



Waitaki District Plan

RURAL RULES

The Operative Waitaki District Plan 2010 is the primary planning document through which the Waitaki District Council carries out its functions under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Background

The Operative Waitaki District Plan 2010 (the Plan) controls land use within the Southern Mackenzie Basin.

The objectives and policies of the Waitaki District Plan are set up to manage land use within the high country, outstanding landscapes and significant habitats. The aim is to maintain vegetation cover, soil health, biodiversity and landscape values while allowing a range of development options.

Only a small part of the Mackenzie Basin falls within the Waitaki District, and most of this land is zoned rural. The rural area is split into the Rural General (Rural G) and Rural Scenic (Rural S) Zones, with most rural land in the Mackenzie Basin falling as Rural S.

Rural amenity is a key value throughout the Plan framework,

where development is enabled in the Rural General Zone, due to existing development, and is restricted in the Rural Scenic Zone due to the low ability to absorb built development within the open, natural and spacious landscape.

The rural objectives, policies and rules set up the framework for managing appropriate land use and development, while also ensuring environmental protection within the rural zones. The objectives and policies are contained in Part 2, Chapter 16 of the Plan, and the rules are contained in Part 3, Chapter 4.

As well as the rural zones, an additional layer of protection is provided for where the rural landscape is seen to have 'significant' or 'outstanding' qualities. These Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding Natural Features and Significant

Natural Features are assessed and mapped for a variety of reasons including to protect indigenous vegetation, scenic vistas or unique landforms or environments.

Some of the activities that the District Plan framework is set up to manage, and control in these zones include:

- > *Buildings*
- > *Earthworks and Tracking*
- > *Tree Planting and Forestry*
- > *Outdoor Recreational Activities*
- > *Vegetation Clearance.*

The Plan uses a range, and combinations of different planning tools to protect the natural values of the Waitaki District. Different objectives, policies and rules apply depending on the planning tools applied, such as the zones and areas below.

DISTRICT PLAN ZONES AND AREAS

Rural General Zone	Zone which covers the downlands and plains areas. Mostly covers arable land.
Rural Scenic Zone	Zone which generally covers the high country, ranges and inland basins. Mostly used for pastoral farming with pockets of forestry and arable farming. Includes visual amenity values, with views to open-space vistas with minimal built features or subdivisions.
Indigenous Bush	means trees or shrubs in which species indigenous to that part of New Zealand are greater than 3m in height and are important in terms of structural dominance and coverage. For these purposes structural dominance is when the indigenous species are in the tallest stratum and are visually conspicuous and coverage by indigenous species exceeds 20% of the total area.
Indigenous Vegetation	means a plant community in which species indigenous to that part of New Zealand are important in terms of coverage, structure and/or species diversity. For these purposes, coverage by indigenous species or number of indigenous species shall exceed 30% of the total area or total number of species present, where structural dominance is not attained. Where structural dominance occurs (that is indigenous species are in the tallest stratum and are visually conspicuous), coverage by indigenous species shall exceed 20% of the total area.

Disclaimer: This factsheet summarises provisions that are common activities within the Mackenzie Basin. For a full list of provisions refer to the operative Waitaki District Plan.



KEY PROVISIONS

The Plan contains rules and standards which control key changes in land use in the Mackenzie Basin. Each rule will require a certain number of standards to be met. These standards can include design specifications, noise limits and setbacks. For an activity to be permitted, it will need to meet all the standards listed in the rural rules chapter.



BUILDINGS

Activity	Status	Comments/ Key Standards	Reference
Buildings that meet the relevant District Plan standards	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	The buildings must meet the relevant standards including site density, height, setbacks, access and noise. Specifically, no buildings are allowed within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas or habitats of significant indigenous vegetation or fauna 	Rule 4.3.1 Standards 4.4.1 - 4.4.5, 4.4.7 and 4.5.1
Residential Activities in the Rural Scenic Zone	Consent required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 20m of any lake, river, stream or wetland, or above 900m in altitude • within any geopreservation site, Outstanding or Significant Natural Feature or Landscape. 	Rule 4.3.3.11 Standards 4.4.1 - 4.4.5, 4.4.7 and 4.5.1



EARTHWORKS

Activity	Status	Requirements	Reference
The maintenance of existing tracks, irrigation infrastructure, yards, fencelines and roads	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	The earthworks must meet the relevant standards including bush and vegetation clearance and noise. Specifically, no earthworks are allowed within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas or habitats of significant indigenous vegetation or fauna 	Rule 4.3.1.14a Standards 4.4.7 - 4.4.8, 4.5.1
Earthworks where the volume does not exceed 100m ³ over a continuous five-year period or 50m ² in area	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 20m of any lake, river, stream or wetland, or above 900m in altitude • on slopes greater than 20 degrees • within any geopreservation site, Outstanding or Significant Natural Feature or Landscape, or Otago or Grand skink habitat. 	Rule 4.3.1.14b Standards 4.4.7 - 4.4.8, 4.5.1
Earthworks where the volume exceeds 100m ³ over a continuous five-year period or 50m ² in area	Consent required		Rule 4.3.2.1 Standards 4.4.7 - 4.4.8, 4.5.1



TREE PLANTING AND FORESTRY

The Waitaki District Plan controls various forms of tree planting including forestry, amenity tree planting, shelterbelts and exotic tree planting.

