



A guide to farming on flood prone land



Baleage moved by flood waters

Flooding is a frequent and natural event in Southland that can damage properties, infrastructure and disrupt business. To reduce damage and disruptions, Environment Southland has constructed significant flood control infrastructure and maintains over 450 kilometres of stop banks through flood control works.

Farms with stop banks are required to manage them to maintain strength and structural integrity. Land being farmed inside the stop banks is vulnerable to flooding at any time of the year and requires careful management to reduce loss of resources, damage to other properties, public infrastructure

and to minimise water contamination. To help you with this, there are a number of good management practices as well as the Southland Flood Control and Drainage Management Bylaw 2020.

Recommended practices within vulnerable flood zones include:

- Keep anything that could float or be washed away, e.g. baleage, timber, tyres, woodchip, manure and soil, out of a flood zone
- Protect soils from heavy vehicles and graze to maintain grass cover during key flood-prone periods
- Avoid placing winter crops inside stop banks and other vulnerable areas

- Keep offal holes, silage stacks, chemicals and fuel, well back from all flood zones
- Limit infrastructure like lanes and buildings inside flood zones
- Place and construct fencing that can be easily repaired after flooding
- Ensure riverbanks have appropriate riparian vegetation
- Manage stock grazing on flood banks to ensure good grass cover with no bare patches

► Environment Southland Flood Control and Drainage Management Bylaw 2020

The bylaw aims to manage and protect the integrity of Environment Southland's assets like stop banks, detention dams, bridges, culverts and tide gate structures which all assist in controlling flooding and protecting our communities. It restricts the types of activities that can happen in a floodway or near stop banks including any modification, planting, construction, storage of anything (such as baleage) and earthworks. To carry out some of these activities near a stop bank you may be able to apply for an Authority.

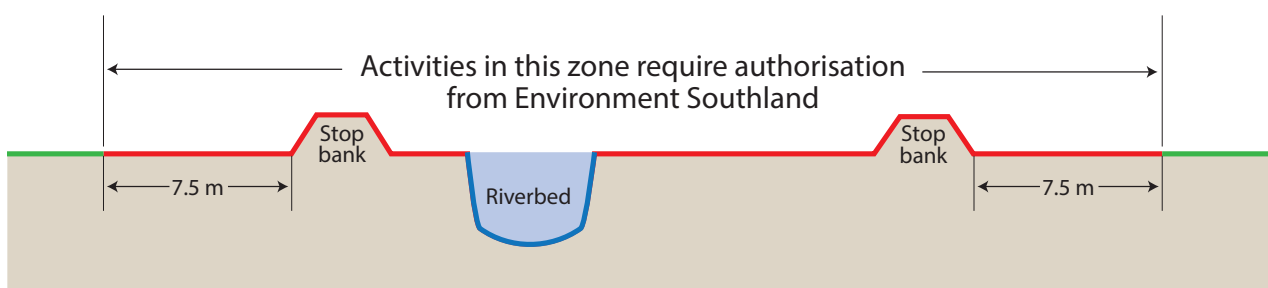
Activities that require bylaw Authority include:

- Altering, modifying or interfering with any flood control works
- Planting or growing any vegetation that affects flood

control within 7.5 metres of the landward side of any flood control works

- Dumping, depositing or storing anything on, over or within 7.5 metres of the landward side of any flood control works
- Constructing a structure on, over or within 7.5 metres of the landward side of any flood control works
- Allowing livestock, vehicles or equipment to alter the integrity of any flood control works
- Excavating or earthworks on, over or within 7.5 metres of the landward side of any flood control works (includes installing offal holes)

To apply for an Authority, complete the form in Appendix 1 of the bylaw or the online form on Environment Southland's website – www.es.govt.nz



More information

Read the full bylaw on our website – www.es.govt.nz

There are a range of supporting factsheets on critical source areas and riparian management. You'll find helpful information on these websites:

- DairyNZ – www.dairynz.co.nz
- Beef + Lamb – www.beeflambnz.com.

Further assistance

For all advice on Environment Southland Flood Control and Drainage Management Bylaw 2020 talk to a catchment officer and for advice on good management practices within a floodway arrange a free visit by Environment Southland's land sustainability team on 0800 76 88 45.