



Message to forestry block owners from Otago Regional Council

With recent severe weather, forestry blocks across Otago were impacted — with many trees damaged or brought down.

Environmental rules and good management practices still apply. If compliance with these practices is temporarily not possible due to damage or safety concerns, contact ORC without delay to discuss your situation.

Call the Customer Services number 0800 474 082 or email compliance@orc.govt.nz

■ Notification rules

- Harvesting activities require 20 working days notice to your local councils. However, salvaging only requires 2 working days prior to commencing works under the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF). Please contact us to discuss these requirements further if you have concerns or the timeframes are impractical.
- Clean up and salvaging is likely to be ongoing. Please ensure the notification timeframe is incorporated in the works' planning.

■ Windthrow removal

- Some clearing and salvaging activities within waterways may be covered by Permitted Activity rule 13.5.1.2 of the Regional Plan Water. This rule allows for in-stream work following a storm event provided certain conditions are

met, including duration (10 hours) and minimising disturbance. This rule as well as others can be found online — Regional Plan: [Water for Otago | Otago Regional Council – Sustainable Freshwater Management](#)

- Please contact ORC on **0800 474 082** with any questions about rules. If you have any concerns with achieving compliance, or any other questions around forestry, make contact to discuss your plans.

■ Recognition of exceptional circumstances

We recognise these are exceptional circumstances and will take a pragmatic, risk-based approach to compliance during recovery. Our goal with this communication is to provide advice, identify impacts, and support recovery efforts.

Other resources can be found on the Te Uru Rākau and MPI websites. Farmers who need extra support are encouraged to contact their local **Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254**.

ORC's compliance team can be reached on 0800 474 082 or email compliance@orc.govt.nz