

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS

for good farm management in Taranaki



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for good farm management in Taranaki



Introduction

These are the Taranaki Regional Council's requirements for farmers in Taranaki.

By following these requirements, you will ensure that acceptable environmental practices are adhered to on your farm.

The measures described in this document contribute towards good practice across your industry. By adhering to them, you are helping to protect and improve Taranaki's natural resources – in particular our life-giving rivers and streams. This means you and the generations that follow you will be able to farm successfully into the future, confident your children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the enviable lifestyle this region offers.

Many of the measures discussed here will also assist with stock and general farm management and help you to optimise production.

And you'll be meeting the ever-increasing environmental expectations of your neighbours in the regional community, and the national and international consumers of the goods you produce.

Please be aware that additional good farming measures are being developed nationally and may also apply in the future.

If you have any questions or doubts about what's in this booklet, look on our website, www.trc.govt.nz, for details of the rules in the Council's regional freshwater, soil, air quality and coastal plans, and associated guidelines, or contact us directly. Council consents staff can provide advice on resource consent requirements, including consultation with tangata whenua.

Call us on 0800 736 222 or email info@trc.govt.nz.

This document can also be found on our website, www.trc.govt.nz.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David MacLeod".

David MacLeod
Chairman
Taranaki Regional Council



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Dairy effluent

Key points

As a general rule, farm dairy effluent must be discharged to land.

- All discharges of farm dairy and feed pad effluent require a resource consent.
- Those with existing consents allowing discharge of treated effluent to water are required to switch to land-based disposal within a reasonable timeframe as consents expire or earlier. Plan ahead and talk to the Council at a very early stage.
- Contingency discharge to water is allowed only on farms with high-risk soils, generally on the upper ring plain where there is high rainfall, undulating steep terrain, and high drainage density limiting the ability to irrigate to land at all times. High levels of effluent treatment are required.
- Before upgrading or putting in new systems discuss with Council compliance staff what's required.



Other useful information

- If you've got an existing consent allowing discharge to water, the Council can provide advice and assistance before the consent is due to expire and discuss current requirements with you to ensure the renewal/change process runs as smoothly as possible.
- Effluent holding pond storage requirements are determined by the Massey University Farm Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator or its equivalent, based on the size of the herd and other farm-specific factors. A list of people accredited to use the calculator is online:

<http://effluentaccreditation.co.nz/accredited-companies>

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- It's critical to provide sufficient storage to ensure effluent is not irrigated when soil is saturated, causing run-off to surface water. You'll also need a stormwater diversion device, so that rainwater is directed to land and not to the holding pond. Irrigation of effluent to land must be done via an irrigation system that is properly designed and operated.
- Existing oxidation ponds may be used for storage. New ponds can be lined with compacted clay or synthetic liners. Industry best practice is that the permeability of the pond sealing layer must not exceed 1×10^{-9} m/s.
- Any slope greater than seven degrees is considered high risk for irrigation. This means that a low-rate application system should be used on these areas so no surface runoff or ponding occurs. Generally, more storage will be required in these cases.

What you need to ensure

When discharging effluent to land, resource consent conditions typically include:

- Design, construction, location, operation, and maintenance of the effluent storage facilities, including the storage volume;
- Location, size and physical characteristics of the irrigation area;
- Application rate and frequency of the discharge, including the return period between applications;

- Separation distances from property boundaries, dwellings, places of public assembly, surface water or bores, wells or springs used for water supply purposes or from known urupa and marae sites;
- Prevention of ponding or run-off to surface water;
- Managing effects of the discharge on any public water supplies;
- Duration of consent (this will be for a longer period of time for a discharge to land consent, than for a discharge to water consent);
- Review of the conditions of consent and the timing and purpose of the review;
- The payment of administrative charges; and
- Monitoring and information requirements relating to matters that the Council has reserved control over.

