

- Farm dairy effluent
- Taking and using water
- Dams and damming water
- Stock in water bodies
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- Earthworks and vegetation clearance
- Drain construction and cleaning
- Fertiliser
- Agrichemicals
- Composting and burning
- Dumps and offal holes

Farmer's GUIDE

to permitted activities



About this guide

Under the Resource Management Act many activities require a resource consent unless they're permitted in a plan.

You can carry out permitted activities without a resource consent, as long as you comply with the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. But getting your head around the Waikato Regional Plan permitted activity rules and their conditions can be a challenge. That's why we've put together this quick reference guide for the permitted activities most farmers in the region carry out.

This guide covers the key conditions of the permitted activity rules. It also gives you the rule numbers so you can easily look them up in the Waikato Regional Plan.

This guide covers the key conditions of the permitted activity rules for

- Farm dairy effluent
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We can help

IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN RULES AND HOW THEY APPLY TO YOUR FARMING ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CALL US.

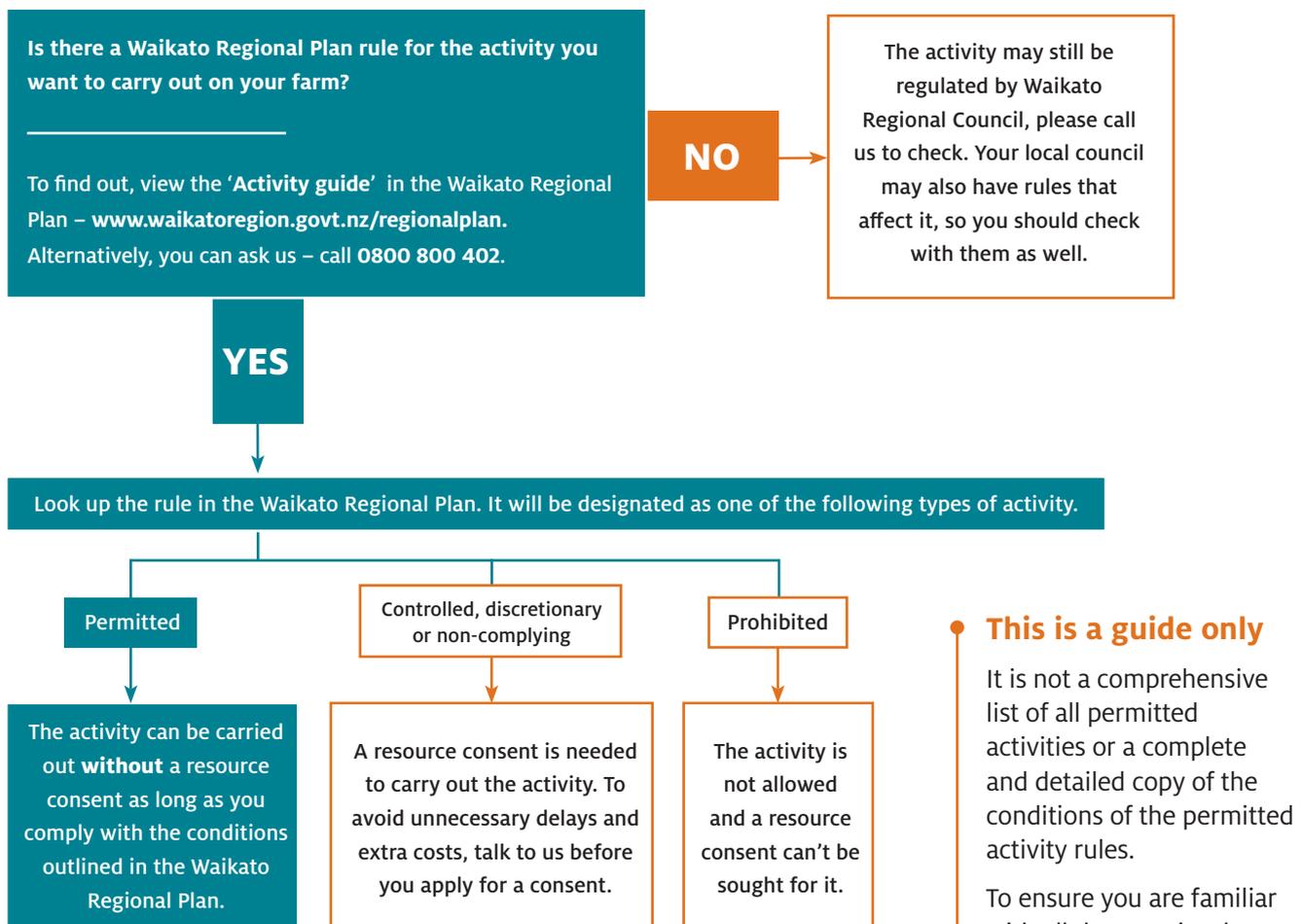


FOR MORE INFORMATION > visit www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/regionalplan

Types of rules

If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, a resource consent must be obtained. In these circumstances, the activity is either 'controlled', 'discretionary' or 'non-complying'.

There are also activities that are 'prohibited'. Prohibited activities are not allowed to be undertaken and resource consents can't be sought for these activities.



This is a guide only

It is not a comprehensive list of all permitted activities or a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules.

To ensure you are familiar with all the permitted activity rules and their conditions you should use this guide in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

Farm dairy effluent

Farm dairy effluent needs to be managed so it doesn't pollute our region's water or affect other people.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
Your farm dairy effluent must not discharge into surface water or contaminate groundwater. Surface water is water which is over the ground, whether flowing or not (for example streams, rivers, lakes, drains, ponds and wetlands).	3.5.5.1
Apply effluent so it doesn't pond on the land surface. This will help prevent groundwater contamination. To find out how you can prevent discharges into surface water, see the hints .	
All effluent ponds, storage facilities, feed pads and stand-off pads must be sealed to prevent seepage. The sealing standard is 1×10^{-9} metres per second. For more on this standard, see the hints .	3.5.5.1 3.5.5.2
Feed and stand-off pads must be at least 20m away from surface water.	3.5.5.2
You must not exceed the loading rates of 25mm per application and 150kg of nitrogen from effluent per hectare per year.	3.5.5.1
Farm dairy effluent must not create any odour or discharge outside your property boundary.	3.5.5.1 6.1.8

ADVISORY NOTES

- Many local councils also have minimum separation distance requirements between treatment or disposal systems, adjoining properties, roadways and houses.
- The nutrient composition of effluent varies greatly depending on the farm system, supplements used and time of year. Testing the application depth (which you can do using ice cream containers) and nutrient value of your effluent will help ensure you don't exceed the specified loading rates. It will also allow you to make the most of the nutrients.



