



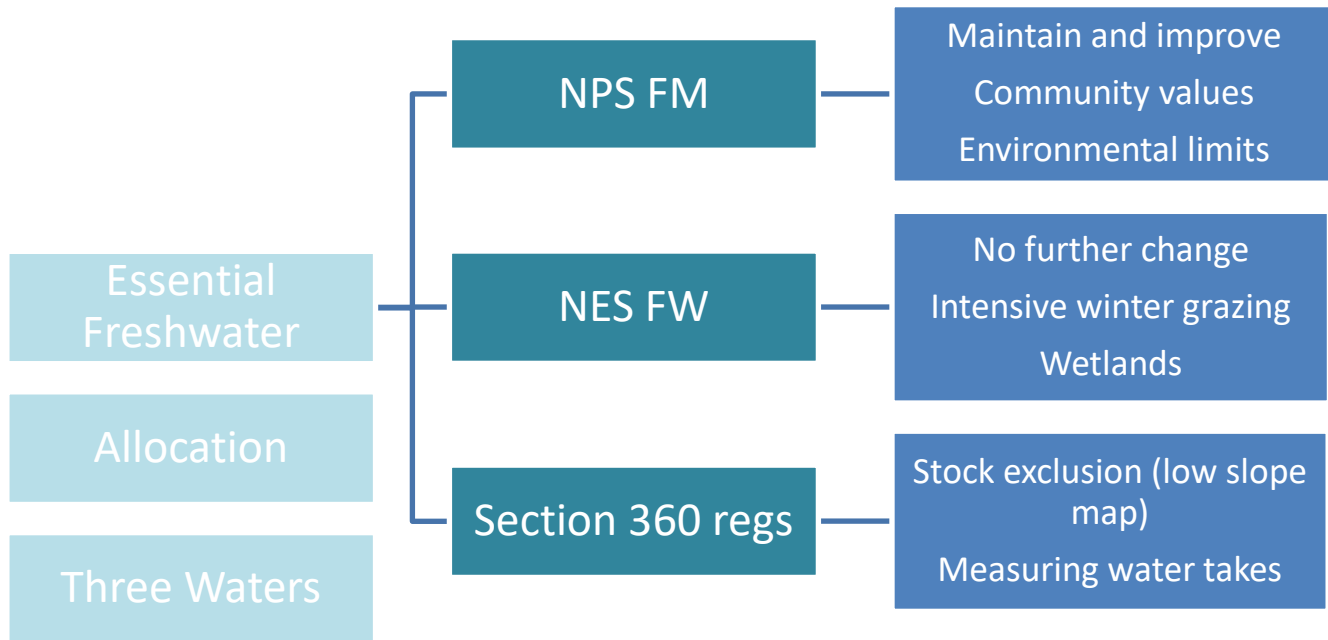
For **now** &  
**our future**

# Essential Freshwater

Current understanding of the requirements

**May 2021**

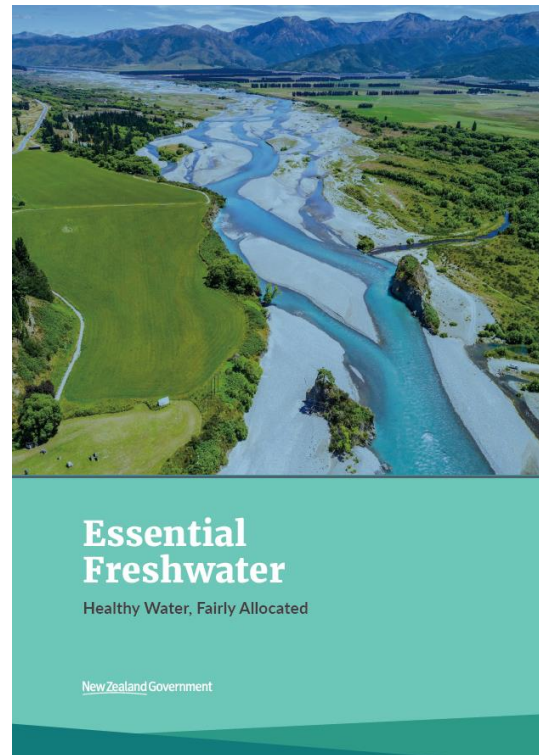
# Government Water Reforms



# Essential Freshwater Objectives

- **Action now** to prevent further (5 years) = NES
- Improvement (in a generation) = NPS
- Implement **Te Mana o te Wai**
- Ensure high-risk farming practices are carefully managed
- Protect and enhance native fish populations
- Reverse past damage within a **generation**