Design guidelines

The Taranaki Regional Council uses industry good practice guidelines for the design, construction and maintenance of systems for the land disposal of farm dairy effluent that will meet its requirements.

bit.ly/TRCponds
bit.ly/DairyNZeffluent

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Riparian (streambank) protection

Key points

Complete your riparian fencing and planting by the end of the decade

- Under Taranaki's award-winning Riparian Management Programme, thousands of kilometres of streambank and wetlands are being voluntarily fenced and planted to protect and enhance the region's waterways.
- The focus of the programme is on the ring plain and coastal terraces where intensive dairying is the predominant land use.
- Fencing streambanks keeps stock out of waterways and vegetation helps to trap and filter run-off from pasture. Planting provides shading, food and shelter for wildlife and encourages biodiversity in rivers and streams. All of these aspects generally support water quality.
- Taranaki's Riparian Management Programme is believed to be the largest and longest-running environmental enhancement planting scheme on private land in New Zealand. It is transforming the Taranaki ring plain, and is on track to be substantially completed by the end of the decade.
- Under the programme, the Council provides free, property-specific riparian management plans. Planholders are supplied suitable riparian plants at cost, and the Council can also co-ordinate planting contractors if these are required. Council land management officers can give one-on-one advice about plan implementation.
- Most farmers are well on the way to completely protecting the waterways on their properties by the end of the decade. Those lagging are highly likely to face regulatory measures and costs around the end of the decade.



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What you need to ensure

- 👍 Do not allow stock access to rivers and streams.
- 👍 If you haven't already got a riparian management plan for your farm, run-off or lifestyle block, talk to one of our land management officers today. Call 0800 736 222 or email riparian@trc.govt.co.nz.
- 👍 Implement your plan in manageable stages, season by season. Ensure it's part of your annual work plan and budget.
- 👍 If you've got a 'regionally significant wetland' on your ring plain or coastal terrace property, it must be fenced as part of your riparian plan. They are wetlands that contain at least 50% native plant species or are habitats for nationally or regionally valuable species.
- 👍 Aim to have your plan fully implemented by the end of the decade. You'll be issued a Certificate of Completion when it's completed. If you haven't got a certificate by 2020, it's highly likely you'll need a resource consent, which will require riparian fencing and planting, to continue intensive farming. You'll need to meet the cost of the consent and the additional monitoring.
- 👍 Order your plants well in advance – at least a year, and preferably two. The Council supplies hundreds of thousands of plants every season, so early ordering is crucial to help keep the tendering process efficient and cost-effective and to ensure a secure supply.

Let your land management officer know if you have any queries or issues.



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Future Government regulations

The Government is planning new regulations requiring stock to be kept out of waterways.

The regulations were yet to be finalised as this guide was prepared, but were intended to be phased in from mid 2017.

For farmers on the Taranaki ring plain and coastal terraces, this is a clear signal that riparian management plans should be implemented without undue delay. Completing your streamside fencing and planting will clearly meet future regulatory requirements, be they from central Government or the Council itself.

The Government also intends stock-exclusion requirements to apply to sheep and beef properties in the hillcountry.

Details and implications here are still being worked through.



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Wetlands and drainage

Key points

Wetlands are important and must be protected.

- Given the scarcity of wetlands and the role they play in biodiversity, regulating water flows, improving water quality and providing habitat for many of our native plants and animals, their protection is extremely important.
- The Council encourages the protection and enhancement of all wetlands through its riparian management programme focused on the ring plain and coastal terraces.
- The Council also promotes the protection and enhancement of regionally significant wetlands and the creation of new wetlands through its Environmental Enhancement Grants and biodiversity programmes including in the hillcountry.
- 'Regionally significant wetlands' contain at least 50% native plant species or are habitats for nationally or regionally valuable species.

What you need to ensure

👍 You'll need a resource consent for any activity which would significantly harm the aquatic life or habitat of regionally significant wetlands in the region. This includes water abstraction, discharges of contaminants, diversion, drainage, realignment and damming and removal of vegetation affecting wetlands or streams associated with wetlands.

👍 Drainage of wetlands may be allowed in some circumstances but only under very strict conditions.

Advice should be sought from Council staff on requirements relating to land drainage, water abstraction and any other activities that may affect wetland areas.