Low application rate systems like the Larall make compliance easier.

HINTS

- We recommend working with an accredited designer to ensure the design of your effluent system is right for your farm.
- The required permeability limit of 1×10^{-9} works out to a drop of approximately 1mm per week for an average sized pond. The best way to ensure your pond or pad meets sealing requirements is to use an approved geomembrane or concrete. If you would prefer to compact your clay soil, please refer to IPENZ practice note 21 to make sure it's done correctly.
- The *Farm Dairy Effluent (FDE) Design Code of Practice* recommends maintaining a separation distance from boundary fences when irrigating or spreading effluent to land.
- To ensure your farm complies with our council's effluent discharges rules 365 days a year, you need adequate storage facilities. To ensure you build the right size pond for your farm, we recommend using the Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator (DESC) available from DairyNZ.
- Having the capacity to store effluent before it's applied to land:
 - substantially reduces the risk of overflows
 - means you don't have to irrigate during wet periods when the risk of surface ponding and run off is high or during busy times like calving.
- The maximum loading rate of 25mm per application is a limit, not a target! A lower rate will allow you to optimise the use of nutrients from your effluent.
- For food safety purposes, domestic sewage needs to be excluded from your effluent treatment system. Check with your dairy or supply company.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers
- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/effluentmanagement

On other websites

- **Farm Dairy Effluent (FDE) Design Code of Practice**
www.dairynz.co.nz/page/pageid/2145869375?resourceId=625
- **IPENZ Practice note 21 Dairy Farm Effluent Pond Design** www.ipenz.org.nz/ipenz/forms/pdfs/PN21_Dairy_Farm_Effluent_Pond_Design.pdf
- **IPENZ Practice note 27 Dairy Farm Infrastructure**
www.ipenz.org.nz/ipenz/forms/pdfs/PN27-Dairy_Farm_Infrastructure.pdf

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for managing farm dairy effluent. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with all the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Taking and using water

Managing water takes is necessary for the health of our waterways and to ensure people use our water resources efficiently, but there are some circumstances where you may take water without a resource consent, providing you comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. These circumstances and the key conditions are noted below.

Anyone taking more than 15m³ of water a day (excluding domestic and stock water) needs a resource consent.

SUPPLEMENTARY GROUNDWATER TAKES

Section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act allows people to take and use water for their own domestic and stock watering needs. Additional water that is taken is referred to as “supplementary”.

You can take up to:

- 1.5m³ per day on sites that are 1ha or less
- 1.5m³ per day on sites where the well is within 600m of the coastal marine area
- 15m³ of groundwater from all other sites.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
The take(s) must be from a single certificate of title.	3.3.4.12
The site must be more than 100m away from a significant geothermal feature.	3.3.4.12

SUPPLEMENTARY SURFACE WATER TAKES

Section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act allows people to take and use water for their own domestic and stock watering needs. Additional water that is taken is referred to as “supplementary”.

If you are an existing water user you can take up to:

- 1.5m³ per day from sites that are 1ha or less
- 30m³ per day from the main stem of the Waipa River downstream of Ōtorohanga or from the main stem of the Waikato River downstream of Lake Taupō from sites that adjoin either of these rivers
- 15m³ per day from all other sites.

If you are new to a catchment, or an existing landowner who has intensified or changed the way you use your land, you must call us – before taking any water – to confirm whether the primary allocable flow for the catchment has been exceeded. **If it has been exceeded section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act will not apply** and you will need a resource consent for any surface water takes.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
The take(s) must be from a single certificate of title.	3.3.4.13
Your net take rate must not exceed the total primary allocable flows for the upstream catchment. To learn more about allocable flows, see the hints .	3.3.4.13
If you already have a water take consent for the site, any water you take under this rule can't be used for the same purpose your consent is for.	3.3.4.13

TEMPORARY TAKES

You can temporarily take 150m³ of water per day from any river or aquifer, but for no more than five consecutive days per year.

Before taking any water you must call us to confirm whether the primary allocable flow for the catchment has been exceeded. If it has been exceeded you will need a resource consent for temporary takes.

Also, if the temporary take is for well or aquifer testing, other rules apply (see below).

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
For surface water, your net take rate must not exceed the total primary allocable flows for the upstream catchment. To learn more about allocable flows, see the hints .	3.3.4.14
For groundwater, the well must be more than 600m away from the coastal marine area.	3.3.4.14
You must notify Waikato Regional Council 10 working days before taking any water. Notification must be in writing and should include the location, time and duration of the take.	3.3.4.14

WELL OR AQUIFER TESTING

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You can't take more than 2500m ³ or 2500 tonnes per day, and the pumping period can't exceed three days.	3.3.4.15
The site must be more than 100m away from a significant geothermal feature.	3.3.4.15
You must send your pump test records to Waikato Regional Council within one month of completing testing. To find out what information needs to be included in your records, look up this rule in the Waikato Regional Plan.	3.3.4.15

DISCHARGE AND INTAKE STRUCTURES

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
The intake structures for all (ongoing or temporary) surface water takes need to comply with the screen and velocity standards for that water body. These standards are set out in section 3.2.4 of the Waikato Regional Plan.	4.2.10.1
The pipe diameter shouldn't be more than 300mm and the structure can't extend more than 5m horizontally from the river or lake bank, or for more than 10 per cent of the river bed width (whichever is the lesser).	4.2.10.1
Your structures must be well maintained.	4.2.10.1

TRANSFER OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER TAKE PERMITS

You can transfer all or part of your interest in a water permit for the taking of water to:

- any person or occupier of the site for which the permit is granted (surface and groundwater take permits)
- another person on another site (surface water take permits only).