*“All New Zealanders should be able to swim in their local river without fear of getting sick.”*



# Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan

- Mediation underway now on rules
- Existing use rights (same scale, scope, effects)
- Rule 20 Farming (FEP's)
- Rule 21 Cultivation (20 deg slope)
- Rule 74 Wetlands

Factsheet

## Wetlands



**The plan refers to three types of wetlands:**

**Wetland** – means permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land-water margins that support an ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions

**Natural wetland** – has the same meaning as a 'wetland', but specifically excludes wet pastures, damp gully heads, ponding of rainwater, pastures with rushes, artificial storage facilities, reservoirs, and erosion control structures.

**Regionally Significant Wetlands** – are special wetlands listed in Appendix A of the plan, and mapped in Part B.

Please read the plan for full definitions.

Wetlands provide some of the most valuable ecosystems in Southland. The benefits of wetlands include:

- they act as a filter – trapping sediment and improving water quality
- they are part of the water cycle – which means they reduce the impact of floods
- they act as a buffer zone – protecting streams and waterways on-farm from erosion and nutrients
- they provide recreational opportunities – wetlands are great places to fish, duck shoot, and have picnics
- they provide habitats – many native species of birds, fish and plants live in wetlands.

Southland has lost 90% of its original wetland area. The proposed Southland Water and Land Plan has provisions to protect the remaining wetlands.

Use of land within a wetland is only a permitted activity if the purpose is to maintain or enhance the wetland, or maintain existing authorised structures within the wetland, providing certain criteria are met.

A consent is required if you cannot meet the permitted activity conditions, or you want to use the land within a wetland for a different purpose. Commercial peat harvesting within a wetland also requires a consent.

The majority of rules in the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan have restrictions on activities that can be undertaken around natural wetlands, and set backs are often required. Please see the relevant rules in the plan for specific requirements.

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environment SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Kaitiaki

# People, Water and Land programme

*Te Mana o te Tangata, te Wai, te Whenua*

## VISION:

Inspiring change to improve Southland's water and land

## OBJECTIVE:

Southlanders improve their water and land through **knowledge** and **on ground action**





