



Stock exclusion from waterways

JANUARY – JUNE 2019 SIX MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

Protecting the environment is the top priority

The work to protect and improve Canterbury's rural environment has several parts:

- Set the necessary nutrient limits across Canterbury via planning rules
- Promote Good Management Practices (GMP) for farmers (see back page)
- Require land-use consent to farm and an independent Farm Environment Plan audit (for higher risk activities)
- Ensure effective and targeted consent compliance monitoring, and
- Respond quickly to as many incident reports, including stock in waterways as possible (this report).

Why does stock exclusion from waterways matter?

Stock in waterways can have a direct impact on water quality or ecological values and is a priority for Environment Canterbury, as well as for the wider community.

If stock get into waterways it not only raises the risk of animal disease or parasites but can also cause damage to the banks and beds of waterways or harm important mahinga kai habitats.

Cattle, deer and pigs are particularly attracted to water and can have a serious impact on water quality and mahinga kai values.

While the number of incidents is not large, responding quickly and effectively is a priority for us to minimise any environmental damage, and make sure it doesn't happen again.

When an incident is reported we work with the landowner involved to encourage the protection of river banks through fencing and planting to restrict stock access.

› [**See inside for our stock exclusion from waterways results.**](#)

› [**See the back page for guidelines around on-farm Good Management Practices.**](#)

Good Management Practices are good farming

All farming sector groups have agreed a code of Good Management Practices, including the following for stock exclusion:

To the extent that is compatible with land form, stock class and intensity, exclude stock from waterways.



Above: Fencing off waterways from stock helps protect water quality



Above: Pugging damage - not permitted

Tips and ideas on how to keep stock out of waterways



Plan and prioritise waterway areas (including wetlands) to fence, based on the vulnerability of the land, significance of the waterway and potential to impact on water quality off-farm.



Exclusion of extensively farmed stock from waterways in hill and high country areas may not be practical but rather a mix of mitigations and practices can be used to minimise sediment and faecal bacteria losses from farms.



Actively manage stock, stock density and stock classes adjacent to waterways to reduce risks to water where fencing is not practical.



Locate and manage crossing of waterways so it will not result in degradation of those waterways.



Provide alternative stock-water sources away from waterways, where possible.



Provide shade and shelter away from waterways and riparian planting.



Leave an appropriate buffer depending on slope, to filter runoff.



During high risk periods for erosion e.g. winter grazing, fawn weaning, actively manage stock to prevent slumping, pugging or erosion.



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