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You must notify Waikato Regional Council in writing five working days prior to the transfer. Look up this rule in the Waikato Regional Plan to find out what your notification must include.	3.4.4.3
For surface water, the transfer must be within the same catchment to any point downstream of the location to which the permit applies.	3.4.4.3
The water management class (see section 3.2.4 of the Waikato Regional Plan) must be the same at the new site. If it's a different class, the intake screening and velocity requirements must be the same or less restrictive.	3.4.4.3
Under this rule, you can't transfer a groundwater take permit to another location.	3.4.4.3

USE OF WATER

With the exception of geothermal water and water that is being used for a dam or diversion or crop and pasture irrigation, the use of water is a permitted activity.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You must comply with the water management class standards. These standards are set out in section 3.2.4 of the Waikato Regional Plan.	3.4.5.4

USE OF WATER FOR CROP AND PASTURE IRRIGATION

Water can be used for some very specific crop and pasture irrigation activities without a resource consent. But if you're carrying out irrigation in the upper Waikato River catchments (that's everything above the Karapiro Dam to the Lake Taupō control gates), or in any of the lakes and wetlands listed in section 3.4.5.7 of the Waikato Regional Plan, you will need a resource consent.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You can't apply water in a way that exceeds the water holding capacity or infiltration rate of the soil.	3.4.5.6
You must use irrigation water balances and must be able to show these to Waikato Regional Council, if requested. To find out what your irrigation water balances should include, look up this rule in the Waikato Regional Plan.	3.4.5.6

HINTS

- Based on the guideline value of 70 litres of water per cow per day for use in the dairy shed, we expect that herds of less than 215 cows will be taking less than 15m³ per day. But if you're not sure how much water you use, you should check.
- Each surface water body has an allocation limit set for it. These limits are specified in table 3-5 of the Waikato Regional Plan. The limits are percentages and apply at the point of take.
- To set an allocation limit, Waikato Regional Council estimates the volume of water that is already being taken out of that surface waterway for example, under s14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act (stock water and domestic supply) and permitted activity rules. This is then built into the Allocation Calculator as 'permitted use', and therefore this portion of flow is not available to others.

Consented takes from that surface waterway are then included in the calculator. This defines how much water is being taken from the waterway, and hence the current allocation status of that surface water catchment.

Groundwater takes are assessed on a case by case basis in regards to sustainability, and impacts on other users and water bodies.

- If you want to transfer all or part of your interest in a water permit for surface water to another person where there is a change in the water management class, or you want to transfer upstream (surface water), or to another part of the catchment (groundwater), a consent will be required because the environmental effects need to be assessed.
- Screen mesh aperture requirements for surface water intake structures range between 1.5mm and 5mm in diameter, depending on how sensitive the waterway is.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for taking and using water. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent for your activity.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Dams and damming water

Under the Waikato Regional Plan you can construct, reconstruct, alter or extend a dam on:

- any off-stream area on your property – including artificial water bodies, dry gullies or depressions
- an ephemeral stream or river – that is, a stream or river on your property that flows for at least three months between March and September but doesn't flow all year.

However, dams can cause erosion, contribute to flooding and make it difficult for fish to pass. To reduce the adverse effects and be a permitted activity, you must ensure:

- the catchment area draining into your dam is less than 1km² (100ha)
- the water depth in the pond is no more than 3m
- that your dam holds no more than 20,000m³ of water
- your dam doesn't affect any significant geothermal features
- your dam isn't constructed in a cave system.

You must also comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. The key conditions are noted below.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You can't dam any water body that is classified as 'natural state' on Waikato Regional Plan maps.	3.6.4.4
The dammed water must not contribute to flooding on neighbouring properties.	3.6.4.4 3.6.4.5
Your dam or the discharge of water from it must not lead to land instability.	3.6.4.4
You must repair any erosion or scouring caused by your dam or the discharge of water from it as soon as possible.	3.6.4.4 3.6.4.5
You must construct a spillway to prevent the dam from being overtopped.	3.6.4.4 3.6.4.5
The spillway must be constructed on previously undisturbed ground (the underlying parent material), and it must be able to pass the probable maximum flood.	3.6.4.4 3.6.4.5
Your dam must be kept in a structurally safe and sound condition at all times.	3.6.4.4 3.6.4.5
The amount of sediment that can discharge from this activity is very restricted and must not breach the suspended solids discharge standards. We can provide information on the standards that apply.	3.6.4.4 3.6.4.5 4.2.21
You must not disturb any archaeological or waahi tapu site. If such a site is identified by Waikato Regional Council while work is in progress, you must stop work immediately. You cannot recommence work without approval from Waikato Regional Council.	3.6.4.4 3.6.4.5

If you have a small dam on your property that's damming a flowing water body, and it was lawfully established before 28 September 1998, you must comply with all the conditions listed above.

There are some additional conditions you must comply with too, including those noted on the next page.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You must provide for safe fish passage.	3.6.4.5
Your dam must comply with any conditions that are part of the resource consent granted for the dam before 28 September 1998.	3.6.4.5
Any changes you make to your dam must not change the character or increase the scale or intensity of any of the adverse effects the dam may have on the environment.	3.6.4.5

ADVISORY NOTES

BUILDING ACT

- In addition to complying with the permitted activity rules and conditions all new or altered dams are required to comply with the building code, and where they are defined as a “large dam” in the Building Act, they will require a building consent. The Act refers to “large dams” as having a height of 4m and holding capacity of 20,000m³. The height of a dam is measured from the lowest point (stream bed or toe of dam) to the highest point on the dam crest. The holding capacity is measured from the dam crest. We recommend you contact Waikato Regional Council’s Building Act Project Manager to discuss your requirements.
- We can provide guidelines for the construction of dams and spillways.

