

Summary of national regulations vs Southland Regional Council rules

General introduction

- New national regulations for winter grazing need to be met by 1 May 2021. Start thinking about your winter grazing plan for 2021 now.
- You will need a consent if you cannot meet the National Environmental Standards (NES) rules below.

	<i>Winter grazing requirements under national regulation</i>
No increase in area	The area used for winter grazing cannot be any bigger than that used between 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2019.
Slope of paddock	Consent required from the Regional Council for winter grazing on slopes greater than 10 degrees.
Buffer strips	A minimum 5m buffer is required between the winter crops and all rivers, lakes, wetlands, or drainage ditches.
Size of winter grazing area	If you are using more than 50 hectares, or 10% of your property for winter grazing, you will likely need to get a consent from your regional council.
Soil type and drainage	Pugging must be managed under the new guidelines so when you are selecting paddocks be aware of how you can plan to minimise this. Pugging must be no deeper than 20cm at any one point and pugging of any depth must cover less than 50% of the paddock.
Re-sowing	Land used for winter grazing must be re-sown by 1 November.

- Check out the [‘Break-fed Wintering’ Booklet](#) on the DairyNZ website for top tips and tricks.
- Determine whether you are applying more than 190kg N/ha/year. If so, you will need to think about starting to transition to 190kg N this season or apply for a consent for a non-complying activity by 1 July 2021.

Note: This is not a comprehensive summary of rules affecting dairy farmers in the Southland regional plan.

For more information, contact Tessa Schmidt, DairyNZ Environmental Change Specialist on 027 702 8349 or Tessa.Schmidt@dairynz.co.nz

Focus area	National regulations requirement	Current regional council rules	What do I do now?
<p>Stock exclusion – streams</p>	<p>All dairy cattle (except dairy support cattle) and pigs must be excluded from lakes and rivers more than 1m wide (bank-to-bank) by 1 July 2023, regardless of land slope.</p> <p>All dairy support cattle must be excluded from lakes and rivers more than 1m wide (bank-to-bank) by 1 July 2025, regardless of land slope.</p> <p>Small (non-accord) waterways will be addressed through Farm Plans.</p> <p>Minimum set back of 3 metres, although existing permanent fences will not need to move to comply with riparian setback requirements</p> <p>(Set back measured from the edge of the bed when water is in full flow).</p> <p>Maintain current stock exclusion fences on your milking platform.</p> <p>As the national regulations do not mention ephemeral waterways, we expect these will continue to be addressed through the Farm Planning process.</p>	<p>Stock exclusion with 3m minimum by 2023 for existing dairy and other land use regardless of slope.</p> <p>All cattle and deer must be excluded from lakes and rivers more than 1m wide (bank-to-bank) where land is used for fodder-cropping, break-feeding or grazing on irrigated pasture by 1 July 2023, regardless of land slope.</p>	<p>Ensure fences are in place and 3m from the beds of rivers greater than 1m wide and lakes by 1 July 2023.</p> <p>(The set back is measured from the edge of the bed when water is in full flow).</p>
<p>Stock exclusion – wetlands</p>	<p>Wetlands already identified in a regional or district plan must have cattle, deer, and pigs excluded by 1 July 2023.</p> <p>From 1 July 2025 all stock must be excluded from any natural wetland that is larger than 0.05 ha (and any wetland that supports ‘threatened species’).</p>	<p>From 1 July 2020, stock must be excluded from Regionally Significant wetlands and Sensitive Water Bodies.</p>	<p>Check with your regional council to identify any regionally significant wetlands or sensitive water bodies if this has not been identified previously.</p>

