



Vegetation Clearance Information Sheet

Vegetation clearance is a Permitted Activity if the vegetation is seven years old or less and biodiversity habitats and rivers and their margins are avoided.

Purpose of the rules

The One Plan has rules about *vegetation clearance*. They allow for *vegetation clearance* provided:

- *Vegetation clearance* is not in the coastal foredune or in indigenous biodiversity habitats;
- Buffer zones are provided along rivers, beside lakes and beside biodiversity habitats; and
- Soil loss into waterways is minimised.

What the rules include

The removal or destruction of vegetation by any means; and

- Diversion of water on land; and
- Discharge of sediment into water.

What the rules exclude

- *Land disturbance, cultivation, and forestry* which are managed under separate rules.
- *Vegetation clearance in rare habitats, threatened habitats, or at-risk habitats* which are managed under separate rules.

Things that can be done as of right

- Grazing animals;
- Establishing a fence line (not in a *rare habitat, threatened habitat or at-risk habitat*);
- *Maintenance or upgrade of existing tracks, structures (including fences), or infrastructure*;

- Shelterbelt, fruit tree or fruit vine plantation maintenance;
- Actions to protect, maintain or enhance areas of *rare habitat, threatened habitat or at-risk habitat*;
- Clearance of vegetation that is fallen or dead (not in a *rare habitat, threatened habitat or at-risk habitat* that is *forest or scrub* in Schedule F);
- Activities undertaken within the boundaries of land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987;
- Activities undertaken within the boundaries of the New Zealand Defence Force Waiouru Military Training Area; and
- Clearance of thistles, ring ferns, carpet ferns, rushes, ink weed, briar rose, barberry, introduced pampas grass (other than toetoe), mingimingi, wilding pinus species, Japanese poplar, Japanese walnut, and pest plants referred to in the Regional Council's Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy.



Vegetation clearance done as a Permitted Activity [Rule 13-5]

Vegetation clearance is a Permitted Activity:

- On land slope less than 20°; or
- On land slope 20° or more and the vegetation is seven years old or less; or
- On land slope 20° or more, the vegetation is more than seven years old and the area to be cleared is less than one hectare

provided four standards are met.

The standards relate to avoiding damage to indigenous biodiversity habitats and leaving a vegetated buffer between *vegetation clearance* and rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

The pathway to a Permitted Activity is shown in the **green boxes** in the Vegetation Clearance Activity Pathway Diagram attached. Most *vegetation clearance* in the Region should fit the Permitted Activity.

If it is not practical to meet the standards or more than one hectare of vegetation over seven years old will be cleared on slopes steeper than 20°, it can still be carried out but a resource consent is needed first. Horizons will continue to use the same simple, cost free farm gate consent process for these as it has under the old plans.

Vegetation clearance on land slope¹ greater than 20°, vegetation age more than seven years and clearance of one hectare or more [Rule 13-6]

Resource consent is needed because in some circumstances the risk of damage to biodiversity habitats, riparian margins and risk of erosion is greater. Horizons will continue to use its simple, quick, no cost, farm gate process to deal with these. The pathway for this is shown in the orange boxes in the Vegetation Clearance Activity Pathway Diagram attached.

¹The slope trigger for Rule 12-4 is where vegetation clearance is carried out on an area of ground that includes a slope of 20° or more for a distance of at least 20m.

Horizons' approach

Land Management Officers will work with farmers and contractors to ensure sensible and practical implementation of the rules.

Their primary focus will be to provide advice about how your *vegetation clearance* can be a Permitted Activity, or work through a simple consent process at the farm gate if that is needed.

This is a free service

Land Management Officers

Land Management Officers are available as Horizons' first point of contact at the local level. They have been working with vegetation clearance for several years and will continue in this role under the One Plan.

Use Horizons Freephone 0508 800 800, tell us your location and you will be connected with your local officer.

Success factors

The keys to a successful outcome for the farmer are:

- Early communication with a Horizons Land Management Officer for the area if you want advice about how to meet the Permitted Activity or need a farm-gate consent process for *vegetation clearance* on steeper land;
- Maintaining the 5m or 10m separation distances from waterways and wetlands specified in the rules; and
- Assessing the risk of sediment loss and using appropriate good practice methods to minimise it if necessary.



Need more information?

