



Intensive grazing

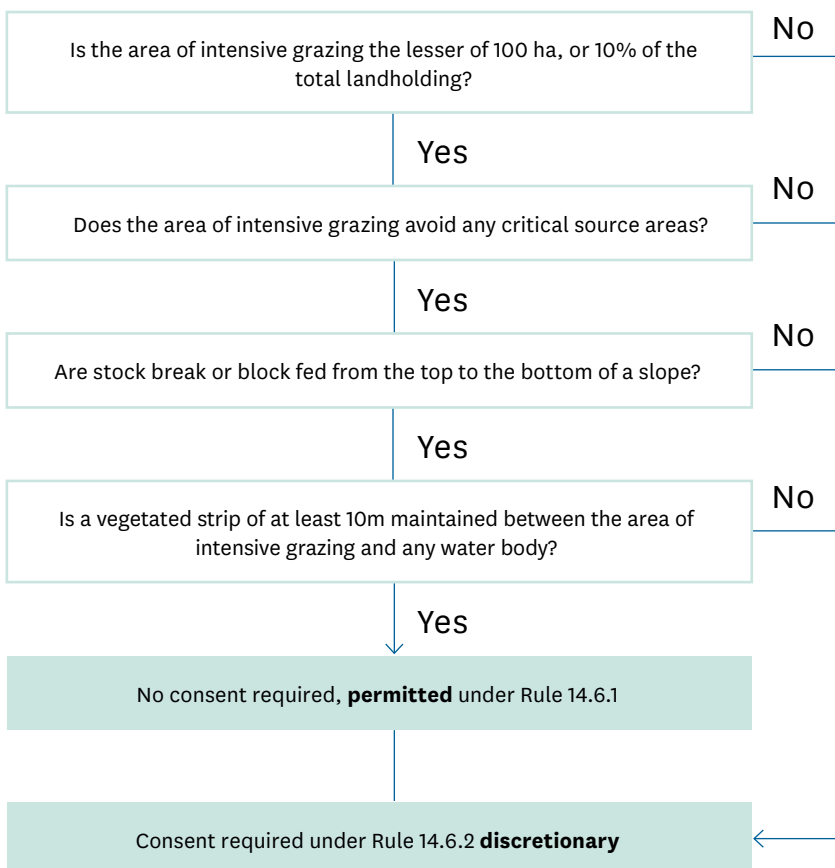
We know that intensive grazing is an essential element of many Otago farming systems, but when it's not managed well it can result in significant nutrient and sediment losses into waterways that may negatively impact on water quality.

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 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 grazing is large, or you don't manage the activity well, you would need a resource consent.

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



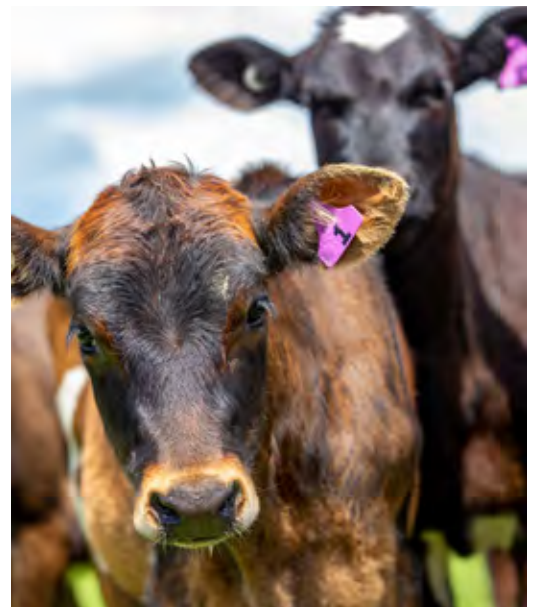
Definitions

Intensive grazing: Means grazing of stock on forage crops (including brassica, beet and root vegetable crops), excluding pasture and crops.

Critical source area: Means a landscape feature such as a gully, swale or depression that accumulates runoff from adjacent slopes, and delivers it to surface water bodies such as rivers and lakes, artificial waterways and field tiles.

A waterbody (or waterway): A water body is fresh water or geothermal water in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, or aquifer that is not located within the coastal marine area.

More information about our resource consent process is available at www.orc.govt.nz/consents or by calling 0800 474 082 or emailing customerservices@orc.govt.nz



A well-managed intensive 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 grazing well. It’s best to start thinking about how you will manage your grazing well before selecting paddocks and beginning cultivation.

If you need 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 loss

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

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

You may also be able to continue intensive grazing without a consent under existing use rights, provided you continue grazing on the same scale with the same effects you have previously.

If you are not sure whether you need a consent or not, please contact us.

Other new national rules may apply to you now. Go to www.orc.govt.nz/NewWaterRules

