

Stockwater Race – Pond Policy

1. Purpose

The Stockwater Race Pond policy specifies the rules and conditions for the private landowner use of stockwater race water for an off-race pond or development of an ornamental pond. It should be read in conjunction with the Stockwater Race Bylaw 2025, in particular Section 6 'Diverting of Water'.

2. Scope

This policy has been formulated in the context of the efficient management of stockwater resources to ensure a plentiful supply of water for stock is available at all times of demand.

Compliance with this policy and the Stockwater Race Bylaw 2025 does not necessarily imply compliance with Regional or District Plan rules. Resource consent may be required to divert a water race and establish a stockwater race pond under the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and Rule EI-R49 of the Waimakariri District Plan.

3. Statement

3.1. Background

- 3.1.1. The objective of this policy is to provide a standard approach for approving and recording applications for the private establishment and operation of ponds associated with stockwater races.
- 3.1.2. A landowner applying for a permit to take stockwater from a race other than for immediate stock use must comply with the provisions under section 3.2 of this policy.

3.2. Policy Statement

- 3.2.1. The applicant and subsequent owners are responsible for ensuring that all applicable Acts, Regional and District Plans and Bylaws are followed when constructing and operating the pond.
- 3.2.2. All applications to construct ponds connected to stockwater races must be made in writing on the appropriate form: Stockwater Application Form to the Waimakariri District Council's Stormwater and Waterways Manager. This can be downloaded from the Council's website or obtained from any of the Council's Service Centres in Oxford, Rangiora or Kaiapoi.
- 3.2.3. A written response will be made by the Council to the application within 20 working days setting out the conditions to be met if the application is granted.
- 3.2.4. A copy of the application and Council reply will be put on the applicant's property file for future reference. The Race Manager will also be advised of the application and decision reached.
- 3.2.5. In general, only one pond connected to a stockwater race will be permitted per property.
- 3.2.6. The nearest inside edge of a pond shall be constructed no closer than 5m from the nearest stockwater race.

- 3.2.7. Ponds should be no greater than 50m² in area. In certain circumstances the Council may approve ponds no greater than 100m² in area, where the flow in a water race is sufficient.
- 3.2.8. Pond depth shall not exceed 400mm and shall preferably be fitted with an overflow weir at a depth of 380mm, so as to control the depth of water that it will not exceed 400mm at any time. The overflow weir shall return flow back to the water race. The 400mm limit is a requirement of the Building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016.
- 3.2.9. Ponds shall be lined with either a PVC membrane overlying a 50mm compacted sand layer or with a clay lining. With either option it will be required to show that the pond is impermeable to leakage and if necessary a test will be requested to be carried out to check permeability.
- 3.2.10. A plan of the proposed pond (dimensions, locality etc.) shall be supplied to the Council's Stormwater and Waterways Manager for approval prior to work being undertaken. Please note that a pond within the grounds of a dwelling may be required to be fenced under the Building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016.
- 3.2.11. The work is to be carried out under the supervision of the Race Manager, who must be notified at least ten working days in advance by the applicant, once a permit to construct a pond has been given in writing by the Council.
- 3.2.12. Inlet and outlet pipes to connect with the race system shall be with a lockable slide gate or fitted valve of at least 100mm diameter.
- 3.2.13. Water for the pond may be supplied from the race provided there is sufficient to do so. If water is in short supply or a notice of insufficient water supply has been given, then the supply of water to the pond must cease until you are notified otherwise. This will be achieved by turning off the valve until water supply can safely return. On no account can water be taken so as to cause a reduction in flow downstream of the pond.
- 3.2.14. No dam shall be installed in a race in order to raise water level so as to allow water to be diverted.
- 3.2.15. Pond owners will be required to ensure that the quality of the water discharging from the pond shall be no less than that entering the pond from the race. The pond shall not be a source of polluted water diverted back to the stock water race system.
- 3.2.16. The Council reserves the right to withdraw permission for the taking of water if it is found that any of the clauses in Section 3 have not been complied with.
- 3.2.17. The pond owner shall be responsible for all inspection and compliance costs.

4. Responsibilities

This policy is the responsibility of the Utilities and Roading Department of Council.

5. Questions

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Stormwater and Waterways Manager in the first instance.

6. Relevant documents and legislation

- Building (pools) Amendment Act 2016
- Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Stockwater Race Bylaw 2025
- Waimakariri District Council District Plan

7. Effective date

30 September 2025

8. Review date

This policy will be reviewed within five years of the date of its adoption, by 30 September 2030.

9. Policy owned by

Manager, Utilities and Roothing

10. Approval

Adopted by Waimakariri District Council on 30 September 2025