



## Rules for wetlands

**Most rules within the LWRP contain some form of separation distance or exclusion to wetlands. Some examples of these rules are:**

1. vegetation clearance adjacent to wetland boundaries
2. earthworks adjacent to wetland boundaries
3. burning within the Hill and High Country
4. stock exclusion
5. wetland reduction (including vegetation clearance)
6. most of our discharge rules contain a separation distance

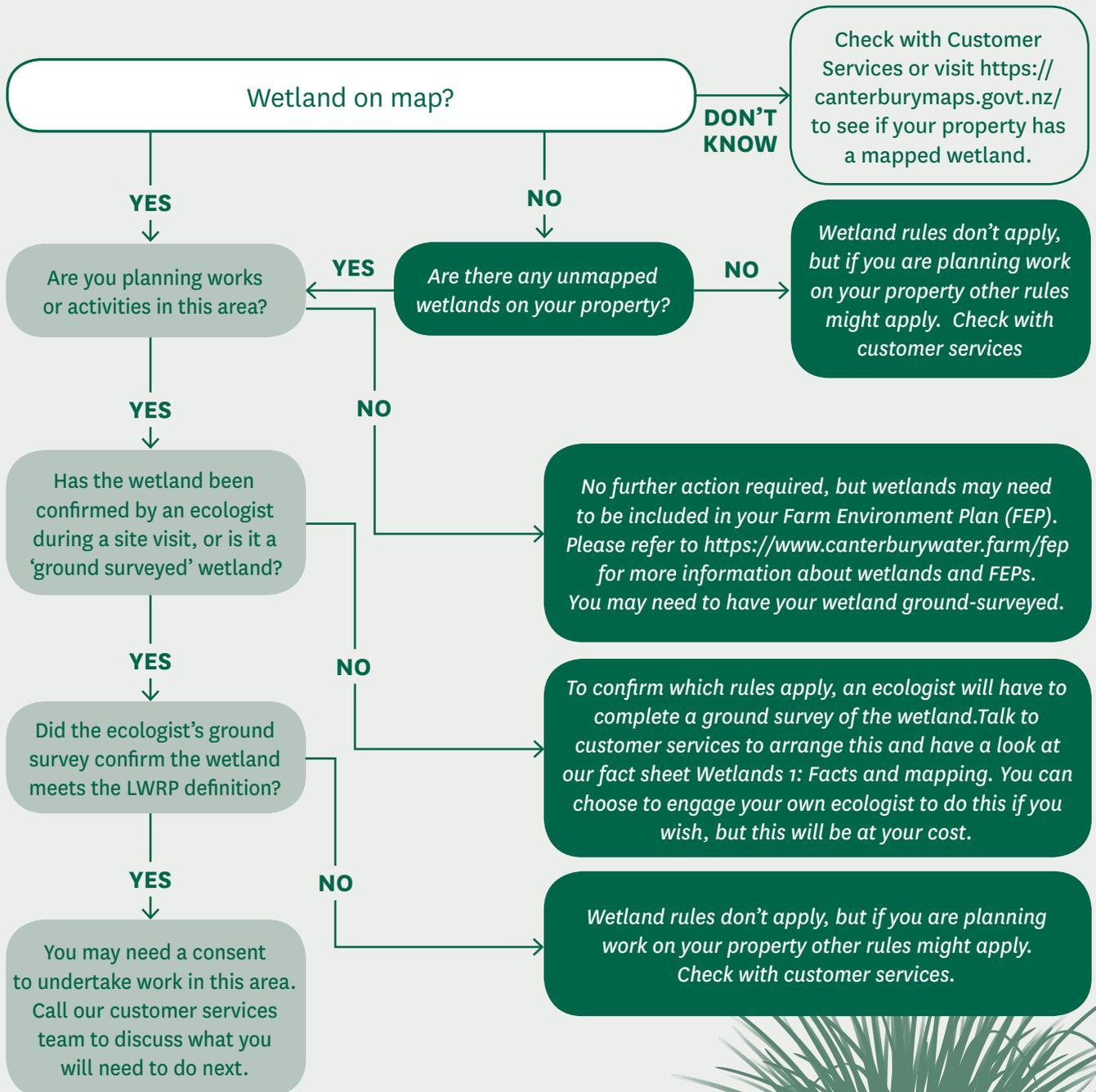
It can be tricky to figure out which rules apply when you are about to undertake work on your property, especially if you have a mapped wetland. Our customer services team are here to help you work it out and can also arrange for your wetland to be 'ground-surveyed' so that the consenting process is clearer. Give them a call on 0800 324 636, or email [ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz).

More information about wetland mapping can be found on our fact sheet ***Wetlands 1: Facts and Mapping.***

# Wetlands

## 2. CONSENTING PROCESS

# Wetland map – consent process for works that may impact a wetland



## How do we define wetlands?

‘Wetland’ is the collective term for the wet margins of streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, lagoons, estuaries, bogs and swamps. It’s important to note that some wetlands are not always wet!

The RMA defines a wetland as “permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions”.

The Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) then provides a definition of wetland for the purpose of our rules:

1. *wetlands which are part of river, stream and lake beds;*
2. *natural ponds, swamps, marshes, fens, bogs, seeps, brackish areas, mountain wetlands, and other naturally wet areas that support an indigenous ecosystem of plants and animals specifically adapted to living in wet conditions, and provide a habitat for wildlife;*
3. *coastal wetlands above mean high water springs;*

### **but excludes:**

- a. *wet pasture or where water temporarily ponds after rainfall;*
- b. *artificial wetlands used for wastewater or stormwater treatment except where they are listed in Sections 6 to 15 of this Plan;*
- c. *artificial farm dams, drainage canals and detention dams; and*
- d. *reservoirs for firefighting, domestic or community water supply.*

This does not mean that areas which meet the RMA definition but not the LWRP definition are not wetlands. It simply means that we do not actively manage them under the rules in the LWRP. For example, areas that meet the wet pasture exclusion are still technically wetlands however, for the purposes of the LWRP, they are excluded from some of our rules.

The Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (RPS), Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) and the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) all have policies and objectives related to wetlands.

These objectives specifically address how we will:

- > identify and protect wetlands and significant natural areas/habitats and their values;
- > prevent any further loss of remaining wetlands, and;
- > enhance the number and health of wetlands across the region.



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## Who do I contact for more information?

Environment Canterbury’s customer services team  
– 0800 324 636, [ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz) or  
<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/info/contact/>