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Stream crossings

Key points

Proper stream crossings – culverts or bridges – protect freshwater quality and maintain the stability of stream banks on farms.

- Bridges are preferred because their impact on the waterway is generally less.
- A culvert with fenced sides is an alternative to a bridge. In most cases, you won't need a resource consent to build or maintain a culvert, if certain conditions are met.
- Culverts must allow for fish passage.
- Older crossings (pre-1998) don't need a resource consent as long as they don't restrict fish passage or have any other significant effects on aquatic life or stream habitat.
- Effluent or sediment runoff from the culvert, bridge decking or the approaches should not enter the waterway.

What you need to ensure

Maintenance of culverts or bridges

- 👍 Any diversion of water is for a period of not more than 48 hours.
- 👍 No contaminants from equipment are allowed to enter the river (make sure you do not refuel any equipment in the riverbed).
- 👍 Disturbance, especially of sediment, is minimized.
- 👍 There are no harmful effects on aquatic life or habitat in the stream.
- 👍 Any material removed from the structure or used during maintenance is removed from the riverbed when you have completed the work.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



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What you need to ensure

Construction of a new culvert or bridge

- 👍 A culvert is less than one metre in diameter, be covered by no more than one metre of fill, and be less than 25m long.
- 👍 A bridge does not have any abutments or piers in the riverbed, and its soffit is level with or above the adjoining ground level at the top of the bank.
- 👍 The cross-sectional area of the river channel where you are building the bridge or culvert is less than 10 square metres.
- 👍 The channel of the stream is not altered or its ability to carry flood waters is not restricted.
- 👍 The culvert or bridge does not cause significant environmental effects, including erosion.
- 👍 The culvert or bridge does not restrict fish passage.
- 👍 The riverbed is not disturbed from 1 May to 31 October. This is the fish spawning season and when there is a greater likelihood of floods.
- 👍 The Taranaki Regional Council is informed you intend to construct a stream crossing, at least two working days before you start work.
- 👍 The culvert must be able to cope with flood water. Advice is available from Council staff to ensure culverts or bridges are sized correctly.



- 👍 Effluent or sediment runoff from the culvert, bridge decking or approaches should not enter the waterway. Bunds can assist with this.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.

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Removal of a culvert, bridge or ford

What you need to ensure

- 👍 Explosives are not used in the water.
- 👍 Removal of the structure does not alter the level of the streambed by more than 500mm.
- 👍 The width of the streambed is less than ten metres.
- 👍 The structure is completely removed from the riverbed.
- 👍 The structure is not on or in an area listed in the Heritage NZ register or is an identified wāhi tapu (sacred place for iwi).
- 👍 Riverbed disturbance is minimised and there is no significant erosion, scour, deposition or other environmental effects.
- 👍 The riverbed is not disturbed from 1 May to 31 October.
- 👍 The Council is informed that you intend to remove a structure from a riverbed, at least two working days before you start work.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent. However, as long as the structure, or the part that is being removed, is completely removed from the streambed, your consent will be granted by the Council, with conditions to address environmental effects.



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Taking and using water from streams and rivers

Key points

Use of small amounts of water does not require a resource consent.

- Generally, the use of small amounts of fresh water for domestic purposes, or for stock or dairy farm use, does not require a resource consent if certain conditions are met.
- Much tighter restrictions apply in some specified catchments, because of the high environmental values of these rivers.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 Your water take for domestic, stock or farm dairy use must stay at less than 1.5 litres a second or 50 cubic metres a day, and less than 25% of the stream flow in catchments without additional restrictions. Water use above this level will require a resource consent.



If you want to take water for any other purpose and/or you need greater volumes, you will need a resource consent. National water metering provisions may also apply. Talk to Council consents staff about your options.

In the **Stony River** catchment there is a limit on the total amount of water that can be taken out of the river or its tributaries for agricultural and horticultural uses. Taking water from the Stony River catchment for other purposes is prohibited because of the high scenic and recreational values of the river.

In addition, taking large volumes of water from some parts of the **Maketawa Stream** and **Manganui River** is not allowed because of the high environmental values of these rivers. Note however, that small volumes of water are permitted to be taken as above.

