

Essential Freshwater

Agricultural Intensification

The proposed Marlborough Environment Plan is still undergoing appeals and changes are possible.

Who do the regulations apply to?

Farmers that are wanting to increase:

- The amount of a farm used for dairy farming
- The amount of a farm used for dairy support
- The area of land that is under irrigation

Why are there regulations?

Agricultural intensification can result in higher levels of nutrients, sediment and microbial contamination of our rivers, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater.

What are the regulations?

In general, converting more than 10ha of land to more intensive use compared to the reference dates will require a resource consent.

Current land use	Change to	Permitted activity standards	By
Plantation Forestry	Pastoral land use (use of land for livestock grazing)	You will need a resource consent if you are increasing the amount of land in pastoral use by more than 10ha compared to the end of 2 Sept 2020	3 Sept 2020
Any type of farming	Dairy farmland (grazing of dairy cattle, excluding dairy support)	You will need a resource consent if you are increasing dairy farming land by more than 10ha compared to the end of 2 Sept 2020	
Dairy support land	More dairy support land (land on farm used for grazing of dairy support cattle and outside the milking platform)	You will need a resource consent if you are increasing the amount of land used for dairy support land above the maximum annual area used for dairy support between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2019.	
Irrigated dairy farmland	More irrigated dairy farmland	You will need a resource consent if you are increasing irrigated pasture for dairy farming above that irrigated between 23 Sept 2019 and 2 Sept 2020 by more than 10ha	
Intensive winter grazing	More intensive winter grazing	You will need a resource consent if you increase the area of land used for intensive winter grazing above the annual maximum barea used between 2014/15 and 2018/19. Please see the Intensive Winter Grazing factsheet for more detail.	

Please note that these regulations are temporary and will apply until a change in the pMEP is publicly notified to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, which must be done by 31 Dec 2024.

Gaining resource consent

Resource consents are only able to be granted for intensification activities (where consent is required) if Marlborough District Council is satisfied that granting the consent will not result in increases in contaminant loads in the catchment or concentrations of contaminants in freshwater or other receiving environments, when compared to 02 September 2020.

Talk to the duty planner if you think you may require a resource consent.

Are there any other useful resources available?

[Agricultural intensification rules](#)

[Essential Freshwater: Agricultural intensification factsheet](#)

[National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Summary](#)

[Information on MPI website about MDC](#)

[Resource Management \(National Environmental Standards for Freshwater\) Regulations 2020](#)

Contact the MDC Environmental Protection Team

monitoring@marlborough.govt.nz

Need a resource consent?

Apply for one online at:

www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/applying-for-a-resource-consent

Contact the duty planner via the form on our website:

www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/duty-planner-service-information/dutyplanner-enquiry-form

Phone customer services on 03 520 7400

Or visit the Marlborough District Council in person at:

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim

2 Dublin Street, Picton

marlborough.govt.nz

For rural matters: marlborough.govt.nz/environment/marlborough-rural-hub

