



Farmers and contractors, have you constructed a water bore or well? Chances are you don't need a resource consent for either construction or use of such a well – but did you know that the Taranaki Regional Council (Council) must be notified of their existence?

Such notification helps you and helps the Council. It helps you because it will enable the Council to take your water use into account when considering applications for other groundwater use in the area. And it helps the Council because it adds to knowledge about groundwater and geology in the region. This knowledge is publicly available and may save farmers money by indicating where drilling is unlikely to succeed.

Rules for the construction and use of bores and wells are set out in the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*. This is available on-line at [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz) – click on the “Publications” tab then go to the “policies, plans and strategies” page.

## RULES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS

The drilling and/or construction of a well, bore, piezometer or seismic survey is a permitted activity (no need for a resource consent) provided that the potential for the bore to cause water contamination is avoided by the use of appropriate casing and sealing.

This applies to bores and wells that are:

- Not less than 50m from any effluent treatment pond, septic tank, silage stack or pit.
- Are cased and sealed to prevent the potential for aquifer cross-contamination or leakage from the surface.
- Are not less than 500 m from mean high water springs or adjacent bores.
- Are not less than 25 m from the sea or adjacent wells or surface water bodies.

**A Bore Completion Log must be submitted to the Council, by any person undertaking the drilling, within four weeks of completion.**

If the above conditions cannot be met a **resource consent is required** before the activity takes place as there might be adverse effects on the environment that the Council has to assess.

## RULES FOR USING GROUNDWATER

You don't need a resource consent if you are taking no more than 50 m<sup>3</sup> of water a day, at a rate not exceeding 1.5 L/sec. These rates and volume are deemed as sufficient to meet reasonable domestic and farm use.

This applies to bores and wells that are:

- At least 500 m from the sea or adjacent bores.
- At least 25 m from the sea, adjacent bores or surface water bodies.
- Not less than 50 m from potential sources of contaminants, in order to avoid contamination of the water.

If the above conditions cannot be met, an application must be made for a resource consent.

## BEFORE YOU DRILL

- Make sure you talk to your neighbours about their wells. Get details of depth, yield and the distance from your proposed site.
- Talk to reputable drillers about what their experience in your area has been.
- Consider the minimum distances to adjacent bores/wells and other features and determine if you need a resource consent.
- Consult with the Council about the existing records in our databases.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The Council manages groundwater resources in the region and issues consents for large bores, so the Council strongly recommends that you contact its staff who can provide you with valuable information about other bores in your area and guide you through the process of obtaining a resource consent.

**TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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## REMEMBER THAT

- You are legally required to provide the driller's log to the Council so it can register the details and protect your water supply.

## WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW IF MY WELL'S BEEN REGISTERED IN THE COUNCIL'S DATABASE?

The Council strives to take a sensible approach towards existing wells that might have been constructed long before these rules were made. Sharing information about wells benefits both you and the Council, as noted above.

It is considered good practice not to pay for a well or a bore unless a bore log is supplied.

If you have had a well constructed in the past three years, please contact the driller and request copies of the bore-log for your own records and to send a copy to the Council.

In some instances it might not be easy to gather all the information required, but please aim to provide the following details:

- Exact location of well or bore.
- Well depth.
- Well yield.
- Pump type.
- Date it was drilled.
- Driller's name.
- Well screen details.
- Results of the test for discharge of water.

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Should you require any guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone, e-mail or in person.

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If you require further explanation of the information in this pamphlet please contact:

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