

Whangamarino Wetland

March 2020

The Whangamarino Wetland is a Ramsar site of international significance. Covering ~7000ha, the wetland is situated on the floodplain of the lower Waikato River and is fed by the Pungarehu Stream, Whangamarino River and Maramarua River. The wetland also receives inflows from Lake Waikare via the Pungarehu Canal.

Due to the international importance of this wetland and significant values, there are separate rules in the decisions version of plan change 1 that apply to properties draining into the wetland.

What rules apply within the Whangamarino catchment and how does this differ to elsewhere under plan change 1?

Due to the status of the Whangamarino Wetland, properties located within the Whangamarino catchment have different requirements to those farms in the Waikato and Waipā river catchments.

Unless the farmed area on a property in this catchment is small (<20ha) and/or can operate under permitted activity rule 3.11.4.1, it will require a resource consent. If you are in this catchment and need a consent, you will need to consider your farming practices in the context of the restoration and protection of the Whangamarino Wetland as part of the consenting process.



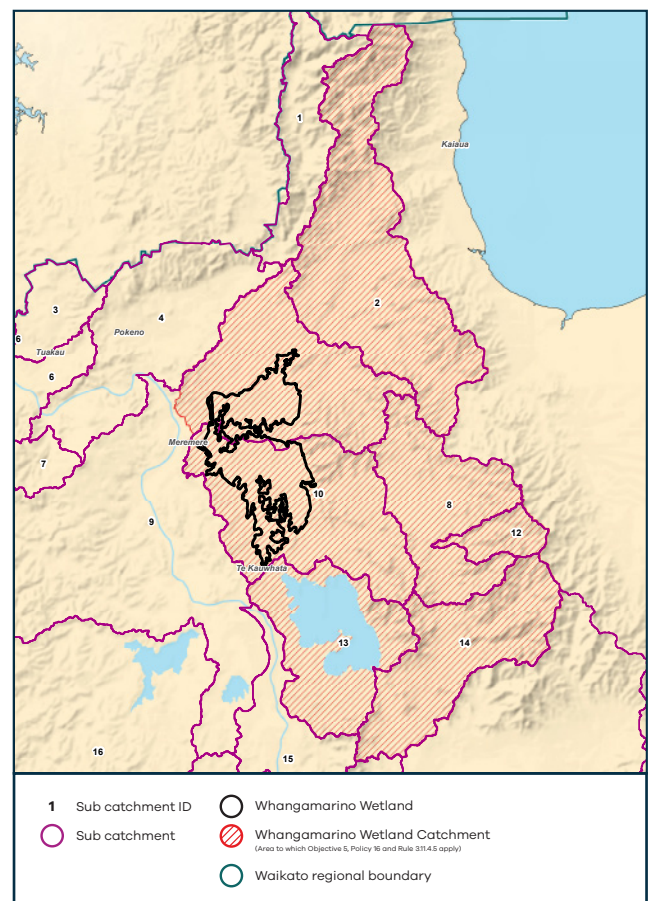
When will I need to submit a consent application?

All farms operating under rule 3.11.4.6 need to submit their consent application within one year of the proposed plan being operative.

How do I know if I am in the Whangamarino catchment area?

There are seven sub-catchments that make up the Whangamarino Wetland catchment as shown in the map below.

Your property is within this catchment area if the majority of your property is within one or more of the Whangamarino Wetland sub-catchments in the map.



Do I need a farm environment plan?

Yes, as with other farming activities requiring a resource consent under plan change 1, a farm environment plan (FEP) that has been certified by a certified farm environment planner must accompany the application for resource consent.

What should be in a farm environment plan?

An FEP includes three key parts:

- **An assessment** of losses of nitrogen, sediment, phosphorus and microbial pathogens need to be identified on farm and whether farming practices are consistent with specified goals and principles.
- **Existing and planned mitigations:** current and future mitigations/good management practices that will reduce contaminant loss need to be identified.
- **Action plan:** mitigations and good management practices identified for the farm need to be committed to in an action plan. These actions need to be auditable, specific and time bound.

Schedule D2 in plan change 1 details what information should be present in your FEP.

Who puts together my farm environment plan?

Any person can put together your farm environment plan, but it will need to be certified by a certified farm environment planner before being submitted.

The certified farm environment planner will make sure the FEP adheres to the requirements set out in Schedule D2 of plan change 1 and that the actions are adequate to mitigate the risks on farm.

Will my farm environment plan need to be reviewed?

Yes, each FEP will need to be assessed by a certified farm environment planner:

- within 12 months of your consent application being granted
- at subsequent review intervals specified in the conditions of each resource consent.

The purpose of the assessment is to check whether the activities on farm are consistent with the contents of the FEP and plan change 1. The results of each assessment will be provided to us to assess compliance with the consent.

Where can I find a certified farm environment planner?

We're developing a training programme which will need to be completed by rural professionals interested in being certified farm environment planners (CFEPs). For some rural professionals, it could take up to 18 months to complete training and certification. There are some others who will be able to be certified much quicker. The names and contact details of CFEPs will be available on our website as they are certified.

At the same time as we are working on our own certification process, a national scheme is being developed, too. Our intention is to align our work with the national scheme to ensure consistency for farmers and rural professionals.


If what I do on farm changes, can my plan change, too?

FEPs are designed to be a living document – that means they can be changed and updated as your business changes. If you propose changes to your FEP it will need to be submitted for review to ensure it still meets schedule D2 of plan change 1.

Have more questions?

You can find the decisions version of the proposed rules on our website. We also have a team of trained staff who can answer your questions.

Call us on


 **0800 800 401**

Or send an email to

 **healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz**

Important

This information has been provided based on Waikato Regional Council's interpretation of the decisions version of the proposed plan change to be notified in April 2020. Please take the time to read the decisions version and seek your own advice, too. Also note that the proposed plan is subject to possible change by the Environment Court through the appeals process.

 0800 800 401

 waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers

 healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz



Healthy Rivers
PLAN FOR CHANGE

Wai Ora
HE RAUTAKI WHAKAPAIPAI

Waikato

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Te Kaunihira ā Rohe o Waikato