

Essential Freshwater

Stock Exclusion Rules

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

Who do the Stock Exclusion regulations apply to?

Any person who owns or controls stock, including beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy support cattle, deer, or pigs.

Why are there Stock Exclusion regulations?

- to reduce the impact of damage to our waterways from livestock. Livestock entering waterways can contaminate the water and damage the bank, with heavy livestock such as cattle and deer having the biggest impact.
- dung and urine from livestock contains nutrients that promote weed growth and can negatively impact freshwater habitats, and are also a source of harmful microorganisms such as E.coli in waterways
- trampling of banks and beds by livestock can increase streambank erosion and sediment runoff

What are the regulations?

What	Stock	On	By
<p>Waterways</p> <p>Stock must be excluded and kept at least 3m from the edge of the bed of a waterway that has a bed wider than 1m at any point in the parcel of land. This includes intermittent streams, but excludes drains, irrigation canals and ephemeral flows.</p> <p>Note: All new fences that are erected after 5 October 2023 need to be a minimum of 3 metres away from the waterway. Permanent fences¹ built before this date that effectively exclude stock do not need to be moved unless they need replacing.</p> <p>Riparian vegetation that effectively excludes stock from the bed/rivers is an acceptable form of fencing.</p> <p>Stock must use a bridge or culvert if they cross the waterway more than twice a month.</p>	Dairy cattle (includes bulls and unweaned calves)	Any newly developed farm	3 Sept 2020
	Dairy cattle and pigs	Any terrain	1 July 2023
	Dairy support cattle	Any terrain	1 July 2025
	Beef cattle and deer intensively grazed (break feeding, feeding on annual forage crops or irrigated pasture)	Any terrain	1 July 2023
	Beef cattle and deer	Low slope areas As per the MfE website, land under 500m altitude where average slope is less than 5 degrees	1 July 2025
<p>Wetlands</p> <p>All stock must be excluded from natural wetlands</p>	All cattle, deer and pigs	Any natural wetland on a newly developed farm	3 Sept 2020
		Any natural wetland identified in the pMEP as of 3 Sept 2020	1 July 2023
		Any wetland greater than 0.05ha on low slope land or with a population of threatened species	1 July 2025

1: Permanent fence means a post and batten fence with driven or dug fence post, or an electric fence with at least two electrified wires and driven or dug fence post, or a deer fence.

How do the Stock Exclusion regulations fit in with Freshwater Farm Plans?

Landowners that require a Freshwater Farm Plan (FWFP) need to include information on how stock will be excluded from waterways to meet the stock exclusion regulations in their FWFP.

Low slope mapping tool

mfe.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=42c325f726354d78a38893983432aa65

Are there any other useful resources available?

[MfE stock exclusion regulations](#)

[MfE stock exclusion factsheet](#)

[Resource Management \(Stock Exclusion\) Regulations 2020](#)

[MPI stock exclusion regulations - 2020](#)

[Dairy NZ fencing waterways information](#)

[Dairy NZ riparian planting information](#)

Contact the MDC Rural Hub Team

ruralhub@marlborough.govt.nz

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](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz)

For rural matters: [marlborough.govt.nz/environment/marlborough-rural-hub](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/marlborough-rural-hub)