

# Hey, our land drainage rules have changed



## A guide for land owners and occupiers

After asking for your feedback, we've recently adopted our Drainage Bylaw, which contains rules about urban and rural drainage. Our bylaws only apply to the Hauraki District and can be enforced by us.

We've put together a snapshot of the land drainage bits from the bylaw we think might be relevant to you, especially if you have our drains, stopbanks, floodgates, or pumps on your property. You can also read the full bylaw at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/bylaws](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/bylaws)

## Why we have rules

We need to be able to access our flood protection and land drainage assets to make sure they're working as they should be. This might include inspecting our drains or other equipment and maintaining weeds around them, or clearing them out.

If rules aren't followed, we can take legal action or remove items that aren't in line with our bylaw and recover the costs of doing so.

If you have any queries or want to discuss any aspects of the bylaw applicable to your property, do not hesitate to contact us on our details below.



## What are the rules?

### Stock

- Unless you have permission from us, we ask that you please keep stock away from our stopbanks, flood gates, pumps and drains.
- If any deceased stock end up in our drains, please remove them as soon as possible.

### Crossings

- It's important that crossings are maintained to a standard that allows safe passage and doesn't obstruct or interfere with the flow of water. Please ensure crossings that we need to carry out maintenance remain in place.
- If you want to build a bridge, culvert or crossing over, near, or through any stopbank, floodgate, pump, or drain, you'll need to check with us first. We ask that you please help us to keep our workers safe - if there are any unsafe crossings or other hazards on a private property we're entering to work on drains, please let us know.

### Fencing

- In some areas we've installed fencing and/or planted vegetation around our flood protection or drains – please help us look after this, and keep stock from damaging it too.
- It's the land owners' responsibility to install and maintain fencing to prevent stock entering any of our assets (drains, pumps etc) and the fencing should be in line with our fencing guidelines, which include having a 4 metre wide (minimum) gateway to provide access for maintenance and inspection purposes.
- In drainage districts the Waikato Regional Plan requires fences next to watercourses to be no higher than 750 mm, otherwise you will need a resource consent from the Waikato Regional Council.

### Shrubs, hedges and trees

- Although shrubs, hedges or trees must be at least 15 metres from our drains, you can plant crops up to 5 metres from our drains (this allows us to use machinery without crushing your crops).
- Existing shrubs, hedges or trees growing on or in our drains that interfere with water flow or our access to the drain will need to be removed.

### Inspecting and maintaining drains

- We'll give you at least 24 hours' notice before coming to inspect, clean or spray drains on your land, and in return we ask that you respect our requirement that you give us access.

- You can request to have a drain or watercourse on your property placed on the 'no spray register', which means herbicides will not be used for maintenance. If you choose this option, there'll be an additional cost to you as we'll need to use machinery for the clearing of drains instead. With our permission you could also engage a contractor to maintain our drain. There are a few requirements around this which are shown in the full bylaw.

### Other things you should know

- If you want to build your own defence against water, or take water from our drains, you'll need to check with us first.
- Please ensure roads and races are at least 15 metres away from a drain or river. The tops of our stopbanks are also unsuitable for roads or races.
- Our drains, as well as the area between your property boundary and our drains, must be kept clear of anything that might restrict water flow, so please don't dump anything in these areas. We can fine people up to \$400 for illegal dumping or littering in a public place or on someone else's property. Even dumping grass clippings on property that is not yours is considered littering.
- Please ensure private drains or other water sources, are not connected to, or allowed to flow into, our drains.
- If you want to build a structure or do excavation work near our stopbanks, flood gates, or pumps, you'll need to check our full bylaw and District Plan for the distances to keep clear.

These rules only apply to Hauraki District Council drains and flood protection assets.

