

WAIMAKARIRI HAS MORE THAN 6,500 LIFESTYLE BLOCKS COVERING NEARLY 13% OF THE DISTRICT – ABOUT 29,780HA AND GROWING.

Collectively, lifestyle blocks can have a significant impact on our environment as they typically have more people and infrastructure on a smaller land area, and are concentrated in areas where they become the dominant land use.

Check out the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee's **TOP TEN TIPS** to love your land and help keep our rivers and streams healthy.

Advice and support is available from NZ Landcare Trust, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, Environment Canterbury and Waimakariri District Council.

Top Ten Tips for Lifestylers was produced by Waimakariri Zone Committee with support from NZ Landcare Trust, Environment Canterbury and Waimakariri District Council.

Visit ecan.govt.nz/lifestyle-blocks
Or scan the QR code below for more info.



KEEP YOUR BLOCK TIP TOP!

PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS, WETLANDS, DRAINS, SPRINGS, DAMS AND PONDS – ANYTHING THAT CONNECTS TO A WATERWAY WHETHER NATURAL OR HUMAN-MADE, PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY.

HERE ARE YOUR TOP TEN TIPS

1 UNDERSTAND YOUR LAND

Know where water flows and where it goes! What's it like in a drought? And in a flood? Know where NOT to put fences, troughs and buildings. Avoid blockages and potential contaminants getting into water by clearing branches and debris, especially near culverts. Keep stored materials, equipment, containers and animal facilities away from areas that flood.

2 KEEP ANIMALS OUT

Heavy animals such as cattle, deer, horses and pigs can damage soil, drain and stream banks, and put mud, faeces and urine in our water.

3 STABILISE AND BUFFER

Keep waterway and drain banks well vegetated as bare banks can easily collapse and erode. Spot spray weeds if needed. Have a wide buffer strip each side – long grass does a good job of filtering sediment.

4 WATER IS PRECIOUS

Ensure that trough ballcocks are well protected from stock. Check troughs and tanks regularly for leaks and fix straight away. If irrigating, monitor soil moisture to determine requirements, make sure water use is within any take limits*, and avoid ponding, run-off, and wasting water.

5 LOVE YOUR NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Big and small! Get help* to identify and protect what you have, and plan to enhance. Control weeds and pests to protect these native treasures. Bring back your natives e.g. *Carex secta* is an ideal native grass for bank protection and drain/waterway weed suppression.

6 MANAGE YOUR STOCK

Match your animal numbers to the pasture you can grow. Avoid overgrazing and pugging paddocks. Fewer well fed stock stay in better health and can give better returns than under-fed stock. If in doubt, get advice.

7 MONITOR SEPTIC TANKS

If it pongs, something's wrong! If your tank hasn't been emptied for more than 5 years consider getting a septic tank contractor to pump it out. Regularly check the land application area to make sure effluent is not ponding. Filters need cleaning 3-6 monthly or get your system serviced by a professional. Use eco-friendly cleaning and laundry products to keep your wastewater treatment bugs happy.

8 FIND YOUR HOT SPOTS

Identify areas of bare ground and spots that become muddy when it's wet, making our water dirty. Keep animals out with temporary fencing and only graze when dry.

9 MANAGE FERTILIZER AND MANURE

Apply in warmer months when pasture is actively growing and best able to absorb nutrients. Avoid spreading if heavy rain is forecast and keep well away from waterways and gullies. Seek professional advice to avoid over-application.

10 RESPONSIBLE RUBBISH DISPOSAL

Recycle waste such as baleage wrap, expired chemicals and containers, and household waste. Rubbish holes and waste can degrade your land and cause contamination. Compost dead stock or bury well away from waterways. Burning dry tree trimmings produces less smoke than green/wet.

*Help is available! Go to ecan.govt.nz/lifestyle-blocks