



Intensive winter grazing

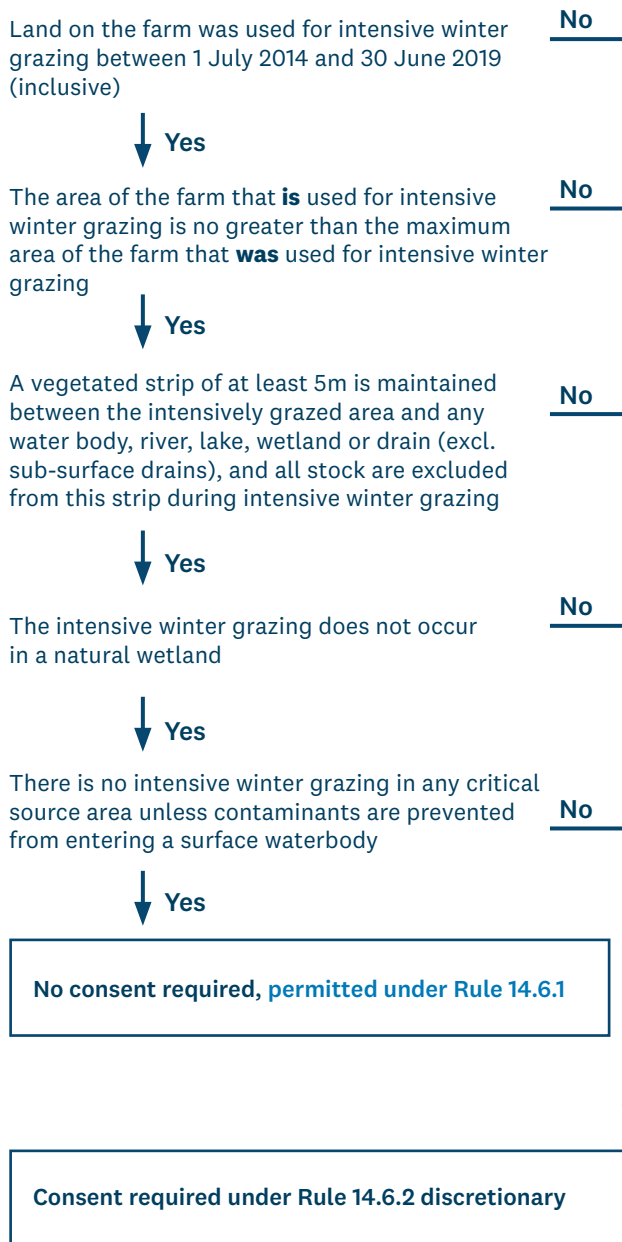
We know that intensive grazing is an essential element of many Otago farming systems, but when it's not managed well it can result in significant nutrient and sediment losses into waterways that may negatively impact on water quality.

As part of this proposed plan change, new policies and rules have been added to the Water Plan to manage this activity.

In general:

- ▶ If the area of intensive winter grazing is outside any critical source areas and within the limits stated in the chart below, and you manage your grazing well, you wouldn't need a resource consent.
- ▶ If the area of intensive winter grazing is large, or you don't manage the activity well, you would need a resource consent.

Use the flow chart to work out whether you would be likely to need a resource consent for intensive winter grazing under the proposed new rules.





A well-managed intensive winter grazing activity means:

- ▶ Avoiding critical source areas, such as wet spots in paddocks, gullies and swales (see definition of “critical source area”)
- ▶ Leaving a grassed or planted buffer strip between the area of grazing and any critical source area or water body
- ▶ Break feeding from the top to the bottom of a sloped paddock

Refer to your farming industry organisation for more guidance, as they’ll be able to assist with solutions specific to your farming operation.

Good preparation is crucial for managing your intensive winter grazing well. It’s best to start thinking about how you will manage your grazing well before selecting paddocks and beginning cultivation.

New national rules may apply to you now. Go to: orc.govt.nz/NewWaterRules

Not sure whether you need a consent or not? Contact us on **0800 474 082** or email customerservices@orc.govt.nz

More information about our resource consent process is also available at orc.govt.nz/consents.

If you need a consent, the earlier you contact ORC to discuss your application, the better.

For your application, we’ll need to know:

- ▶ Where and how much land is grazed intensively
- ▶ Which stock types are grazed
- ▶ Which types of crops are grazed
- ▶ How the intensive grazing is managed to avoid nutrient and sediment loss

Definitions

Intensive Winter Grazing

Grazing livestock on an annual forage crop at any time in the period that begins on 1 May and ends with the close of 30 September of the same year

Critical Source Area

A landscape feature such as a gully, swale, or depression that accumulates runoff from adjacent flats and slopes and delivers contaminants to surface water bodies such as rivers, lakes, and artificial watercourses (excluding subsurface drains, and artificial watercourses that do not connect to natural water bodies).

Water Body

Fresh water or geothermal water in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, or aquifer, or any part thereof, that is not located within the coastal marine area

Please note, new national government rules for existing winter grazing will come into effect in November 2022. In the meantime, you need to follow the Otago Water Plan rules that are outlined in this factsheet.

Any discharge from land that has been disturbed by stock, where sediment reaches a water body or the Coastal Marine Area, that doesn’t have a sediment mitigation is prohibited. (RPW 12.c.0.3)

The discharge of sediment that results in an increase to the local sedimentation or has a conspicuous change of colour or clarity in a river, lake or wetland is not permitted. (RPW 12.c.1.1)

This factsheet will be reviewed regularly to check for any changes required as a result of new national requirements.

For more information please refer to the Ministry for the Environment website: mfe.govt.nz