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Farm dams

Key points

Small dams do not require a resource consent. Bigger dams do.

- Small farm dams, not designed for river or flood control or to drain land or wetlands, are generally allowed without a resource consent if certain conditions are met.
- An exception is the Stony River catchment, where any damming is prohibited.
- The conditions are to protect the waterway ecology and the stability of the streambed.
- If the dam is more than four metres high and stores more than 20,000m³ you need a building consent from the Regional Council.



What you need to ensure

- 👍 The catchment area upstream of the dam is less than 25 hectares.
- 👍 The dam is no more than three metres high.
- 👍 You are not damming water outside of your own property or causing a buildup of water on neighbouring properties.
- 👍 The dam can let floods pass, via a proper spillway, and does not alter the natural course of the river.
- 👍 You are not restricting anyone else's water supply or resource consent.
- 👍 No significant environmental effects, including scouring, erosion, or restriction of fish passage is occurring.
- 👍 No contaminants from equipment are being allowed to enter the river (make sure you do not refuel any equipment in the riverbed).
- 👍 The dam does not restrict fish passage.
- 👍 Construction does not take place between 1 May and 31 October in areas covered by water, due to fish spawning during this time.
- 👍 The Council is informed that you are going to dam the stream, at least two working days before you start work.

If you cannot meet all of these requirements, you may still be able to construct the dam but you will need a resource consent.

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Realigning, diverting or piping a stream

Key points

Generally you will require a resource consent to realign, move or pipe a stream, particularly if a wetland is affected.

- Realignment, diversion or piping a stream is prohibited within the Stony River catchment.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 The upstream catchment area is less than 25 hectares.
- 👍 The length of stream to be changed is less than 200m long (including any sections that have previously been realigned since 1998).
- 👍 The drainage channel is less than 4 square metres in cross-sectional area.
- 👍 There are no effects on neighbouring properties or restrictions on anyone else's water supply or resource consent.
- 👍 There are no significant environmental effects, including scouring or erosion, restriction of fish passage, or effect on aquatic life or habitat.
- 👍 The Council is informed that you intend to do the work at least two working days before you start work.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent. Mitigation and a financial contribution will be required to offset any loss of stream habitat.



Other activities in or near streams may require a resource consent. If you are in any doubt refer to the Regional Freshwater Plan or contact the Council's consents staff.

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Taking gravel from a stream or river

Key points

You do not need a resource consent to take small quantities of gravel from the dry part of a streambed.

- The taking of gravel is prohibited within the **Stony River** catchment.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 Not more than 15 cubic metres is taken in a year.
- 👍 The gravel is only for your own domestic or on-farm purposes.
- 👍 The gravel is not taken from 1 May to 31 October.
- 👍 The gravel is not taken from any area that is covered in water.
- 👍 No mounds or depressions remain.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



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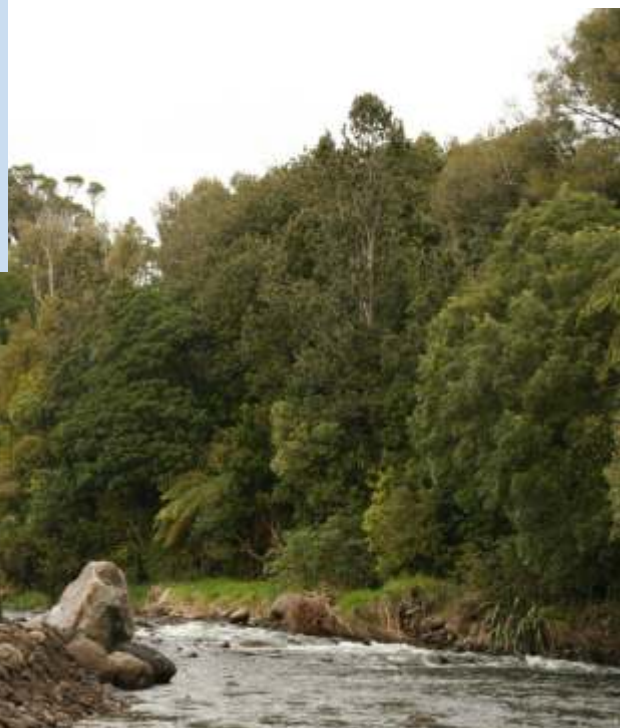
River and flood control works

