



# Working near rural waterways in flood control and drainage schemes

This information is provided to help anyone that needs to work near flood protection assets and drainage channels in Horizons Regional Council's flood control and drainage schemes. You are in a scheme if rates are paid to Horizons for managing it. Not all land in a scheme area is covered, just that near assets and watercourses where the impacts of some activities could reduce the effectiveness of the scheme.

## Why we need to be careful

Flood control and drainage schemes are designed to protect properties from the risk of damage from flooding during rain storms. Key assets and waterways used in flood control and drainage schemes are often on private property. Work done on or near them can sometimes unintentionally reduce the effectiveness of schemes.

Scheme effectiveness can also be reduced by construction of new drainage channels if they end up overloading the current capacity of scheme drains. Scheme assets include a wide range of structures (pump stations, floodgates, stop banks) and bank protection such as rock groynes and stream bank vegetation planted for that purpose, e.g., willow layering.

## The way it is dealt with in the One Plan

Maintenance and upgrade of existing structures is a Permitted Activity so long as certain standards are complied with [[RP-LF-AWBD-R58](#)].

It is well worth discussing new works and structures near flood control assets with an

[Area Engineer](#). This is because new activities near flood control assets or scheme waterways are captured under [RP-LF-AWBD-R58](#), and generally require a resource consent. This is intended to protect the functional integrity of flood control assets and reduce the risk of flooding to communities.



## Specific areas of interest

The rule only relates to a relatively small part of a scheme area. These are:

1. In the bed of a scheme waterway;
2. Any area between the bed of the waterway and eight meters inland of the landward toe of a stopbank; or

3. Any area within 10 m of the bed of a scheme waterway where there is no stopbank.

The Manawatū River secondary stopbank between Ruahine Street at Fitzroy Bend and Ruamahanga Crescent is also included, but with fewer restrictions on activities.

## When to seek advice

Seek advice from an [Area Engineer](#) if what you plan to do could adversely affect the flood protection works, reduce or block flood channels or drains, or cause erosion on your property or your neighbour's property.

## Benefits of advice

No one wants to be responsible for damage to a scheme asset. Getting advice reduces this risk, but also reduces potential liability for damages should what you do be responsible for scheme failure.

It is also an offence if someone or their animals destroy or damage a scheme watercourse or structure. This law has been in place since 1941 and is completely separate from the One Plan. It is very sensible to check, especially when the advice is free.

## Horizons' approach

[Area Engineers](#) responsible for schemes will work with farmers to ensure sensible, practical implementation of the One Plan. In particular, they will provide advice on:

1. Whether the activity is allowed under the One Plan; or
2. Work through a simple consent process if the risk to scheme effectiveness is minor.

## Additional information

For further information go to [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) or to speak with someone about activities near scheme assets please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.