



Amendments to the Stock Exclusion Regulations

Update following the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 that came into force on 25 October 2025

The Government has repealed the map of low slope land and the associated requirements to exclude stock from the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020.

Context

The Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 (Stock Exclusion Regulations) regulate access to water bodies by beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy support cattle, deer and pigs.

The map of low slope land was incorporated by reference in the regulations. The map showed areas of low slope where beef cattle and deer had to be excluded from lakes and rivers over 1 metre wide, and where all stock had to be excluded from natural wetlands with an area greater than 500 square metres.

Amendments to the Stock Exclusion Regulations

The Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 (the Amendment Act) repealed the map of low slope land and associated requirements from the Stock Exclusion Regulations. The associated requirements were to exclude:

- non-intensively grazed beef cattle and deer from lakes and wide rivers (regulations 14 and 15)
- all stock from natural wetlands greater than 500 square metres (regulation 18).

Other requirements, which apply regardless of the map, remain.

The table below provides an overview of the Stock Exclusion Regulations for existing farm systems, including regulations repealed by the Amendment Act.

Note: Highlighting indicates a regulation repealed by the Amendment Act

	Applies from 1 July 2023	Applies from 1 July 2025
Requirements to exclude stock from lakes and wide rivers*	Dairy cattle on any terrain (regulation 9)	
	Pigs on any terrain (regulation 10)	
		Dairy support cattle on any terrain (regulation 11)
	Beef cattle intensively grazing on any terrain (regulation 12)	
	Deer intensively grazing on any terrain (regulation 13)	
		Beef cattle on low slope land (regulation 14)
	Deer on low slope land (regulation 15)	
Requirements to exclude stock from natural wetlands	Exclusion of all stock from natural wetlands identified in a regional or district plan operative on commencement date (regulation 16)	
		Exclusion of all stock from natural wetlands that support threatened species described in National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (regulation 17)
		Exclusion of all stock from natural wetlands more than 500 m ² on low slope land (regulation 18)

* Stock must not be allowed closer than 3 metres to the edge of the bed of a lake or wide river (regulation 8).

Implementation considerations

The Stock Exclusion Regulations apply to any person who owns or controls stock.¹ Councils may adopt stock exclusion requirements in their regional plans, and any existing rules continue to apply. Check whether there are relevant rules in your region.

Resources

For more information on the Stock Exclusion Regulation, including a factsheet and link to the regulations see Ministry for the Environment: [Stock exclusion regulations](https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/regulations/stock-exclusion-regulations/).

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For more information, including background information on the Amendment Act, see Ministry for the Environment: [Resource Management \(Freshwater and Other Matters\) Amendment Act 2024](#).

To view the Amendment Act, see New Zealand Legislation: [Resource Management \(Freshwater and Other Matters\) Amendment Act 2024](#).

¹ For the purpose of the Stock Exclusion Regulations, 'stock':

- means beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy support cattle, deer, or pigs
- to avoid doubt, does not include any feral animal.