Key point

If you want to extract sand, gravel, aggregate or rock for river and flood control purposes contact the Council's rivers manager.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 You can clear debris to control floods without a resource consent as long as the material removed does not include gravel, and there are no significant effects on stream ecology. If there is likely to be a significant effect or if the clearance of debris is to be done between 1 May and 31 October or in a part of the bed covered by water, you will need a resource consent.



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Drilling a well or bore and using groundwater

Key points

There are two aspects related to wells and bores - drilling them, and then taking groundwater from them. If certain conditions are met, both can occur without the need for a resource consent.

- A well is less than 20m deep. A bore is more than 20m deep.

What you need to ensure

Drilling for groundwater

You do not need a resource consent to drill a well or bore for farm water supplies as long as:

- 👍 You provide the Council with a copy of the bore log no more than four weeks after completion.
- 👍 Any bore is cased and sealed.
- 👍 Any bore is more than 50m from any effluent treatment pond, septic tank, or silage pit.
- 👍 Any bore is more than 500m away from the high tide mark on the coast or from other water supply bores.
- 👍 Any well is at least 25m from the sea, adjacent wells, and any other water body and at least 50m from any effluent treatment pond, septic tank or silage pit.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.

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What you need to ensure

Using groundwater

You do not need a resource consent if:

- 👍 You are taking less than 50 cubic metres of groundwater per day and less than 1.5 litres per second.
- 👍 The well or bore is more than 50m from any effluent pond, septic tank, or silage pit.
- 👍 You are taking water from a well that is more than 25m from the sea, any other well or a surface water body; or from a bore more than 500m from the sea or other bores.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



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Domestic wastewater

Key point

Domestic wastewater requires proper treatment before discharge to land.

- You won't need a resource consent as long as you meet certain conditions.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 The discharge must be more than 25m from a surface stream or 50m from a water supply well or spring.
- 👍 You must also make sure that there is no surface ponding, that there is no run-off into a stream, and there are no significant environmental effects.
- 👍 You also need to meet district council building requirements.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



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Earthworks and control of stormwater

Key points

You need to limit the likelihood of sediment run-off to streams.

- Minor earthworks are allowed without a resource consent.

What you need to ensure

You won't need a resource consent for stormwater run-off from earthworks if:

- 👍 You are working in a small area (less than one hectare).
- 👍 The volume of disturbed material is less than 3000 cubic metres.
- 👍 The area is stabilised as soon as possible after the earthworks have been completed.
- 👍 The run-off does not contain levels of sediment that would have a significant effect on water quality.
- 👍 There are unlikely to be significant adverse effects on the quality of water or wetlands.
- 👍 If earthworks extend over a larger area (between one hectare and eight hectares), you don't require a resource consent as long as:
 - The volume is less than 24,000 cubic metres.
 - Soil stabilisation is undertaken as soon as practicable.
 - You meet the other requirements listed above.
 - You are not doing the work between 1 May and 31 October.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



The Council has produced a document of guidelines and advice on controlling stormwater run-off from earthworks. Online link:

bit.ly/EarthworksGuidelines (PDF, 845 KB).

You should also check whether your district council has any requirements.

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Silage pits and feedlots

Key points

Leachate from silage pits and feedlots have the potential to affect ground and surface water. Pits need to be appropriately lined so that discharges are controlled and do not reach water.

- You won't need a resource consent as long as you can meet certain conditions.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 The discharge point of the leachate is more than 25m away from a stream.
- 👍 The discharge point is more than 50m from any water supply well or spring.
- 👍 The discharge does not enter a river or stream.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



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Fertiliser application

Key point

Applying fertiliser to land is generally permitted without the need for a resource consent.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 The fertiliser does not spread into any water (including streams, lakes, drains or wetlands). Aerial operators should take particular care to avoid waterways.
- 👍 The fertiliser has been approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries.
- 👍 There is minimal chance of the fertiliser drifting off your property or on to non-target areas – consider the wind direction.
- 👍 Dust and odour is minimized.
- 👍 Pungent fertilisers such as chicken litter are not spread on hot, still afternoons or are mixed into soil to reduce odour.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



It is good practice to prepare a nutrient budget and management plan to provide a total farm system for managing nutrients. This will benefit your bottom line profitability as well as water quality.