Further information is available on Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz OR to speak with someone about vegetation clearance activities please contact us on freephone **0508 800 800**



Vegetation Clearance

Activity Pathway Diagram

Rule 13-9
(Non-complying)

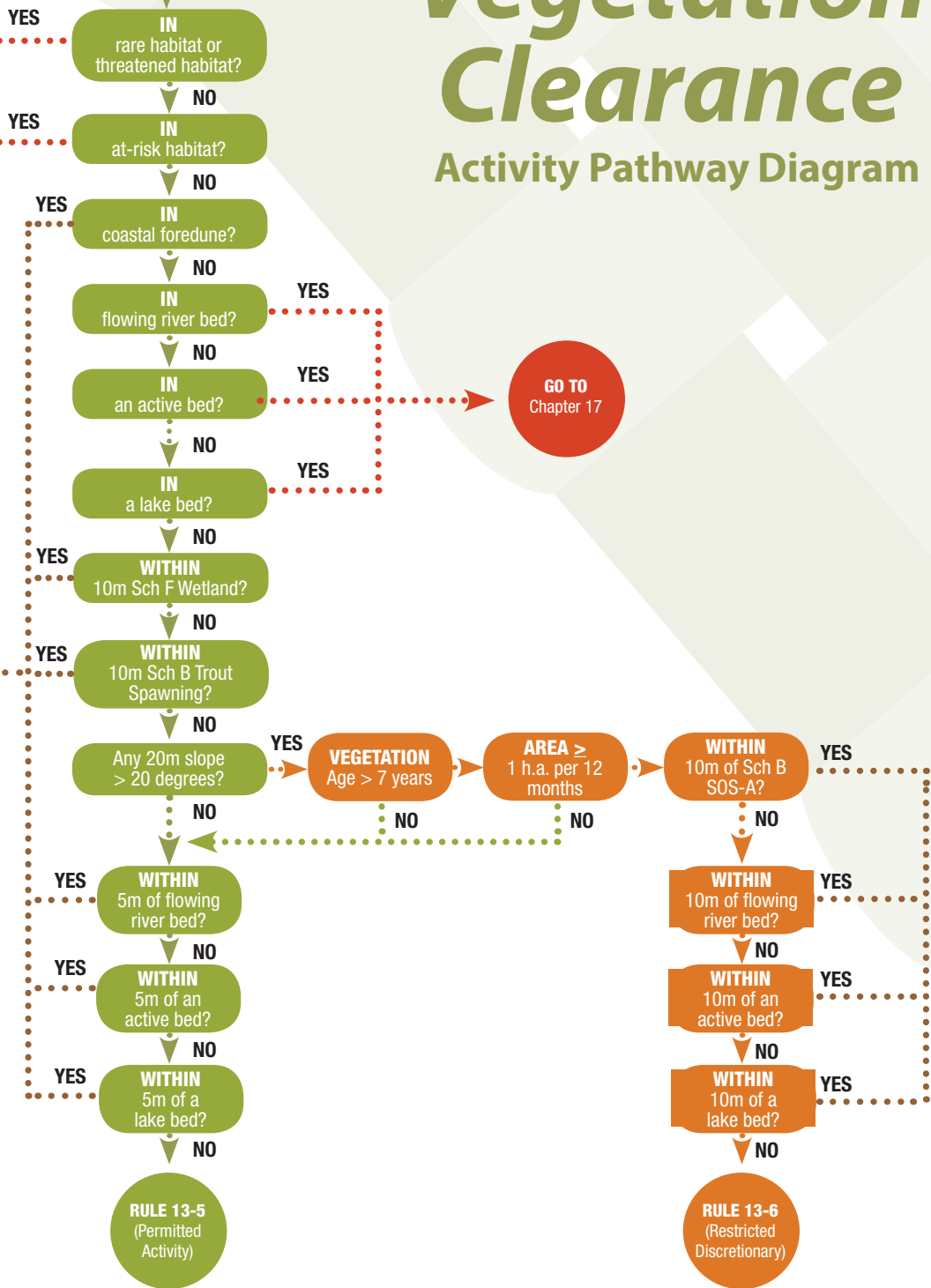
Rule 13-8
(Discretionary)

RULE 13-7
(Discretionary)

GO TO
Chapter 17

RULE 13-7
(Discretionary)

RULE 13-6
(Restricted Discretionary)



Rules relating to Vegetation Clearance:

Vegetation Clearance Rules in the One Plan

Please note:

- A term or expression marked with the symbol * is defined in the glossary of the Plan.
- A term or expression marked with the symbol ^ is defined in the RMA .