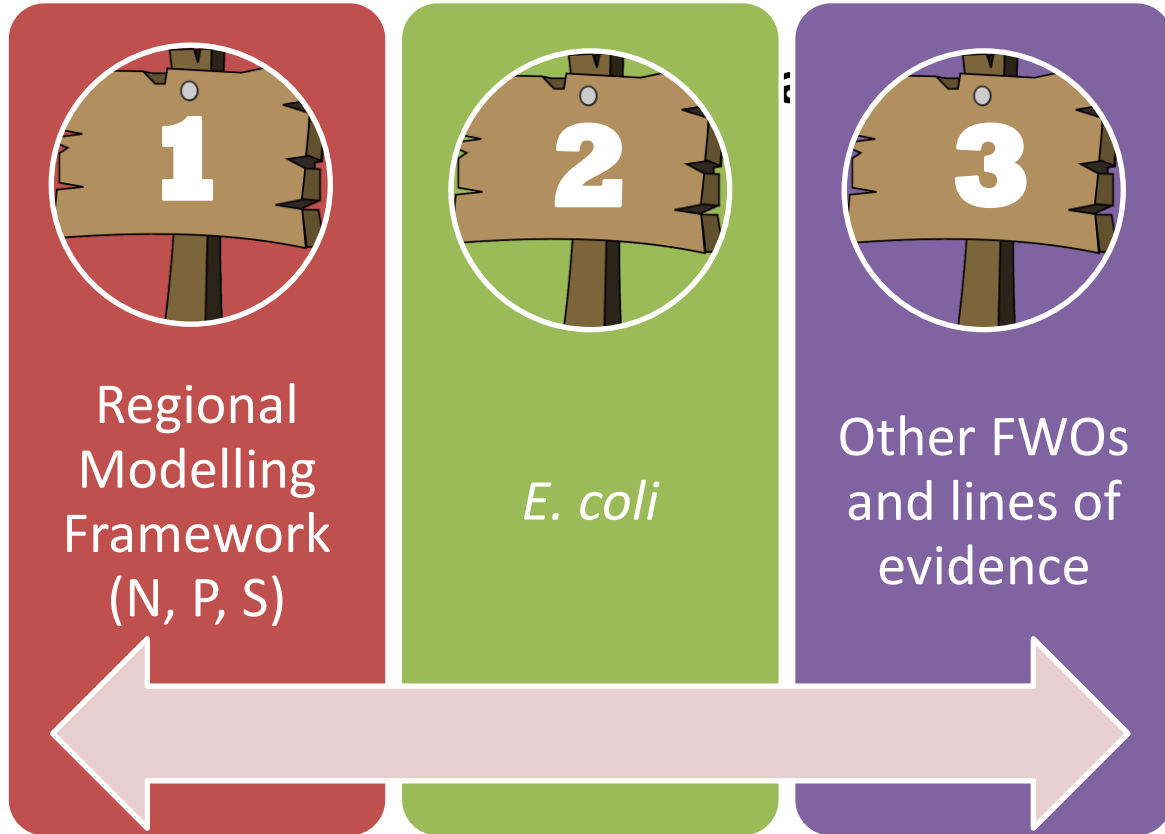


# REGIONAL FORUM

People Water and Land – *Te Mana o te Tangata, te Wai, te Whenua*



# Nutrient reduction modelling work



# Early findings - direction of travel

- Significant reductions in receiving water bodies are required across most parts of the developed areas of region.
- GMP is critical first step but more will be required. System change, new technologies and/or land use change will likely be required to achieve nutrient reductions of this magnitude over a generation.
- More certainty around nitrogen
- Sediment reports expected mid 2021



# Current situation - IWG

- PSWLP and NES have new provisions
- Implementation has been delayed by one year.
- No further intensification in place **now** (NES and PSWLP)
- PSWLP Rule 20 has legal effect (back fencing, portable troughs, grazing direction, buffers).
- Freshwater Farm Plans with a Winter Module being developed (encourage then regulate)
- ES (and others) have a mapping tool that will help you understand what consents are required.

A guide to the new national and regional rules for freshwater

## Intensive winter grazing without a consent

Both the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan and the new National Environmental Standard for Freshwater have a list of permitted activity criteria for intensive winter grazing.

If you can meet all of them, you don't need to apply for a resource consent for your intensive winter grazing. Here's what you need to do. If you can't meet one or more of the conditions, then you'll need to apply for a consent. Give our consents team a call if you want to chat through your own situation or anything on this list.

### Criteria for intensive winter grazing

- ✓ The area to be intensive winter grazed on farms up to 333 ha is **no more than 15%** of the farm.
- ✓ The area to be intensive winter grazed on farms between 334 ha and 999 ha is no more than 50 ha or 10% of the farm, **whichever is greater**.
- ✓ The area to be intensive winter grazed on farms over 1,000 ha is no more than 100 ha.
- ✓ A Farm Environmental Management Plan is prepared and implemented in accordance with Appendix N of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.
- ✓ **EITHER** a 20 metre vegetated and stock excluded strip is maintained from the outer edge of the bed of a lake, river, artificial watercourse, modified watercourse, or natural wetland; **OR** the following practices are implemented:
  - break-feeding from top to bottom of a slope, or 20m last bite strip is left
  - back-fencing cattle when break-feeding
  - transportable water troughs in or near area being grazed
  - portable feeders if supplementary feed is being used
  - no more than 120 cattle/250 deer in a herd
  - critical source areas are grazed last.
- ✓ Stock are excluded with a vegetated strip of at least five

metres from the bed of a lake, river, artificial watercourse, modified watercourse, or natural wetland regardless of whether there is any water in it.