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<p>Intensification of land use:</p> <p>Consent required.</p>	<p><i>Until a regional plan has been notified that complies with the new National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), a resource consent is needed for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase in irrigated pasture for dairy of more than 10ha • land use change of more than 10ha to dairy • land use change of more than 10ha from forestry or woody vegetation to dairy farming • increase winter forage cropping above the highest annual amount in the previous five years • increase dairy support activities above the highest annual amount in the previous five years <p>A resource consent will be required for intensification and can only be issued if the council is satisfied the activity will not result in an increase in contaminant load or concentrations of contaminants in the catchment.</p>	<p>Intensification of land use is subject to Environment Southland consent process.</p>	<p>Intensification of land use is highly controlled under this policy.</p> <p>Regional Councils are working through implications of this policy.</p> <p>If you want to increase the area irrigated or convert land to dairy support or dairy, contact your regional council.</p>
<p>Farm plans</p>	<p>Mandatory and enforceable Freshwater Farm Plans (FW-FP) are provided for through recent RMA amendments.</p> <p>Farm plans will need to be approved by a certifier, audited and delivery will be monitored by regional councils.</p> <p>The mandatory FW-FP module is likely to be phased in, with roll-out in prioritised areas.</p> <p>(This aligns with Dairy Tomorrow sector strategy)</p>	<p>All farms have a farm plan by May 2019, but no requirement for certification or auditing.</p> <p>Environment Southland farm plan requirements are similar to the national regulation requirements for FW-FPs.</p>	<p>Talk to a trusted advisor about creating a farm plan for your farm.</p> <p>Existing industry plans are likely to be recognised if standards are met.</p>

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<p>Standards for intensive winter grazing (IWG)</p> <p>From winter 2021, if you want to plant above these thresholds or exceed the conditions you will need to get a resource consent.</p>	<p><i>A consent for winter grazing is required if the following cannot be met.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive winter grazing occurs over less than 50ha or 10% of the farm, whichever is the greater. • The mean slope of the paddock is 10 degrees or less. • Pugging is no deeper than 20cm at any one point and pugging of any depth must cover less than 50% of the paddock. • Buffers between crops and waterways are 5m or more. • Land used for IWG must be replanted as soon as practicable after grazing of forage crop is finished, but no later than 1 October each year (or 1 November in Southland and Otago) • The area being used for winter grazing cannot be greater than the highest annual amount in the previous five years (until the Regional Council has amended the regional plan to meet the new NPS-FM). 	<p>Winter grazing plan woven into 'Appendix N' of the Regional Council rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity occurs over > 100ha or 15 % of the property, whichever is the greater • No cultivation on slopes > 20 degrees • No pugging limitations in current plan • Buffer strip 5m unless the GMPs listed in plan not followed (then 20m) • No re-sowing requirements in current plan • 'Top to bottom' grazing of sloped paddocks. • Critical source areas to be grazed last 	<p>Check out the 'Break-fed Wintering' Booklet from DairyNZ for top tips and tricks. Visit dairynz.co.nz.</p> <p>Make sure you meet the conditions in the left-hand column as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20m buffer if GMPs listed in the Regional Council rules are not met, <p><i>Good Management Practices (GMP)s in the Regional Council rules are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stock are grazed from the top of the slope to the bottom</i> • <i>Stock are back fenced to prevent stock entering previously grazed areas</i> • <i>Transportable water trough(s) are provided in or near the area being grazed</i> • <i>Supplementary feed (e.g. baleage, straw or hay) is placed in portable feeders</i> • <i>Mob size is no more than 120 cattle</i> • <i>Critical source areas are grazed last</i> <p>(In the future, IWG will not require consent if managed under a certified FW-FP, and the effects are no greater than allowed under the minimum standards.)</p>

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<p>Standards for stock holding areas (feed pads, winter pads, standoff pads, loafing pads) must be met or consent required from 1 July 2021</p>	<p><i>Consent required from 1 July 2021 for stock holding areas unless minimum standards are met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the permeability of the base area so that it is sealed to a minimum permeability standard of 10⁻⁹ m/sec • Collect, store and dispose of effluent in accordance with regional council regulations or a current discharge permit • Situate the stock-holding area at least 50 metres away from waterbodies, water abstraction bores, drains and coastal marine areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base must be sealed. No minimum permeability specified in current plan • Collect, store and dispose of effluent as per individual effluent consent conditions • Feed pad/lot not located within 50m from nearest waterbody, abstraction zone, dwelling, or within a critical source area. • No more than 120 adult cattle or equivalent young stock and animals do not remain on the feed pad/lot for longer than three continuous months • Minimum depth of 500 millimetres of wood-based material – base must be sealed. • Overland flow of stormwater or surface runoff from surrounding land is prevented from entering the feed pad/lot 	<p>Ensure stock holding areas meet the new requirements, or apply for consent from the regional council.</p> <p>Particularly note that the actual pad must be 50 metres away from a water body.</p> <p>This does not apply to calf rearing facilities</p>

