

Looking after your stopbank and licence area

Grazing licence area responsibilities – at a glance

#7582 - December 2024

Stock type/management

It is a condition of the licence agreement that the land is not grazed with animals that may damage the ground.

- Ensure the licence area is not grazed with bulls, fowl, horses or pigs (light grazing only).
- Ensure any stock damage to the licence area is repaired as soon as conditions permit.
- Do not graze stock when soil is soft during the wetter seasons or after prolonged rain.

Refer to section 7.9 of the *Licence to occupy* agreement for further detail.



Bulls are one of the animals not allowed on a grazing licence area.

Fences and gates

- Maintain all boundary fences for stock exclusion to prevent stock access to waterways, plantings and other sensitive areas.
- Provide unobstructed access to the stopbank and any floodgates or pump stations within the licensed area.
- Ensure access gates are easily opened and in good working order.
- Should you wish to lock the gate, please contact the land and licence team beforehand. The team will add their own padlock so access can be gained by either party at any time.
- Should any replacement fences be required, contact the land and licence team.

Refer to section 7.6 of the *Licence to occupy* agreement for further detail.



Boundary fences must be maintained for stock exclusion.

Public access

- The public are permitted pedestrian access to licensed land for recreational purposes – but not your private land.
- The public can only carry firearms and take domestic pets on the licence area if the licence holder has approval in writing.

Refer to section 5.8 of the *Licence to occupy* agreement for further details.



Surface and structures

Good grass/pasture cover is essential to preventing erosion, depressions, bull holes, tracking and pugging.

Depressions, holes and insufficient pasture cover should be repaired/reseeded as soon as conditions permit.

- Troughs cannot be positioned on the stopbank or within five metres of the stopbank toe (unless approved by the land and licence team).
- Where possible, troughs will be located on a substantial, compacted and raised area (dry clay or rock is good).

Refer to section 7.0 of the *Licence to occupy* agreement for further detail.



Maintain good grass cover at all times.

Animal pests

- Take general control of animal pests within your licence area.
- If you notice any rabbit burrows near or through the stopbank, contact our biosecurity team on 0800 800 401 for advice on pest control methods.

Refer to section 7.10 of the *Licence to occupy agreement* for further detail.



Rabbit

Weed/pest plant control

- Undertake pest weed control (spraying) on your licence area.
- Do weed control regularly to assist in preventing re-infestation.
- Rank vegetation growth must be topped immediately.

Common weeds you may come across:

- gorse
- thistles
- ragwort
- blackberry
- woolly nightshade.

Refer to section 7.10 of the *Licence to occupy agreement* for further detail.



Gorse

Spray and fertilisers

- Care needs to be taken when using sprays around the river to minimise risk of contamination.
- On the riverside of the stopbank, the only approved spray is glyphosate or brushkiller.
- Apply fertiliser in accordance with farm management plans.

Refer to section 7.11 of the *Licence to occupy agreement* for further detail.



Weeds must be controlled on the licence area.

Non permitted activities

- Bee hives.
- Crops of any kind.
- Planting trees.
- Building structures of any kind.

If you are not sure, please contact the land and licence team on 0800 800 401.



Crops such as maize are not allowed on the licence area.

Defects on your licence area

Defects are any of the above issues that are present on your licence area (i.e. stock damage/weeds, etc). Defect letters will be sent out after annual inspections each year. It is your responsibility to address these within the stated time frame. Outlined below is the process we follow.