- ✓ Stock must be kept at least five metres away from any other type of wetland, drain (including subsurface drainage), or ephemeral river (regardless of whether there is any water in it).
- ✓ Intensive winter grazing does not occur within 20m of a regionally significant wetland, sensitive water body, estuary or the coastal marine area (see the proposed plan for a list).
- ✓ Mean slope of the paddock is 10 degrees or less.
- ✓ Pugging (hoof penetration of soil to a depth of 5cm or more) is no deeper than 20cm at any one point (other than within 10m of an entrance gate or a fixed water trough) and any pugging must not be more than 50% of the paddock.
- ✓ Paddocks are replanted as soon as practicable, or by 1 November.
- ✓ Land on the farm must have been used for intensive winter grazing between 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2019, with no more than the maximum area of that grazing being used on the farm for future intensive winter grazing.

Depending on the condition(s) that cannot be met, the consent required could be under the National Environmental Standard, the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan, or both.

If you cannot meet the conditions above, get in touch with our consents team for advice on 0800 76 88 45 or email [service@es.govt.nz](mailto:service@es.govt.nz).

Sign up to the e-newsletter for updates on this topic and others - [www.es.govt.nz/subscribe](https://www.es.govt.nz/subscribe)

This information is correct to the best of our knowledge as at 1 February 2022 but is subject to change.



# Action for Winter 2021

Farmers, agencies, rural support business, advisors, contractors, workers, regulators

- Choose a **module** and work through
- Right **buffers** in place
- **Critical source area** management
- Adverse weather **plan**

**ARE YOU SET FOR WINTER?**

Use our winter grazing 2021 checklist to check and improve your winter preparations

**What you do this winter matters to all farmers**

This year, what we do during winter will be scrutinized more than ever so it is important we all do our bit and get it right. It isn't too late to make improvements for this winter. Animal welfare and environmental protection are both extremely important.

**Use our easy checklist**

The checklist below will help you assess whether you've covered off the key preparations for grazing.

**Note:** your regional council may have more stringent rules which apply in your area. If you're unsure please check with them.

Wintering Checklist	Green I'm all set to go	Orange I need to be improved	Red Not planned, needs more preparation
Stock are excluded from waterways. You have a minimum buffer of 5m (more is required for sloping ground).			
Critical source areas (CSAs) are protected: ideally keep stock off them for the whole winter period. If you have cropped CSAs, fence them off and graze them last during good weather after the rest of the crop has been fed. Leave a good buffer area at the lowest point to filter any sediment run-off.			
Graze paddocks strategically. If adjacent to a waterway, graze towards the waterway. If on a slope graze downwards and in the direction of the water flow, or using a strategic plan suited to your location (such as an extra wide buffer).			
Plan the placement of supplementary feed and portable water troughs away from waterways, critical source areas, and ponding areas.			
Animal welfare requirements are critical: transition carefully, consider shelter, ability to lie down on firm ground, and access to water.			
Measure feed to accurately assess quantity, and plan daily feeding to ensure adequate feed for the whole winter (including extra feed for poor weather).			
Plan and manage mobs to reduce the risk of lambing / calving on crop.			
Develop an adverse weather plan for each winter grazing area to ensure that animal welfare and environmental protection needs will be met in poor weather.			
Make a plan to record evidence (photos, video, your farm diary) showing that good management practices are being implemented, and to use this year's learnings to inform next year's plan.			

# Current situation – FWFP's

- Regulations are currently being developed to implement the RMA direction for Freshwater Farm Plans.
- These Plans will be regionally focused and linked to the environmental setting, regional values and issues.
- Te Mana o te Wai – providing for the health of the water so it can provide for us is overarching (korowai)
- Work underway to ensure these plans meet farmers needs for managing their farm business, and regulatory needs to manage environmental impacts (including audit and measure).

# Action for FW FP's

- The FW-FP framework is currently being developed.
- Don't pause!
  - Farm plans through Fonterra, Beef and Lamb, Ballance and others.
  - Review your Focus Activity Farm Plan from ES
  - Know your soils, physiographics, waterways, slopes and critical source areas.
  - Attend a “Stream Walk” event to understand why healthy streams are important. Catchment Groups are involved with these.
  - Identify risky areas where sediment and nutrients could get into waterways.
  - Find out some information about how mana whenua value waterways in your area.

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[www.es.govt.nz](http://www.es.govt.nz)