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<p>Cap on the use of <u>synthetic</u> nitrogen fertiliser</p>	<p>Application of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser to land in pastoral land use capped at 190 kgN/ha/year from 1 July 2021.</p> <p>From July 2021, all dairy farmers will need to record the tonnages of all <u>synthetic</u> nitrogen fertiliser applied and the area it was applied to. You will then have to report to your regional council on the amount used from the year ending 30 June 2022</p> <p>There are two limits (both of 190kg N/ha/year)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. An absolute limit per hectare on pastoral land (i.e. grazed land) not used to grow annual forage crops (i.e. pasture/grass) b. An averaged limit across pastoral land on the farm 	<p>No cap on the use of synthetic nitrogen in current proposed Southland Water & Land Plan</p>	<p>This allows for application of a maximum of 190kg N/ha/year averaged across grazed (pastoral) land on a farm, and no more than 190kg N/ha/year on any hectare of pasture (i.e. it is possible to put more than 190kgs N/ha/year on forage crops but only if offset by applying lower amounts on pasture).</p> <p>Farmers that exceed the cap will need to apply for a resource consent. Two options are available:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consent for a non-complying activity requiring a synthetic nitrogen reduction plan that demonstrates how the applicant will reduce their use of synthetic nitrogen (year by year) so that from the 1 July 2023 their application does not exceed 190 kg N/ha/year. 2) Consent for a non-complying activity requiring holder to ensure rate at which nitrogen may enter water as a result of their application of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser does not exceed the rate that would enter water if 190 kg N/ha/year was applied. Maximum term of 5 years. <p>More information is available (as per the summary under preparation)</p> <p><u>All farmers</u> will need to keep a good record of fertiliser use (amount and location) to report to the regional council.</p> <p>Note that the cap does not apply to land area used for arable (which includes growing maize) or horticultural crops.</p>



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<p>New attributes for the National Policy Statement - Freshwater Management (NPS-FM).</p>	<p>The new NPS-FM sets out 22 attributes, some new ones in addition to those in the existing NPS-FM. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the amount of periphyton or slime (an indicator of excessive nutrients) • nitrogen toxicity • sediment • fish and macroinvertebrate numbers • plants and algae • the presence of potentially • toxic algae and faecal bacteria • requirement to at least maintain current state concentrations of instream dissolved phosphorus. <p>Most of the attributes have minimum acceptable states, or bottom lines.</p> <p>Regional councils must notify new regional plans to meet these standards by 31 December 2024. Timeframes to meet water quality outcomes can occur <u>over a generation</u> (as defined through the regional policy processes)</p> <p>The majority of streams in dairy catchments have nitrate concentrations below the maximum toxicity level (2.4 g/m³). It is estimated that approx. 7% of dairy farmers nationally exceed this, with Canterbury, Southland and Waikato most affected.</p>	<p>The new water quality attributes will need to be considered by Environment Southland and the Regional Forum as a part of the current limit setting process.</p>	<p>Be prepared to be involved in future regional council planning processes.</p> <p>All regional councils must notify a new regional plan to meet these limits by 31 December 2024.</p> <p>This will have to include a plan to reduce sediment runoff and meet higher health standards at swimming spots in addition to the nitrate toxicity limits.</p>

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Reporting on water usage using electronic means	<p>If you have an existing resource consent to take more than 5 litres/second, you will need to measure water use every 15 minutes and provide records to council daily.</p> <p>Reporting is required within 2 years if take more than 20 litres per second; 4 years if take between 10 and 20 litres per second; and 6 years if take more than 5 but less than 10.</p>	<p>As per abstraction, diversion and use of surface water consent conditions. .</p>	<p>If you take water at these quantities, explore measurement options.</p>