

A guide to the new national and regional rules for freshwater

# Intensive winter grazing without a consent

Both the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan and the new National Environmental Standard for Freshwater have a list of permitted activity criteria for intensive winter grazing. If you can meet all of them, you don't need to apply for a resource consent for your intensive winter grazing.

Here's what you need to do. If you can't meet one or more of the conditions, then you'll need to apply for a consent. Give our consents team a call if you want to chat through your own situation or anything on this list.

## Criteria for intensive winter grazing

- ✓ The area to be intensive winter grazed on farms up to 333 ha is **no more than 15%** of the farm.
- ✓ The area to be intensive winter grazed on farms between 334 ha and 999 ha is no more than 50 ha or 10% of the farm, **whichever is greater**.
- ✓ The area to be intensive winter grazed on farms over 1,000 ha is no more than 100 ha or 15% of the farm, **whichever is lesser**.
- ✓ A Farm Environmental Management Plan is prepared and implemented in accordance with Appendix N of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.
- ✓ **EITHER** a 20 metre vegetated and stock excluded strip is maintained from the outer edge of the bed of a lake, river, artificial watercourse, modified watercourse, or natural wetland; **OR** the following practices are implemented:
  - break-feeding from top to bottom of a slope, or 20m last bite strip is left
  - back-fencing cattle when break-feeding
  - transportable water troughs in or near area being grazed
  - portable feeders if supplementary feed is being used
  - no more than 120 cattle/250 deer in a herd
  - critical source areas are grazed last.

- ✓ Stock are excluded with a vegetated strip of at least five metres from the bed of a lake, river, artificial watercourse, modified watercourse, or natural wetland regardless of whether there is any water in it.
- ✓ Stock must be kept at least five metres away from any other type of wetland, drain (including subsurface drainage), or ephemeral river (regardless of whether there is any water in it).
- ✓ Intensive winter grazing does not occur within 20m of a regionally significant wetland, sensitive water body, estuary or the coastal marine area (see the proposed plan for a list of these).
- ✓ Mean slope of the paddock is 10 degrees or less.
- ✓ Pugging (hoof penetration of soil to a depth of 5cm or more) is no deeper than 20cm at any one point (other than within 10m of an entrance gate or a fixed water trough) and any pugging must not be more than 50% of the paddock.
- ✓ Paddocks are replanted as soon as practicable, or by 1 November.
- ✓ Land on the farm must have been used for intensive winter grazing between 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2019, with no more than the maximum area of that grazing being used on the farm for future intensive winter grazing.

Depending on the condition(s) that cannot be met, the consent required could be under the National Environmental Standard, the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan, or both.

If you cannot meet the conditions above, get in touch with our consents team for advice on 0800 76 88 45 or email [service@es.govt.nz](mailto:service@es.govt.nz).

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