

Stockwater Races

The Council's stock water network is a system of approximately 758km of open channels that run through the Waimakariri District, providing stockwater to about 1,670 properties.

The race network has its main intake point at Browns Rock on the Waimakariri River.

The Stockwater Race Bylaw 2021 details the rules to protect the water race network.

Maintenance of part of the Council's stock water race network is contracted out to Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd, on behalf of Council. Maintenance of races on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

Refer to the map on the Council website or call us to find out if the water race on your property is part of this network or if you are responsible for its maintenance.

Water from stockwater races

May be used by landowners for:

- Stock water
- Domestic irrigation (only with Council approval).

But not for:

- Irrigation other than domestic irrigation, unless from designated irrigation races and approved by Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd
- Any use that would lead to the contamination of the water by either chemicals, hazardous substances and unwanted organisms or any backflow from irrigation equipment.

Protecting the network

No one is to destroy or damage any part of the water race. This means you cannot:

- Obstruct the flow of water
- Waste water willfully or through neglect



Herbicide spray causing unstable banks



A tidy stockwater race – clear of weeds, rubbish and obstructions

- Use any chemical/herbicide in such a way as to destabilise the banks of the race
- Allow stock to cause a nuisance or bank damage, creating pollution. Drinking stations located outside the race are the preferred method for avoiding damage to the water race.

Written permission of the Council is required to:

- Widen, deepen, alter or close a water race
- Draw off or divert any water, for example to create a pond
- Plant or grow any trees or other plants, or erect a building of any kind within 10m of a water race.

NOTE: Landowners can apply for permission using the Stockwater Application Form available at waimakariri.govt.nz

Your responsibilities

The Council owns the water race, but not the underlying land. It is the responsibility of the owner, or occupier of the land, through which the water race runs to keep it clear of silt, weeds, rubbish and obstructions.

As the owner, you must also maintain the banks of the races, all culverts and bridges on your property.

Maintenance required on neighbouring properties should be addressed to the property owners in the first instance. Any disputes relating to maintenance should be referred to the Council by lodging a service request.

Water race status updates

Check the Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd website for status updates on supply.

Contact waimakariri.govt.nz/have-a-say/report-an-issue or call us on 0800 965 468 to report problems of water supply such as low flows.

Penalties

Breaches of the Bylaw may be penalised with a fine of up to \$20,000.

Funding

Every property with access to the water race network pays an annual rate to the Council that covers the cost of their operation.

This is a combination of a fixed charge and per hectare rate. It is included in the annual rates assessment.

Access is generally defined as being on the property whether piped or open, and includes the other side of a boundary fence.

This factsheet is a quick guide.

For more information refer to the 'Stockwater Race Bylaw 2021' with all of the rules designed to protect the water race network on our website waimakariri.govt.nz



Stock polluting a water race



Stock using a good drinking bay

Photo credit: Ashburton District Council

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.