HINTS

- ‘Natural state’ water bodies are typically located in bush areas and the headwaters of catchments.
- To calculate the catchment size you need to locate the site of the proposed dam on a topographical map which shows all the water courses that will drain into your dam. Draw a catchment boundary starting at the dam site and following the divide between the identified water courses and others (follow the tops of ridges where they are evident), finishing back at the proposed dam. You can then measure the area in the catchment boundary.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- **Dams, safety requirements and building consents**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Services/Regional-services/Consents/Dams-safety-requirements-and-building-consents/

Don’t forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for dams and damming water. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

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If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council’s district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Stock in water bodies

Your livestock must not enter or cross any water body mapped as a 'livestock exclusion area' on Waikato Regional Plan maps.

We can provide maps and information on the location of these areas, but in general they include:

- any stream flowing into Lake Taupō
- streams flowing into a harbour or estuary and within 2km of the coastal marine area
- margins of significant wetlands in the region and most Waikato peat lakes
- some specified streams on the Coromandel Peninsula and other specified streams throughout the region.

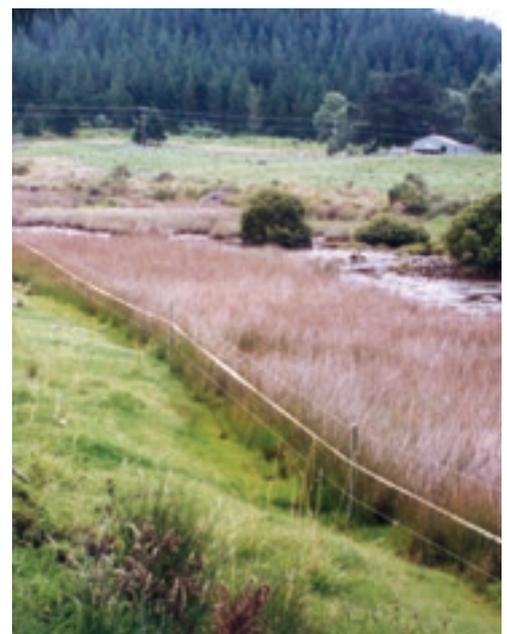
For the rest of the region, livestock access to water bodies is subject to strict conditions to protect water quality. The key conditions are noted below.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
Your livestock must not reduce the water clarity or increase its suspended solids concentration by more than 10 per cent.	4.3.5.4
You must repair any erosion caused by your livestock as soon as possible.	4.3.5.4
You must provide practical measures to discourage livestock from spending time in the beds or on the banks of water bodies. Some examples of the practical measures you could take are listed in the advisory notes .	4.3.5.4

ADVISORY NOTES

- Use bridges or culverts as crossings, rather than allowing your livestock to directly enter water bodies.
- You can deter livestock from spending time in the stream bed and grazing the bank by fencing off stream banks and providing clean drinking water, shelter and shade away from streams.
- Make sure all crossings have hard entry and exit points and provide as direct a route as possible over any water body. Crossings should also be shaped so effluent runs off onto grass and not into water bodies.



Fencing can be as simple as an electric fence.

HINTS

- Under the *Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord*, the dairy industry is working to exclude dairy cattle from a) waterways and drains (greater than 1m in width and deeper than 30cm that permanently contain water) and b) significant wetlands (identified by regional councils). Under this Accord, the dairy industry have agreed to:
 - 90 per cent exclusion from a) by 31 May 2014
 - 100 per cent exclusion from a) by 31 May 2017
 - 100 per cent exclusion from b) by 31 May 2014.

There are riparian management plan targets too:

- 50 per cent of all dairy farms with Accord waterways will have a riparian management plan by June 2015
- 100 per cent by 31 May 2020
- planting is to be completed by 2030.
- The best way to manage riparian areas for long term sustainability is to plant shrubs and trees to shade out weeds. If spraying to control weeds, ensure you use a water safe herbicide and do not spray over the water.
- Some financial assistance with stream fencing and riparian planting may be available in priority catchments. Ask your catchment management officer if you're eligible. Your catchment management officer can also help you develop a plan for these and other restoration and protection works on your property, including:
 - fencing forest fragments
 - planting in retired areas
 - planting for erosion control.
- Landowners can access quality, eco-sourced plants at a competitive price through Waikato Regional Council's Native Plant Supply scheme. Plant order forms are sent out before Christmas and orders need to be returned before the end of March.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for stock in water bodies. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

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If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Culverts and bridges

Culverts and bridges on your property must not affect water flow and quality, bank stability, aquatic life or other people.

You must also comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. The key conditions are noted below.

CULVERTS

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
The upstream catchment area must not be greater than 100ha.	4.2.9.2
Culverts must not be installed in any water body that is classified as 'natural state' on Waikato Regional Plan maps.	4.2.9.2
Culverts must not discharge outside the natural catchment.	4.2.9.2
Culverts must be designed to ensure safe passage of flood flows during a one in 50 year flood event.	4.2.9.2
The bottom of the culvert should be submerged in the stream deeply enough so that water flows through it and material from the stream bed accumulates inside.	4.2.9.2
Culverts must provide for fish passage upstream and downstream.	4.2.9.2

BRIDGES

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You can construct bridges for stock and farm vehicles without a resource consent, but only if they're single span and no longer than 10m.	4.2.8.1
If a bridge is to be located in a flood control or drainage area managed by Waikato Regional Council or your local council, you must notify Waikato Regional Council in writing at least 10 days before construction.	4.2.8.1
The underside of the bridge beams must be at least 0.5m higher than the stream banks or at least 0.5m above the one in 50 year flood level, whichever is lowest.	4.2.8.1

CULVERTS AND BRIDGES

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
The structure must be fixed in place and kept in a structurally safe and sound condition.	4.2.9.2 4.2.8.1
The structure must not contribute to flooding on neighbouring properties, and any erosion around the structure must be repaired as soon as possible.	4.2.9.2 4.2.8.1
You must not disturb any archaeological or waahi tapu site. If such a site is identified while works are in progress, you must stop the works immediately and notify Waikato Regional Council. You cannot recommence work without approval from Waikato Regional Council.	4.2.9.2 4.2.8.1

ADVISORY NOTES

- To construct a bridge, you may also need a building consent from your local council. Check with them first.
- 'Natural state' water bodies are typically located in bush areas and the headwaters of catchments.
- To calculate the upstream catchment size you need to refer to a topographical map which shows all the water courses upstream of the proposed structure. Draw a catchment boundary starting at the structure site and following the divide between the identified water courses and others (follow the tops of ridges where they are evident), finishing back at the proposed structure. You can then measure the area in the catchment boundary.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers
- **Best practice guidelines for waterways and crossings**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Services/Publications/Technical-Reports/TR200625R/



A well-installed culvert.

