



# Road culvert maintenance

(under the Regional Fresh Water Plan  
for Taranaki)



## Introduction

These interpretations apply to provisions in the Taranaki Regional Council Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki (RFPW) relating to road culverts in, on or under the beds of rivers and streams.

It should be noted that there are no regional plan requirements and therefore no consent requirements with respect to culverts conveying surface stormwater outside of the bed of a river or stream.

## Basic culvert maintenance

Maintenance and repairs to existing culverts, including wingwalls etc, but with no extension to the length of culvert or diameter of culvert pipe are permitted pursuant to Rule 53 of the RFPW.

If the work involves more than two days of instream work, or there are likely to be significant adverse effects on water quality or aquatic life, then a resource consent for a controlled activity under Rule 54 of the RFPW is required for the maintenance work.

## Culvert extension, upgrade or replacement.

If the culvert once extended, upgraded or replaced is less than 1 metre diameter and 25 metres in length then the culvert is permitted pursuant to Rule 57 of the RFPW.

The extension/upgrade/replacement work itself is permitted pursuant to Rule 53 of the RFPW. If the work involves more than 2 days of instream work, or there are likely to be significant adverse effects on water quality or aquatic life, then a resource consent for a controlled activity under Rule 54 of the RFPW is required for the maintenance work.

If the culvert once extended upgraded or replaced is greater than 1 metre in diameter and/or greater than 25 metres in length then the culvert does not meet Rule 57 of the RFPW. A resource consent is then required for either a controlled activity pursuant to Rule 58 of the RFPW (if within a Defined Urban Catchment), or a discretionary activity pursuant to Rule 64 of the RFPW.

## Fish passage

It should also be noted that all culverts must not restrict the passage of fish up and down the waterways. There must be no hydraulic jumps (vertical variation in the bed level) into or out of culvert pipes.

## Consent information

If a consent is required then the following information needs to be submitted in support of an application as a minimum requirement:

- site plan showing location of works and including grid reference
- plans of the proposed culvert works including plan view showing position of culvert on road reserve and distances to upstream and downstream properties, and cross-section, showing position of culvert profile of the streambed and banks, and normal water levels
- timing of works (estimate of start and finish dates), and the nature and duration of any instream works and any mitigation measures proposed
- consideration of fish passage issues
- written approval for non-notification from the adjacent upstream and downstream property owners for applications under Rule 64.

## Affected party approvals

With respect to written approvals for non-notification it is noted that Rules 54 and 58 of the RFPW provide for the non-notification of applications without written approval. However, depending on the nature of the proposal and its effects on the bed of the watercourse concerned, the Council may determine that a written approval for non-notification from an affected party may still be required. Therefore it is recommended that applicants attempt to obtain written approvals from the adjacent upstream and downstream landowners, for all proposals requiring a resource consent. If they are not obtained, then an explanation of attempts to obtain written approval and reasons why the written approval has not been obtained should be included with the application.

If in doubt about consent requirements please contact the Consents Section of the Taranaki Regional Council.

If you require further explanation of the information in this pamphlet, please contact:  
Consents Section  
Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713  
Stratford

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