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Spraying - herbicides and pesticides

Key point

The sprays and any drift should be limited to your property to avoid any effects on neighbours or non-target areas.

What you need to ensure

Spraying for weed and pest control is generally permitted without a resource consent provided you comply with the following requirements.

Operator qualifications

- 👍 Anyone carrying out spraying must be properly qualified – they must hold a current GROWSAFE introductory certificate, be under the direct supervision of someone who holds the appropriate GROWSAFE qualifications, or hold other qualifications that meet the requirements of the Regional Air Quality Plan. Further information on the GROWSAFE requirements can be found in the Air Quality Plan. Guidelines on training requirements for other qualifications can be found at:

📄 bit.ly/AgrichemTraining (PDF, 79 KB)

Notifying neighbours

- 👍 Neighbours must be notified unless they agree not to be or if the agrichemicals are applied with hand operated and manually pressurised spray equipment. Notification should include the areas to be sprayed, the dates and times of spraying and the measures that will be used to prevent or minimise spray drift. Different notification requirements apply if spraying is done from the ground or from the air (see the Regional Air Quality Plan or contact the Council's consents staff).



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Avoiding adverse effects

- 👍 Avoid environmental problems by following the guidelines in our Regional Air Quality Plan and Regional Freshwater Plan. Note the Guidelines in the Freshwater Plan on the use of aquatic herbicides.

📄 bit.ly/AgrichemAdvice (PDF, 155 KB)

📄 bit.ly/AgrichemAdvice2 (PDF, 425 KB)

- 👍 Notify the Council as soon as you can if there is an accidental or unintended discharge of agrichemicals.

Keeping records

- 👍 Keep good records of your agrichemical use. This should include the name of the user, the agrichemical equipment and methods of use, the volume and concentration of the agrichemical used, the locality, area and date of application, and the location and nature of any sensitive areas. Your records should also include weather conditions at the time of application, including wind speed and direction and any abnormal situation or incident. You will need to supply these details to the Council on request.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



Full details of the requirements can be found in the Regional Air Quality Plan and Regional Freshwater Plan.

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Vegetation clearance

Key point

You do not need a resource consent to remove vegetation from a riverbed or if you are clearing small areas of vegetation from land, provided you comply with the following requirements.

What you need to ensure

Removing vegetation from a riverbed

- 👍 Generally, you won't need a resource consent to remove vegetation from a riverbed as long as it is for flood control or riparian establishment, there are only minor environmental effects and the bed of the river is disturbed as little as possible.
- 👍 Nor will you need a resource consent if you are trimming vegetation growing in a riverbed from around a bridge, powerline, pipeline or other cable, as long as all trimmed vegetation is removed from the riverbed, sediment disturbance and other environmental effects are minimised and no refuelling of equipment is done in the riverbed.
- 👍 If you are clearing vegetation from a riverbed for any other purpose or cannot meet the requirements noted above, or if you are planting vegetation in a streambed, you need to apply for a resource consent.



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What you need to ensure

Clearing vegetation from land (except forestry logging)

- 👍 If you are clearing, cutting or burning small areas of vegetation (less than five hectares) and no part of the land has a slope of greater than 28 degrees, then you do not require a resource consent from the Council provided you comply with the following requirements to protect the soil resource from erosion and reduce effects on waterways.
- 👍 No more than 10% of the subsoil is exposed at any one time; the area is revegetated as soon as possible; vegetation is felled away from streams; any debris is controlled to prevent blockages of streams, flooding, erosion and any significant effects on fish or other aquatic life; and there are no significant effects on water quality or stock water supplies. No trees should be dragged through any streambed.
- 👍 You must also let the Council know of your plans at least 15 working days before starting work.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



Your consent will be granted as long as a suitable site plan covering management of erosion and sediment control is prepared and forwarded to the Taranaki Regional Council.

