems they must be excluded from natural wetlands that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a population of threatened species as defined in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020; and Are more than 500 square metres on "low slope" land as shown on MfE maps, www.mfe.govt.nz 				

Beef cattle and deer on land not defined as "low slope", and that are not break-fed, or fed on annual forage crops² or irrigated pasture (that is, intensively grazed), are exempt from these stock exclusion rules.

² Annual forage crop means a crop, other than pasture, that is grazed in the place where it is grown.

Cattle and pigs crossing lakes or wide rivers (defined as wider than 1 metre) more than twice a month must use a dedicated culvert or bridge from 3 September 2020 in the case of intensively grazed beef cattle and on any new pastoral systems, and:

- By 1 July 2023 - for dairy cattle on any terrain (except dairy support cattle) and pigs on any terrain on existing pastoral systems
- By 1 July 2025 - for dairy support cattle on any terrain and beef cattle on "low slope" land on existing pastoral systems.

Note: There are no restrictions or conditions on deer crossing lakes or wide rivers.

More information: Please contact Customer Services on 0800 324 636

or go to www.ecan.govt.nz/farmershub

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Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Tangaroa, toitū te iwi.

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