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for culverts and bridges. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

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Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Earthworks and vegetation clearance

Earthworks and vegetation clearance must be managed so they don't cause erosion, pollute our region's water or affect other people.

In high risk erosion areas you can carry out some small scale earthworks or vegetation clearance without a resource consent providing:

- the volume of the earthworks is less than 250m³
- the earthworks cover less than 0.2ha
- roads and tracks are less than 100m long
- cut slope batters are less than 3m high and 30m long
- the vegetation being cleared is less than 1ha
- the vegetation being cleared is within 5m, on either side of the banks of a water body, and is less than 50m in length per kilometre of the water body
- you're clearing planted production forests or plant pests specified in the Regional Pest Management Plan (for example gorse or blackberry).

To find out what high risk erosion areas are see the **hints**.

Outside high risk erosion areas you **may** be able to carry out larger scale earthworks or vegetation clearance without a resource consent, **but** only if the activities comply with all the permitted activity conditions.

In **karst landscapes** (for example Waitomo) earthworks and vegetation clearance can be carried out without a resource consent if you're more than 10m away from a sinkhole or cave entrance.

In **geothermal areas** earthworks and vegetation clearance can be carried out without a resource consent if you're more than 20m away from a geothermal feature.

In some **specified catchments** in the **Coromandel** you can clear vegetation without a resource consent, but only if you're clearing less than 50ha in a year where the land slope is more than 20 degrees.

In all cases, you must comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. The key conditions are noted on the next page.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You must install controls to prevent erosion and sediment run off during the earthworks and after they've been completed. Controls include silt fences, cut-off drains, surface mulch and stormwater settling ponds. Any erosion that occurs as a result of your works must be repaired as soon as possible and you must revegetate the whole site within 6 to 12 months.	5.1.5
You must design and install cut-offs or culverts to prevent scouring, gullying or other erosion.	5.1.5
The amount of sediment that discharges from your activity is very restricted and must not breach the water standards for that water body. We can provide maps and information on the location of the different classes of water bodies and the standards that apply.	5.1.4.12 5.1.5
You must not cause or contribute to flooding on neighbouring properties.	5.1.5
The placement of any fill and/or organic material must not lead to land instability. Organic material is anything that decays over time like timber, sawdust or vegetation.	5.1.5
If clearing vegetation within 5m of a flowing water body, all vegetation must be felled away from the water body and managed to prevent erosion or the destruction of aquatic habitat.	5.1.5
There are specific conditions for replanting production forestry on the Coromandel. If this applies to you, make sure you look up this rule in the Waikato Regional Plan.	5.1.4.11
Materials such as fuels, oils or agrichemicals must not enter water at any time.	5.1.5
You must not cause odour, smoke or dust nuisances to other people.	5.1.5
You must not cultivate paddocks within 2m of any river, stream or lake bed.	5.1.4.12
You must not disturb any archaeological or waahi tapu site. If such a site is identified by Waikato Regional Council while work is in progress, you must stop work immediately. You cannot recommence work without approval from Waikato Regional Council.	5.1.5



Recently completed earthworks. Note the site has been revegetated to stabilise against erosion.

ADVISORY NOTES

- Your local council may have rules which restrict earthworks and vegetation clearance in areas outside of high risk erosion areas. Check with them first.

HINTS

- Check your contractor is familiar with these permitted activity rules and their conditions.
 - High risk erosion areas are:
 - where the land slope is greater than 25 degrees
 - where the land slope is greater than 15 degrees – within 100 metres of any wetland, river, stream* or lake bed or mean high water spring tides, or up to the first point at which the slope reduces to 15 degrees or less, whichever is lesser
 - for land slope up to 15 degrees – within 10m of any wetland, river, stream* or lake bed
 - coastal frontal dunes on the east coast, coastal sand country on the west coast and within 50m landward of an estuary.
- * This includes all ephemeral streams draining catchments that are more than 100ha. Ephemeral streams are streams that flow for at least three months between March and September but don't flow all year round.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers
- **Regional Pest Management Plan 2014-2024**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/rpmp

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for earthworks and vegetation clearance. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Drain construction and cleaning

It's important to be aware that different rules apply for artificial watercourses, modified watercourses and streams. You can only dig new drains on your property and maintain existing drains without a resource consent if the drains are **within a lawfully established drainage system of artificial watercourses**, and:

- you don't create or deepen a drain within 200m of the legal property boundaries of the wetlands listed in section 3.7.7 of the Waikato Regional Plan
- you're not clearing vegetation or undertaking drainage that is in a wetland or will affect a wetland
- you don't discharge dirty water into a downstream water body, causing the suspended solids standards to be exceeded.

Artificial watercourses make up a very small number of the Waikato's waterways. A resource consent may be required for drain construction or cleaning activities carried out in waterways that do not fully meet the regional plan definition of an artificial watercourse, which is:

"A watercourse that contains no natural portions from its confluence with a river or stream to its headwaters and includes irrigation canals, water supply races, canals for the supply of water for electricity power generation and farm drainage canals."

If you're in any doubt about the status of a waterway you're planning to carry out works in, please call us before you start work. We can provide maps and information on the location of natural and modified water bodies and our drainage schemes, as well as advice on what is a wetland.

You should call your local council for information about their drainage schemes.