You should check whether clearing or disturbing indigenous vegetation is also controlled by your local district council to protect the ecological or amenity values of the bush.

If you are logging indigenous forest for milling, you may need to obtain a permit from the Ministry for Primary Industries.

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Forestry logging

Key point

The impact of logging on freshwater quality, soil health, erosion and sediment must be managed.

- Forest harvesting on an area of over five hectares requires a resource consent if any part has a slope of greater than 28 degrees.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 The discharge of stormwater and sediment into water from earthworks associated with the formation of roads, tracks and landing sites etc, may also require a resource consent. This depends on the area and volume of soil disturbed and whether detailed conditions set out in the Freshwater Plan can be met. (See Earthworks section).
- 👍 A site erosion and sediment control plan is required.
- 👍 Earthworks associated with new tracks should not occur within 5m of a river or wetland unless they connect to an approved crossing point or are for the maintenance or upgrading of an existing track.
- 👍 Any areas of disturbed soil must be stabilised or revegetated as soon as practicable (generally no later than 18 months from the date of the harvesting).
- 👍 Water run-off and sediment controls are installed and maintained for tracks and landing sites.
- 👍 Batters, cuts and side castings must be left in a stable state to prevent slumping.



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- 👍 Vegetation must be felled away from and not dragged through any watercourse, lake or wetland.
- 👍 Slash must be removed from areas where it has the potential to block or divert river flow, cause bank erosion, or damage existing infrastructure.
- 👍 Slash associated with landing sites and processing sites must be placed on stable ground and contained to prevent accumulated slash from causing erosion or land instability.
- 👍 Any discharge to surface water should not, after reasonable mixing, cause the production of conspicuous oil or grease, films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials, or any conspicuous change in the visual clarity or colour of the receiving water.
- 👍 The activity and associated discharges to surface water does not restrict fish passage or take place in an area and at a time that impacts on fish spawning and migration.
- 👍 The Council must be notified, in writing, of the location and timing of the activity at least 15 working days prior to the commencement of the activity.



The Council will consider the proposed methods for erosion and sediment control, slash management, the timing of harvesting and general measures to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects on surface water.

These are based upon industry best practice guidelines, which can be downloaded using the web shortcuts listed below:

- 📄 NZ Forest Owners Association Environmental Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry: bit.ly/ForestryCode (PDF, 3.94 MB)
- 📄 NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Road Engineering Manual 2012: bit.ly/ForestryRoad (PDF, 3.74 MB)
- 📄 Taranaki Regional Council earthworks guidelines: bit.ly/EarthworksGuidelines (PDF, 845 KB).

Advice should be sought from the Council's consents staff on any requirements relating to applications for resource consent.

You should check whether clearing or disturbing indigenous vegetation is also controlled by your local district council to protect the ecological or amenity values of the bush.

If you are logging indigenous forest for milling, you may need to obtain a permit from the Ministry for Primary Industries.

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Government requirements

The Government is proposing to introduce a National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry.

The national standards could replace a number of the Council's requirements for forestry logging activities.

You should check the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz for the latest information.



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Stock truck effluent

Key points

The spilling or dumping of effluent from stock trucks is unacceptable.

- Farmers have an important role to play in minimising the amount of effluent generated by stock during transport.
- By making this effort, and particularly by standing stock before transportation, you can reduce the stress on the animals. This results in better meat quality as well as better environmental outcomes.
- Most stock trucks have effluent tanks and there are disposal facilities throughout the region.



What you need to ensure

- 👍 Stand stock off pasture or crops (but still allow access to drinking water) for a minimum of four hours before transporting.
- 👍 Use dry feed (hay, grain or meal, for example) if standing stock is difficult or if stock are being transported long distances.
- 👍 Discharge of stock truck effluent directly to water or on to land where it will or is likely to reach water, is not allowed.

