

# Stock exclusion from lakes, rivers and natural wetlands

Essential Freshwater Regulations

August 2021

In September 2020 the Government introduced national regulations to exclude some livestock from lakes, rivers and natural wetlands. These regulations are called the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 and they apply to dairy and beef cattle and farmed deer and pigs throughout New Zealand. They do not apply to feral (wild) animals.

Any person who owns or controls livestock is required to adhere to these regulations. There are different depending on the type of terrain and livestock. The rules are summarised below.

## Excluding stock from lakes or rivers

Table 1 outlines the rules for excluding livestock from lakes, rivers and natural wetlands, depending on the type of livestock, terrain and farm system. It shows the dates from which the rules apply.

The regulations have applied to new farm systems from 30 September 2020 and apply to existing farm systems from 01 July 2023 or 01 July 2025, depending on stock type and intensity of grazing. The rules apply to any farmed beef cattle, dairy cattle (including dairy support), deer or pigs.

A river is defined as either permanently flowing or ephemeral with a bed of at least **1 metre** in width.

‘Exclusion’ means livestock must be kept at least **3 metres** away from the bed of the lake, river or natural wetland unless crossing the waterway (see ‘Crossing lakes or rivers’).

Intensive grazing is defined in the regulations as:

- Breakfeeding; or
- Grazing on annual forage crops; or
- Grazing on pasture that has been irrigated in the last 12 months.

Low slope land is identified on maps – see:

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/freshwater/freshwater-acts-and-regulations/stock-exclusion>

## Lake Brunner Catchment

If there are regional rules for livestock exclusion from a lake, river or wetland, the more stringent rule applies. In the West Coast Regional Land and Water Plan livestock are required to be excluded from riparian margins by a 1 metre setback in the Lake Brunner Catchment.

Therefore, in Lake Brunner Catchment, the national regulations of the bigger (more stringent) setback of 3 metres will apply, and 1 metre for sheep, goats or other livestock (as

the national regulations do not apply to sheep, goats or other livestock).

## Crossing lakes or rivers

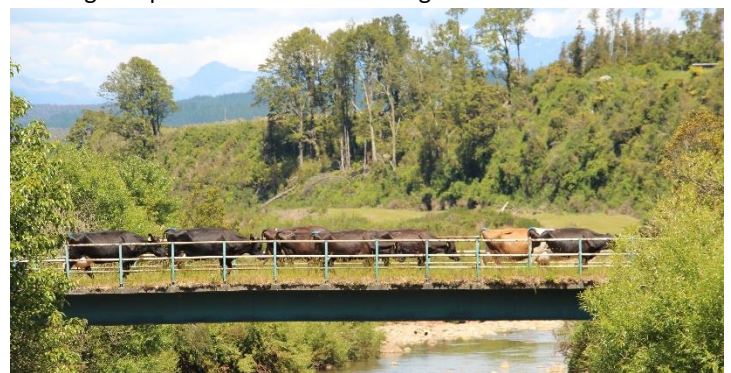
The stock exclusion regulations do not apply to stock when they are crossing a lake or river provided either:

1. They are using a dedicated bridge or culvert to cross; or
2. They are actively supervised and driven across the water and do not cross the same lake or river more than twice in any month.

In some circumstances a person may not have to comply with these regulations for stock crossing a river if it is too difficult to install a bridge or culvert due to the river having a highly mobile bed, provided the person ensures that any stock crossing the river are supervised and actively driven across. Contact Council to see if this may apply to you.

## Lake Brunner Catchment

In Lake Bruner Catchment any livestock crossing waterways requires a resource consent (Rule 18 in the Regional Land and Water Plan). This regional rule still applies even when stock crossing complies with the national regulations.



**Infringement**

The national regulations include infringement fees for people who do not comply. They are: \$2,000 for a natural person or \$4,000 for an unnatural person (e.g. a company or Trust); and \$100 per animal (up to \$2,000 in any case).

**Contact us**

If you have any questions on stock exclusion from lakes, rivers and natural wetlands, or any other aspect of the NES-FM please email [info@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wrc.govt.nz) or call our Compliance team on 0508 800 118. Our website at [www.wrc.govt.nz](http://www.wrc.govt.nz) will also be regularly updated as new information comes to hand. This will include wetlands identified and listed in the Regional and District Plans.



**Table 1: Summary Livestock Exclusion Regulations**

Stock exclusion from lakes or rivers			
Stock	Terrain	Farm System	Date
Dairy cattle	Any	Any	30/09/2020 – new farm 01/07/2023 - existing farm
Pigs	Any	Any	03/09/2020 – new farm 01/07/2023 - existing farm
Beef Cattle Deer	Any	<b>Intensive Grazing System</b>	03/09/2020 – new farm 01/07/2023 - existing farm
Dairy Support	Any	Any	30/09/2020 – new system 01/07/2025 – existing system
Beef Cattle Deer	Low Slope Land	Any	30/09/2020 – new system 01 July 2025 – existing system

Natural wetlands listed in a regional or district plan			
Stock	Terrain	Farm System	Rules apply
All Cattle, Pigs & Deer	Any	Any	03/09/2020 – new farm 01/07/2023 existing farm
Other natural wetlands with threatened species (as identified in NPS Freshwater Management 2020)			
Stock	Terrain	Farm System	Rules apply
All Cattle, Pigs & Deer	Any	Any	03/09/2020 – new farm 01/07/2025 - existing farm
All other natural wetlands			
Stock	Terrain	Farm System	Rules apply
All Cattle, Pigs & Deer	Low Slope Land	Any	03/09/2020 – new farm 01/07/2025 existing farm