You must comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. The key conditions are noted below.

DRAIN CONSTRUCTION

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
The catchment area above the drain must be no greater than 2km ² .	3.6.4.8
You must ensure your drain doesn't discharge outside the natural catchment of the drainage system.	3.6.4.8
Your drain must not contribute to flooding on your property or any other properties.	3.6.4.8
The amount of sediment that can discharge from this activity is very restricted and must not breach the suspended solids discharge standards. We can provide information on the standards that apply.	3.6.4.8 4.2.21
Your drain must provide for safe fish passage both upstream and downstream.	3.6.4.8
If you're draining from or to a water body that's classified as 'indigenous fisheries' on Waikato Regional Plan maps you must notify Waikato Regional Council at least three weeks before you start any work.	3.6.4.8
Any erosion that occurs as a result of this activity must be repaired as soon as possible.	3.6.4.8
If your drain connects to an artificial watercourse, modified watercourse, river or stream that's within a flood or drainage area managed by Waikato Regional Council or your local council, you must ensure there is suitable access for maintenance machinery. For a list of the rivers and streams that are the full responsibility of Waikato Regional Council or a local council for maintenance purposes, look up table 4-1 in the Waikato Regional Plan. To find out if a watercourse is a council drain, contact your council's drainage manager or local works supervisor.	4.2.18.1

Key conditions continued on the next page.

DRAIN CONSTRUCTION

KEY CONDITIONS continued

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
<p>If you intend to plant the banks of a drain, river, lake or artificial water body that's within a flood or drainage area managed by Waikato Regional Council or your local council, you must firstly find out whether the watercourse is managed privately or by a council.</p> <p>If the watercourse is managed by a council, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify Waikato Regional Council in writing at least 10 days before you start planting ensure the plants are more than 10m away from the water body or more than 15m away if the water body is managed by Hauraki District Council, or is in the Aka Aka Otatau drainage area. <p>For a list of the rivers and streams that are the full responsibility of Waikato Regional Council or a local council for maintenance purposes, look up table 4-1 in the Waikato Regional Plan. To find out if a watercourse is a council drain, contact your council's drainage manager or local works supervisor.</p>	4.2.18.1
<p>You must not disturb any archaeological or waahi tapu site. If such a site is identified by Waikato Regional Council while work is in progress, you must stop work immediately. You cannot recommence work without approval from Waikato Regional Council.</p>	3.6.4.8

DRAIN CLEANING

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
<p>You can dispose of the debris, sediment or vegetation you clear from your drain on your own property, providing you don't dispose of it in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a high risk erosion area the floodplain of a river a significant geothermal feature. <p>In addition, you must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> you don't stockpile more than 10m³ at any one site in a year the spread/piled/placed material is stable and doesn't contribute to flooding on neighbouring properties. 	5.2.5.7
<p>The amount of sediment that can discharge from this activity into water is very restricted and must not breach the suspended solids standards. We can provide information on the standards that apply.</p> <p>In addition, any discharge into water must not contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any material that will cause conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams or floatable suspended materials leachate from any decomposing organic material. 	3.2.4.6 5.2.5.7
<p>Any erosion that occurs as a result of this activity must be repaired as soon as possible.</p>	5.2.5.7
<p>You must not disturb any archaeological or waahi tapu site. If such a site is identified while work is in progress, you must stop work immediately and notify Waikato Regional Council. You cannot recommence work without approval from Waikato Regional Council.</p>	5.2.5.7

ADVISORY NOTES

- Your local council may require you to have a land use consent for filling operations. Check with them first.

HINTS

- Drains within a network of artificial watercourses should only be cleaned when absolutely necessary. Drains with vegetative cover have environmental benefits, such as better sediment and phosphorus retention. Fencing and stock exclusion will also mean your drain needs to be cleaned less frequently.
- Under some circumstances the clearance of vegetation from a modified watercourse, river or stream may be carried out as a permitted activity, but strict conditions apply. To find out what a modified watercourse is see the glossary of terms in the Waikato Regional Plan.
- Check your contractor is familiar with the Waikato Regional Plan rules relating to drains.
- You and your contractor should also be familiar with the permitted activity rules and their conditions for:
 - earthworks and vegetation clearance (Waikato Regional Plan rule numbers 5.1.5, 5.1.4.11 and 5.1.4.12)
 - planting and tree layering along the banks of rivers and lakes (Waikato Regional Plan rule number 4.3.8.1).
- We can provide maps and information on the location of the wetlands listed in section 3.7.7 of the Waikato Regional Plan and 'indigenous fisheries' water bodies.
- Before planting or carrying out other works along the banks of a drain, river, lake or artificial water body that's within a flood or drainage area managed by the Waikato Regional Council or your local council, talk to us or your local council first.
- We can help you estimate the catchment area above the drain/proposed drain.
- High risk erosion areas are:
 - where the land slope is greater than 25 degrees
 - where the land slope is greater than 15 degrees – within 100m of any wetland, river, stream* or lake bed or mean high water spring tides, or up to the first point at which the slope reduces to 15 degrees or less, whichever is lesser
 - for land slope up to 15 degrees – within 10m of any wetland, river, stream* or lake bed
 - coastal frontal dunes on the east coast, coastal sand country on the west coast and within 50m landward of an estuary.

* This includes all ephemeral streams draining catchments that are more than 100ha. Ephemeral streams are streams that flow for at least three months between March and September but don't flow all year round.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- **Best practice environmental guidelines – land drainage**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Services/Publications/Technical-Reports/TR200606R/
- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for drain construction and cleaning. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Fertiliser

Fertiliser application is a permitted activity as long as you are **outside the Lake Taupō catchment**, and you comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. The key conditions are noted below.