In all instances regarding Forestry Activities, first refer to the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 (NES PF). If an aspect of your forestry activity is not covered by the NES PF then the Waitaki District Plan rules and standards may apply. Please contact the Waitaki District Council about your proposal.

Activity	Status	Comments/ Key Standards	Reference
Amenity tree planting (refer to rules 4.4.7, 4.4.8, 4.4.9 and 4.5.2 on exotic tree planting generally)	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	Must meet the relevant standards including exotic tree planting, bush and vegetation clearance and setbacks. Specifically, amenity tree planting is not allowed within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas or habitats of significant indigenous vegetation or fauna 	Rule 4.3.1.2 Standards 4.4.7, 4.4.8, 4.4.9 and 4.5.2
Shelterbelts	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	Permitted in the Rural G Zone Permitted in the Rural S Zone if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the slope is less than 16 degrees, or • Is on land at least 100m away from State Highways No exotic tree planting allowed without a consent in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding natural landscape, outstanding or significant natural feature • Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitat of significant indigenous fauna • within 20m of any lake, river, stream or wetland, or above 900m in altitude • Within Otago Skink habitat or Grand Skink habitat 	Rule 4.3.1.3 Standards 4.4.7 – 4.4.9, 4.5.1 and 4.5.2
Forestry in the Rural General Zone	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	Must meet the standards including bush and vegetation clearance, setbacks and noise, and exotic tree planting standards.	Rule 4.3.1.1 Standards 4.4.7 – 4.4.9, 4.5.1 and 4.5.2
Forestry in the Rural Scenic Zone	Consent required	In addition to meeting the standards above for the Rural General Zone, the following exotic species are unable to be established in the Rural Scenic Zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodgepole pine, Scots pine, Corsican pine, Dwarf Mountain pine, Mountain pine, Douglas fir, Sycamore and all larches, alders, and all willows 	Rule 4.3.3.9 Standards 4.4.7 – 4.4.9, 4.5.1 and 4.5.2
In an Outstanding Natural Landscape	Consent required	Non-complying activity status	Rule 4.3.4.5



OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Status	Comments/ Key Standards	Reference
Non-commercial outdoor recreational activities	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	Buildings associated with these activities must not exceed 50m ² in area and are limited to use for public shelter, unless using farming or residential buildings located on farming or residential sites.	Rule 4.3.1.10 Standards 4.4.1 - 4.4.5, 4.4.7 and 4.5.1
Commercial outdoor recreational activities of no more than 10 people and by on foot access only		The activity must also meet the relevant standards including site density, height, setbacks, access and noise. Specifically, no buildings are allowed within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas or habitats of significant indigenous vegetation or fauna • within 20m of any lake, river, stream or wetland, or above 900m in altitude • within any Geopreservation site, Outstanding or Significant Natural Feature or Landscape. 	
Group visits to sites used for farming or residential activities			
Structures or moorings passing across or through the surface of a waterway or attached to a bank of any waterway	Consent required		Rule 4.3.1.12 and 4.3.3.7
Commercial motorcraft on the Ahuriri River between August to February inclusive			
Any other activity on the surface of waterways	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	Must meet the relevant standards including noise.	Rule 4.3.1.12 Standard 4.5.1



INDIGENOUS VEGETATION CLEARANCE

Activity	Status	Comments/ Key Standards	Reference
Maintenance of existing tracks, irrigation infrastructure, electricity transmission infrastructure, yards or fence lines	Permitted	Permitted clearance of indigenous vegetation but NOT of Indigenous Bush Vegetation. Refer to definitions on page two.	Standard 4.4.7.3 and 4.4.8
Indigenous vegetation clearance	Permitted Consent required when standards are not met	Consent is required for any indigenous vegetation clearance within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of identified habitats of significant indigenous vegetation or fauna • within 20m of any lake, river, stream or wetland, or above 900m in altitude • within Otago or Grand skink habitat. 	Standard 4.4.7.3 Planning Maps Appendix C Appendix J
Indigenous bush clearance	Consent required	Consent required for the clearance of indigenous bush vegetation – refer to definitions on page two.	Standard 4.4.8.1
Clearance of more than 5000 m2 of indigenous vegetation over 5 continuous years	Consent required	Except where the vegetation clearance is carried out within and for the purposes of maintaining an area of improved pasture.	Standard 4.4.8.2a-b
Clearance of more than 1000 m2 of tall tussock grassland communities of the genus Chionochloa over 5 continuous years			
Clearance of more than 500 m2 of generally closed canopy Matagouri dominated indigenous shrubland that has a canopy height of greater than 1.5 m and is associated with river margins, fans, ridges and bluffs over 5 continuous years	Consent required		Standard 4.4.8.2c
Clearance of more than 500 m2 of diverse indigenous shrubland over 5 continuous years	Consent required	For this rule, 'diverse' means three or more shrub species, with at least one of the species specified in the standard.	Standard 4.4.8.2d (contains species list)
Clearance of specific vegetation	Consent required	Clearance of any of the following vegetation will require consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indigenous vegetation associated with limestone outcrops • indigenous shrubland containing Bog pine, Celery pine, Hall's tōtara, Mountain tōtara and any individual specimen of the above over one metre in height; or • indigenous turf communities associated with tarns, glacial moraines or river margins 	Standard 4.4.8.3