Rule	Activity	Classification	Conditions/Standards/Terms	Control/Discretion Non-Notification
13-5 Vegetation Clearance*	<p>Except as regulated by Rules 13-6, 13-7 and 13-9, any <i>vegetation clearance*</i> pursuant to s9(2) RMA and any ancillary:</p> <p>(a) diversion of <i>water^</i> pursuant to s14(2) RMA on the <i>land^</i> where the <i>vegetation clearance*</i> is undertaken,</p> <p>(b) <i>discharge^</i> of sediment into <i>water^</i> pursuant to s15(1) RMA resulting from the <i>vegetation clearance</i></p>	Permitted	<p>(a) The activity must not take place on <i>land^</i> that is within a <i>coastal foredune*</i>.</p> <p>(b) Any ancillary <i>discharge^</i> of sediment into <i>water^</i> must not, after reasonable mixing, cause the receiving <i>water body^</i> to breach the water quality standards for visual clarity set out in Schedule E for that <i>water body^</i>.</p> <p>(c) The activity must not occur on <i>land^</i> that is in, or within 5 m of:</p> <p>(i) the <i>bed^</i> of a <i>river^</i> that is permanently flowing</p> <p>(ii) the <i>bed^</i> of a <i>river^</i> that is not permanently flowing and has an <i>active bed*</i> width greater than 1 m(iii) the <i>bed^</i> of a <i>lake^</i>.</p> <p>(iii) the <i>bed^</i> of a <i>lake^</i>.</p> <p>(d) The activity must not occur on <i>land^</i> that is in, or within 10 m of:</p> <p>(i) A <i>wetland^</i> as identified in Schedule F</p> <p>(ii) Sites valued for Trout Spawning as identified in Schedule B.</p>	

Rule	Activity	Classification	Conditions/Standards/Terms	Control/Discretion Non-Notification
<p>13-6 Specified vegetation clearance*, land disturbance* or cultivation* in a Hill Country Erosion Management Area*</p>	<p>Pursuant to s9(2) RMA, except as regulated by Rule 13-8 and 13-9, any:</p> <p>(a) <i>land disturbance*</i> of more than 100m² per <i>property*</i> per 12-month period, or</p> <p>(b) <i>vegetation clearance*</i> of 1 ha or greater per <i>property*</i> per 12-month period where the age of the vegetation in the area to be cleared is greater than seven years, or</p> <p>(c) <i>cultivation*</i> undertaken within a <i>Hill Country Erosion Management Area*</i> and any ancillary:</p> <p>(a) diversion of <i>water^</i> pursuant to s14(2) RMA on the <i>land^</i> where the <i>vegetation clearance*, land disturbance* or cultivation*</i> is undertaken, or</p> <p>(b) <i>discharge^</i> of sediment into <i>water^</i> pursuant to s15(1) RMA resulting from the <i>vegetation clearance*, land disturbance* or cultivation*</i>.</p>	<p>Restricted Discretionary</p>	<p>(a) The activity must not take place on <i>land^</i> that is within a <i>coastal foredune*</i>.</p> <p>(b) The activity must not occur on <i>land^</i> that is in, or within 10 m of:</p> <p>(i) the <i>bed^</i> of a <i>river^</i> that is permanently flowing</p> <p>(ii) the <i>bed^</i> of a <i>river^</i> that is not permanently flowing and has an <i>active bed*</i> width greater than 1 m</p> <p>(iii) the <i>bed^</i> of a <i>lake^</i>.</p> <p>(iv) a <i>wetland^</i> as identified in Schedule F</p> <p>(v) sites valued for Trout Spawning as identified in Schedule B</p> <p>(vi) Sites of Significance - Aquatic as identified in Schedule B.</p>	<p>Discretion is restricted to:</p> <p>(a) the location, nature, scale, timing and duration of the activity</p> <p>(b) <i>effects^</i> of the activity and associated sediment run-off on soil conservation, surface <i>water^</i> quality and aquatic ecology and the methods to be taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate them</p> <p>(c) the requirement to provide an <i>Erosion and Sediment Control Plan*</i>, the content of and standard to which the plan must be prepared, the implementation of the plan, and the timing of when it must be prepared and submitted</p> <p>(d) the provision of greater setback distances from <i>water bodies^</i> than those specified under condition (b) to provide greater protection to a <i>water body^</i> if required</p> <p>(e) the extent of non-compliance with the <i>water quality target*</i> for visual clarity set out in Schedule E</p> <p>(f) duration of consent</p> <p>(g) review of consent <i>conditions^</i></p> <p>(h) compliance monitoring.</p>

Rule	Activity	Classification	Conditions/Standards/Terms	Control/Discretion Non-Notification
				<p><i>Resource consent</i>^ applications under this <i>rule</i>^ will not be notified and written approval of affected persons will not be required (notice of applications need not be <i>served</i>^ on affected persons).</p> <p>Advice Note:</p> <p>Examples of alternative methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate sediment run-off can be found in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Chapters 3-9 of the Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for the Wellington Region" (September 2002, and (b) The Code of Practice for Commercial Vegetable Growing in the Horizons Region (Horticulture New Zealand).