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
The Waikato Regional Plan states that fertiliser must be used in accordance with the NZ Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association, 1998 (updated 2002): Code of Practice for Fertiliser Use. This code is now known as the <i>Code of Practice for Nutrient Management</i> .	3.9.4.11
You must prepare and implement a nutrient management plan if you are applying fertiliser: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at a rate that exceeds 60kg of nitrogen per hectare per year, or to land that has had stock effluent applied to it in the past 12 months. The type of nutrient management plan required is specified in table 3-10 of the Waikato Regional Plan.	3.9.4.11
Any off-target drift must not cause odour nuisance or adverse effects to people and their property. For example dust may have an effect on neighbours.	3.9.4.11
Inorganic or organic fertiliser (for example chicken manure) should not create an objectionable odour beyond your property.	6.1.8 6.1.15.1

HINTS

- The Fertiliser Association of New Zealand's (formerly NZ Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association) *Code of Practice for Nutrient Management* can be downloaded from www.fertiliser.org.nz. We also recommend you follow the 'Fertmark' and 'Spreadmark' codes of practices available from the New Zealand Fertiliser Quality Council at www.fertqual.co.nz.
- Overseer is a useful modelling programme to develop a farm's nutrient budget. It considers the farm as a system and takes account of a large number of variables and farm practices.
- A nutrient budget describes all sources of nutrients entering and leaving the farm. Nitrogen and phosphorus are important nutrients for a farm's pasture growth but also lead to waterway degradation (algae and water weed). Some fertiliser use can also lead to other environmental problems such as build-up of cadmium in the soil.
- A nutrient management plan (NMP) or land and environment plan (LEP) is based on a nutrient budget and describes the practical steps you will take to minimise nutrient and sediment losses from your farm and reduce impacts on water quality.
- We can provide information on nutrient management planning tools and requirements for different types of crop and land use.
- We recommend you use a certified nutrient management adviser to help prepare a nutrient budget and NMP or LEP for your farm.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers

On other websites

- **The Fertiliser Association of New Zealand**
www.fertiliser.org.nz/site/code_of_practice/default.aspx
- **Beef and Lamb New Zealand**
www.beeflambnz.com/lep
- **DairyNZ**
www.dairynz.co.nz/page/pageid/2145866833/Nutrient_Management
- **Ministry for Primary Industries: Soil and nutrients information, including work on managing cadmium**
www.mpi.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/soil-and-nutrients
- **Overseer**
www.overseer.org.nz

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for using fertiliser. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by the Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Agrichemicals

When applying agrichemicals you must ensure you don't pollute our region's water or affect other people.

Whether you're spot spraying or applying agrichemicals more widely, you must follow the manufacturer's instructions and ensure any off-target drift doesn't affect other people and their property. If there is a possibility of the agrichemical indirectly entering water, you must also notify any downstream water users within 1km of the application area between 12 hours and three weeks prior to application.

There are other conditions you need to comply with too, but the conditions depend on whether you're spot spraying, applying agrichemicals more widely or using agrichemicals in public amenity areas. The key conditions are noted below.

SPOT SPRAYING USING HAND HELD SPRAY EQUIPMENT

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You cannot spot spray in public amenity areas like the side of the road or sports grounds.	6.2.4.8
You must notify anyone who has requested prior notification. Notification can be verbal or in writing and must be provided between 12 hours and three weeks prior to application. Look up this rule in the Waikato Regional Plan to find out what your notification must include.	6.2.4.8

WIDESPREAD APPLICATION OF AGRICHEMICALS

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You must not contaminate domestic or commercial water supplies or harm animals or fish.	6.2.4.8
Agrichemicals must be used in accordance with NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals. You can order a copy of this standard from www.standards.co.nz .	6.2.4.9
All contractors and pilots must be suitably trained and qualified.	6.2.4.9
You must keep records of your agrichemical application activities.	6.2.4.9
You, or the occupier or manager of your farm, must prepare a spray plan or arrange for one to be prepared at the beginning of each year or spray season. Among other requirements, the spray plan must identify all known sensitive areas which may be affected by the spraying and strategies to avoid adverse effects on those areas.	6.2.4.9 6.2.7
You must carry out an appropriate level of notification depending on the scale and location of the application. Notification requirements are listed in table 6-4 in the Waikato Regional Plan.	6.2.4.9

ADVISORY NOTES

- It is an offence to use any agrichemical not registered in New Zealand or in a manner that contravenes the requirements specified in the manufacturer's instructions.
- The purpose of a spray plan is to provide potentially affected parties with information about what, where and when you will be spraying. The plan also includes information about the chemical you intend to use and the actions you will take to avoid contaminating sensitive areas. A checklist of the information you need to include in a spray plan is outlined in section 6.2.7 of the Waikato Regional Plan.
- You should notify Waikato Regional Council straight away in the event of any accidental or unintended discharge of agrichemicals to air, land or water.
- Check the requirements of the neighbouring regional council if you are applying chemicals near the boundary between the Waikato region and a neighbouring region.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers
- **Contractor's guide to agrichemical spraying**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/contractors-spray-guide
- **Regional recycling directory**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/recycling-facilities



Helicopter spraying

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for using agrichemicals. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Composting and burning

Composting and burning are two ways you can get rid of your farm and domestic waste.

You can carry out these activities without a resource consent, as long as you:

- only burn materials that will not cause environmental harm
- ensure any seepage, odour, smoke or fumes don't pollute our region's water and air, or affect other people.

You must also comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. The key conditions are noted below.

COMPOSTING

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You can produce up to 20m ³ of compost each year as long as the leachate produced during the composting process does not enter or leach into surface or groundwater.	5.2.8.1
Sewage and substances that could be explosive, flammable, toxic or corrosive can't be composted.	5.2.8.1
Any discharge into the air must not, outside your property boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affect the health of people, plants or animals • create any odour. 	5.2.8.1 6.1.8

OUTDOOR BURNING

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You can only burn the following things, and they must have come from your own property. In other words, you can't burn material collected from other people's properties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untreated wood and vegetative/organic matter, for example leaves. • Paper and cardboard. • Food waste. • Halogen-free plastics (generally plastics with a 1, 2, 4, 5 or 6 recycling code are halogen-free, but some of these plastics may be unsuitable for burning because they give off a lot of smoke). • Animal carcasses. 	6.1.13.1
Any discharge into the air outside your property boundary must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affect the health of people, plants or animals • create any nuisance from odour or fine particles like dust or smoke • significantly impair visibility • damage other people's property. 	6.1.8 6.1.13.1

ADVISORY NOTES

- Before burning your rubbish consider alternatives. For example, compost your vegetative/organic matter and recycle cans, plastics, paper and glass.
- You may need a fire permit from your local council. They may have other rules you have to follow too. Check with them first.

