

Stock exclusion and minimum farming standards

March 2020

Stock exclusion

What do the rules say about stock exclusion?

Schedule C of plan change 1 requires all waterbodies on land with a slope of up to 15 degrees, or where the slope is >15 degrees and farming on the adjoining land exceeds 18 stock units/ha, to be fenced to exclude cattle, horses, deer and pigs. Fencing is not required if these animals are prevented from entering the bed of a waterbody by a stock proof barrier (natural or constructed).

What is considered a waterbody?

For the minimum standards, a waterbody is defined as:

- the bed of any river (including spring, stream and modified river or stream) or artificial watercourse that is permanently or intermittently flowing
- the bed of any lake
- any wetland, including a constructed wetland, greater than 50m².

What are the deadlines for fencing and stock exclusion?

The dates for fencing and stock exclusion from waterbodies are:

- within two years of plan change 1 becoming operative; or
- one year after plan change 1 becomes operative if the farm is located in a subcatchment that is identified as sensitive to *E. coli*.

However, if farming under a consent, a tailored solution may be approved as part of your farm environment plan and lodged with the consent application. This option would require consent to be applied for immediately, upon the plan change being operative.

The plan becomes operative once any appeals and proceedings have been resolved.

Will existing fences need to be replaced immediately?

No, existing fences that do not comply with the minimum setback requirements do not need to be replaced. However, all new and replacement fences must comply with the minimum setback distances.



What about stock crossing water?

Farmed cattle, horses, deer and pigs must not enter onto or pass across the bed of a waterbody, except when using a livestock crossing structure or when they are being supervised and actively driven across a waterbody at a location identified for this purpose in your farm environment plan, in one continuous movement.

Minimum farming standards

What are minimum farming standards?

Minimum farming standards are practices that reduce contaminant losses on farm. In addition to stock exclusion, the minimum farming standards specified in Schedule C of plan change 1 are as follows.

Fertiliser application

- Nitrogenous fertiliser is not applied at rates greater than 30kgN/ha per dressing.
- No nitrogenous fertiliser is applied during the months of June and July in any year unless the temperature is tested and found to be greater than 10 degrees Celsius within the root zone.

Note: The above practices do not apply to commercial vegetable production.

Sacrifice paddocks and winter forage grazing

- When any land adjacent to a waterbody is being used for the grazing of winter forage crops (from 1 June to 1 September) or as a sacrifice paddock, an ungrazed vegetated buffer at least 10 metres in width must be maintained.
- No cattle older than two years or greater than 400 kilograms live weight (lwt) are grazed on forage crops on land use capability (LUC) class 6e, 7 or 8 land from 1 June to 1 September.

Cultivation

- No cultivation shall occur within 5 metres of any waterbody (cultivation does not include no-tillage practices such as direct drilling of seed).


What if I cannot meet stock exclusion and minimum farming standards?

As with other conditions of the permitted activity rules, you will need to adhere to the minimum standards to avoid applying for a resource consent. If you cannot or choose not to meet these standards, you will likely need to apply for resource consent.

Have more questions?

You can find the decisions version of the proposed rules on our website. We also have a team of trained staff who can answer your questions.

Call us on

 **0800 800 401**


Or send an email to

 **healthyivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz**



Important

This information has been provided based on Waikato Regional Council's interpretation of the decisions version of the proposed plan change to be notified in April 2020. Please take the time to read the decisions version and seek your own advice, too. Also note that the proposed plan is subject to possible change by the Environment Court through the appeals process.

 0800 800 401

 waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers

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