

National Environmental Standards

Freshwater Feedlots and other stockholding areas

In early September 2020, central government's national direction for halting the degradation of our rivers, lakes and streams was announced.

The following came into effect:

- National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES-FW)
- Stock Exclusion s360 Regulations Resource Management Act (RMA)
- Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes s360 Regulations (RMA)
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM)

We encourage all landowners to become familiar with what is required. A good starting point for

this is the Ministry for the Environment's policies and regulations fact sheets and your industry groups.

For links to the relevant central government documents listed here head to:

www.horizons.govt.nz/our-freshwater-future

Horizons Regional Council has started the process of reviewing this Essential Freshwater package.

If you use feedlots or other types of stockholding areas it is important to consider the new rules and whether you will need to apply for a resource consent.



Why are there feedlot and stockholding regulations?

Feedlots and other stockholding areas can pose high environmental risks to freshwater if not managed well. Water quality degradation caused by these areas results from the volume and concentration of animal dung and urine (effluent), sediment loss, pugging and soil damage accumulating from holding cattle in a confined space.

When feedlots and stockholding areas are not adequately designed, managed, and/or sited, contamination can get into and pollute waterbodies as well as increase erosion.

Stockholding areas and feedlots are permitted activities that do not require consent if at least 90% of the cattle held are under 4 months old or weigh less than 120kg.

These regulations apply to farms of more than 20ha in pastoral land use.

There are three parts to this document and each are important for you to understand.

Part 1 Important definitions

Part 2 Compliance requirements flowchart

Part 3 Activities and existing use rights

PART 1: Important definitions

Stockholding area

Is an area for holding cattle at a density that means pasture or other vegetative ground cover cannot be maintained.

Examples include:

- feedpads
- winter pads
- stand-off pads and
- loafing pads

Areas which are exempt from these regulations include:

- stockyards
- milking sheds
- wintering barns
- calf raising and
- sacrifice paddocks

Feedlot

A feedlot is a stockholding area where cattle:

- Are kept for at least 80 days in any six month period; and
- Fed exclusively by hand or machine.

Sacrifice paddock

A sacrifice paddock is an area where:

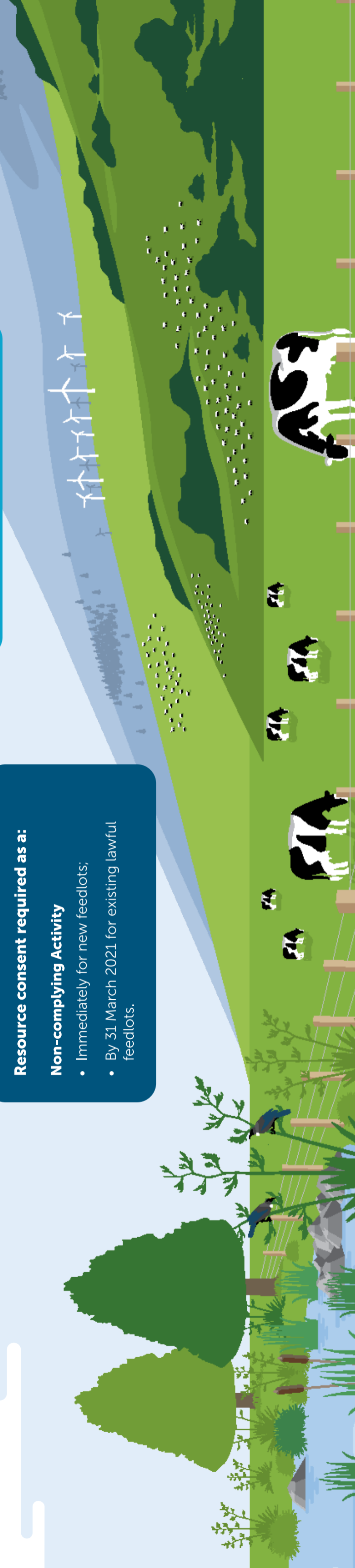
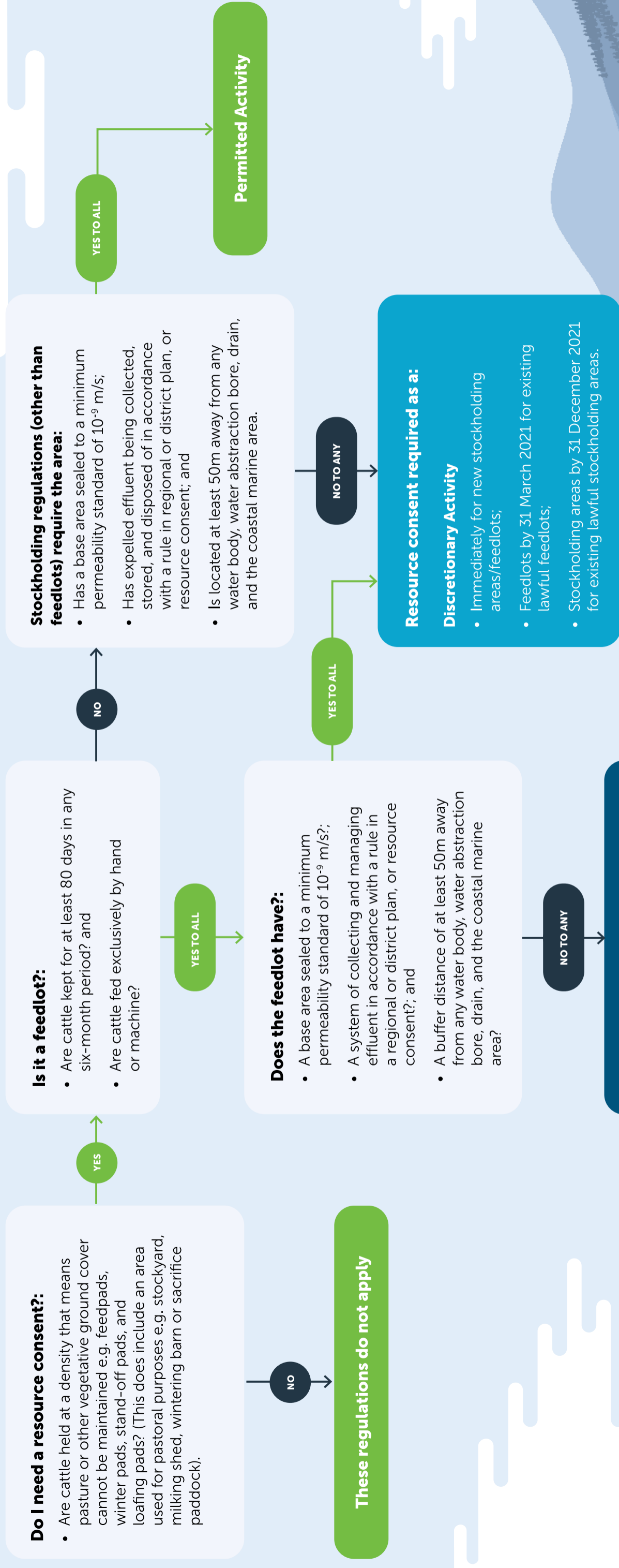
- Cattle are repeatedly, but temporarily contained (typically during extended periods of wet weather); and
- The resulting damage caused to the soil by pugging is so severe that paddock rejuvenation and/or over-sowing with pasture species is required.

There are no new rules that specifically cover sacrifice paddocks and they are excluded from the definition of a stockholding area. However, it is not okay to pollute waterways, even if there is no rule covering your activity.



PART 2:

Compliance requirements flowchart



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or freephone Horizons on **0508 800 800**