The discharge of stock truck effluent to land is allowed under the Resource Management Act if the discharge will not reach any water (including groundwater).

Rubbish disposal

Key points

On-farm rubbish disposal must not impact on water or air quality. Good practice includes recycling, reuse and weekly rubbish collections.

- Recycling is the only environmentally sustainable option for hay and silage wraps and other plastics.
- Care needs to be taken to avoid odour and seepage when burying dead stock and other refuse in pits.
- There are restrictions on what you are able to burn.



What you need to ensure

Disposal pits

- 👍 Only material from your own farm is disposed of in the pit.
- 👍 The pit is covered with a lid, and a layer of soil or sawdust is added each time any offal or carcass is put in the pit.
- 👍 There is no smell beyond your property boundary.
- 👍 Seepage does not enter any streams, is well away (more than 50m) from any water supply well or spring, and is more than 25m away from any stream.

If you can meet these requirements, you will not need a resource consent.

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What you need to ensure

Burning rubbish and vegetation

- 👍 The rubbish you're burning must not contain treated wood or sawdust, waste oil, tyres, or chlorinated plastics.
- 👍 The smoke or fumes must not cause significant environmental effects or cause nuisance beyond your property boundary.
- 👍 Only non-chlorinated haylage and silage wrap can be burned.

If it is unlikely that you can meet these requirements, you must apply for a resource consent.

- 👍 If you need to burn vegetation, you can generally do so without a resource consent, as long as smoke is minimised to avoid effects on other people, the environment, soiling of property, visibility, or traffic.

If you cannot meet this requirement, you may be required to take action to reduce the problem or stop the burning altogether, or you may need a resource consent.



The Council's Regional Air Quality Plan has a section on good management practices for burning vegetation. Online link:

🔗 bit.ly/BurningVegetation (PDF, 72 KB).

There may be restricted fire seasons or fire bans in place, and you may need a fire permit from the Department of Conservation or your district council (as the local fire authority). Contact your local district council, or Department of Conservation.

Recycling

🔗 www.trc.govt.nz/reduce-waste-on-the-farm/ for information on farm-related recycling schemes.

🔗 www.trc.govt.nz/reduce-waste-at-home/ and www.trc.govt.nz/a-to-z-recycling-guide/ for more general recycling advice and information.

- See also your district council website.

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Activities in estuaries and below the high tide mark

Key points

Farmers need to check before going ahead with activities or developments in estuaries and river mouth areas. Different requirements apply in different areas.

- Do not allow access of stock to the coast or estuaries.

What you need to ensure

- 👍 You can maintain an existing structure such as a bridge as long as you do not increase its size, there are no significant environmental effects, and you have advised the Council of your proposed work at least one working day before you start.
- 👍 You can clear the mouth of any stream less than three metres wide at its mouth as long as the work is required for water quality improvement or river control purposes, the material is replaced on the foreshore in an area where the foreshore is of similar material, public access is not restricted for more than a week and you have advised the Taranaki Regional Council of your proposed work at least one working day before you start.
- 👍 You do not need a resource consent to clear culverts, or outfall or intake structures provided any disturbance of the foreshore or seabed is minimised.

You must meet all of these requirements. Otherwise, you will need a resource consent.



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You must apply for a resource consent if you want to do any of the following in estuaries or below the high tide mark:

- Take water, including damming and diversion, from estuaries or an aquifer, or introduce or plant any exotic plants.
- Remove any sand or gravel.
- Construct or remove most structures.



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DISCLAIMER:

This booklet has been prepared by the Taranaki Regional Council to advise landowners and occupiers of the Taranaki Regional Council's requirements for good farm management in Taranaki. However, they are not a substitute for the rules that apply to the activities described in the booklet. Anyone undertaking activities that require authorisation from the Council should check on what rules apply to those activities. The rules are contained in the Council's regional freshwater, soil, air quality and coastal plans which can be found on the Council's website www.trc.govt.nz. Council staff are also available to assist.

The Council accepts no responsibility for any use of or reliance on any contents of this booklet by any person, and shall not be liable to any person on any ground, for any loss, damage or expense arising from such use or reliance.