HINTS

- A recycling service for silage wrap and pit covers is now available in the Waikato region. Recycling services are also available for triple-rinsed HDPE containers, polypropylene bags, vineyard nets, twine and some drums. Call us for more information.
- Reduce smoke and nuisance by only burning dry vegetation, checking the wind direction and avoiding frosty mornings, foggy days or night time. Also, burn as far as possible from your property boundary, and make smaller fires.
- Ensure fires don't smoulder and be prepared to put out the fire if conditions change, or you discover you're causing a nuisance.
- Avoid burning close to waterways where there is the potential for contaminants to run off and pollute surface water.
- Make sure you check what you're planning to burn, as breaches of outdoor burning rules can result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.
- Things you can't burn include:
 - rubber and tyres
 - halogenated organic chemicals (for example some pesticides, electronics, fluorescent light fittings)
 - materials containing heavy metals (for example batteries)
 - pitch, paint and paint residues, and surface coatings (for example painted corrugated iron, paint containers, coated metals)
 - asbestos
 - pathological waste (excluding animal carcasses on production land)
 - agrichemicals and agrichemical containers that haven't been triple-rinsed
 - waste oil and other waste petroleum products, including sludge
 - sludge from industrial processes
 - hazardous materials from contaminated sites and buildings
 - materials associated with the recovery of metals from cables
 - components of motor vehicles
 - tar and bitumen
 - any material within a municipal waste disposal premises.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers
- **Regional recycling directory**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/recycling-facilities
- **Information on outdoor burning**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Environment/Natural-resources/Air/Air-quality/Outdoor-burning/
- **Information on tyre disposal**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Services/Regional-services/Waste-hazardous-substances-and-contaminated-sites/Solid-waste/Tyre-disposal/

On other websites

- **Waste Exchange**
www.nothrow.co.nz

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for composting and burning. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Dumps and offal holes

You can dump your own farm and household waste on your property, and have an offal hole for dead stock and perishable household waste. However, seepage and odour can contaminate soil, pollute our region’s water and affect other people. That’s why you can’t locate your dump or offal hole in:

- the catchment of, or within 10m of (whichever is the lesser distance), a sinkhole or cave entrance
- the floodplain of a river
- a wetland area
- a significant geothermal feature.

In addition, your offal hole must be more than 100m away from any water supply bores or water bodies.

You must also comply with all the conditions outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan. The key conditions are noted below.

DUMPS

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You must ensure your farm dump doesn’t contain any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • substances that could be explosive, flammable, toxic or corrosive – this includes empty agrichemical, detergent and oil containers • sewage, offal or animal carcasses. 	5.2.6.1
The waste you put into your dump must not enter or leach into surface or groundwater.	5.2.6.1
You must not disturb any archaeological or waahi tapu site. If such a site is identified by Waikato Regional Council, you must stop using your dump. You cannot use it again without approval from Waikato Regional Council.	5.2.6.1

OFFAL HOLES

KEY CONDITIONS

Waikato Regional Plan	RULE NUMBER
You can only use your offal hole for dead animal matter and perishable household waste. And you must ensure it doesn’t contain any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • substances that could be explosive, flammable, toxic or corrosive – this includes empty agrichemical, detergent and oil containers • sewage. 	5.2.6.2
The lowest point of your offal hole must be at least 1m above the level of the shallowest water table. However, if your offal hole existed prior to the Waikato Regional Plan becoming operative and the lowest point is less than 1m about the shallowest water table, the waste in it must not enter or leach into water.	5.2.6.2
Your offal hole must be covered to prevent pests and water getting into it.	5.2.6.2
Your offal hole must not create any odour outside your property boundary.	5.2.6.2
You must not disturb any archaeological or waahi tapu site. If such a site is identified by Waikato Regional Council, you must stop using your offal hole. You cannot use it again without approval from Waikato Regional Council.	5.2.6.2

ADVISORY NOTES

- We can provide guidance and information on the most suitable locations for dumps and offal holes.
- If waste from other properties is dumped in your farm dump or offal hole you must follow the rules and conditions for landfills (Waikato Regional Plan rule number 5.2.7).
- Your local council may require you to have a land use consent for your dump and offal hole. Check with them first.

HINTS

- If you're farming in an area where the water tables are very close to the surface, consider composting your offal or using a commercial animal carcass collection service.
- Clearly identify old dumps and offal holes so they're not accidentally disturbed in the future.
- A recycling service for silage wrap and pit covers is now available in the Waikato region. Recycling services are also available for triple-rinsed HDPE containers, polypropylene bags, vineyard nets, twine and some drums. Call us for more information.

USEFUL RESOURCES

On our website

- **Regional recycling directory**
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/recycling-facilities

On other websites

- **Waste Exchange**
www.nothrow.co.nz

Don't forget

This is not a complete and detailed copy of the conditions of the permitted activity rules for dumps and offal holes. It is only a guide and should be used in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Plan.

You can view the Waikato Regional Plan on our website. Printed copies of the plan and other associated documents can be ordered online or by calling our freephone.

If you comply with all the conditions of the permitted activity rules outlined in the Waikato Regional Plan at all times you do not need a resource consent for these activities. If, for any reason, you are unable to comply with the conditions, you are required to obtain a consent.

Please remember that activities on your farm may also be restricted by other documents, such as your local council's district plan.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the permitted activity rules, or the conditions of a consent, is an offence and may result in enforcement action by Waikato Regional Council.

If you are unsure about how to comply with the conditions or need further information, please call us.

Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

Freephone 0800 800 401
info@waikatoregion.govt.nz
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz

