

PLANTING OF TREES AND SHRUBS ALONGSIDE STOCKWATER RACES

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Planting of Trees and Shrubs alongside Stock Water Races policy specifies the rules and conditions for a private land-owner wanting to plant adjacent to stock water races. It should be read in conjunction with the Stockwater Race Bylaw 2019, in particular Clause 3.4, Prohibited Uses sub-clause 3.4.19 (c) and Section 5 Cleaning.

2 Policy Context

- 2.1 This policy has been formulated in the context of ensuring ease of cleaning, and that races are kept free from vegetation and debris that could impede a races function in delivering water to stock.
- 2.2 Compliance with this policy and the Stockwater Race Bylaw 2019 does not necessarily imply compliance with the regional rules of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and resource consent may be required.

3 Policy Objective

- 3.1 The objective of this policy is to provide a standard approach for approving and recording applications for permission to plant trees or shrubs alongside water races.
- 3.2 A landowner applying for a permit to plant alongside a water race must comply with the provisions under Section 4 of this policy.

4 Policy Statement

- 4.1 Trees and shrubs may be planted within 10 metres of a water race only after written permission has been received from the Council's Drainage Asset Manager. Permission to plant trees and shrubs applies only to those outlined in the application and not for any subsequent planting not mentioned except for the replacement of dead plants.
- 4.2 The applicant and subsequent owners are responsible for ensuring that all applicable Acts, Regional and District Plans and Bylaws are followed when planting trees and shrubs (for example if planting near power wires).
- 4.3 All applications to plant trees or shrubs alongside stock water races must be made in writing on the appropriate form QS-U580 Stockwater Application Form to the Waimakariri District Council's Drainage Asset Manager. This can be downloaded from the Council's web site or obtained from any of the Council's Service Centres in Oxford, Rangiora, or Kaiapoi.
- a. A written response will be made by the Council to the applicant within 20 working days setting out the conditions to be met if the application is granted.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The particular species of trees or shrubs shall be stated on the application. Species such as pinus radiata, poplar, gum trees and willow will not be permitted. The Council reserves the right to prohibit other plant species if they are determined to be an issue if planted alongside water races.

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- d. Subsequent to obtaining approval from Waimakariri District Council to plant within 10 metres of a water race, trees and shrubs shall be planted and maintained at a height that is less than or equal to the distance from the outer edge of the race to the inner edge of a mature trunk.
- e. Subsequent to obtaining approval from Waimakariri District Council to plant within 10 metres of a water race, shrubs can be planted on the side of the race from which it is maintained, provided that race maintenance is not hindered. Plants must be maintained to less than 1.5 metres high and cannot extend more than 2 metres from the outer edge of the race.
- f. Trees can only be planted on the opposite side of the race from which is maintained.
- g. The lateral (side) growth is to be maintained in the shape of a trimmed hedge so as not to encroach on the water race. The purpose of this requirement is to allow for race maintenance.
- h. All tree trimmings in the vicinity of the race are to be moved sufficient distance away to avoid wind-blown material entering the race. Any loose tree material in the race is to be removed. This is to be done immediately following trimming.
- i. Any dead or loose material entering the race from the trees as a result of adverse weather such as north-west gales is also to be removed.
- j. Waimakariri Irrigation Limited shall be advised before any planting or tree maintenance work is carried out so as to avoid any conflict with water race operations.
- k. Please note that the Waimakariri District Council reserves the right to request the removal of the trees or shrubs if they are found at any time to be a problem with the operation of the water race system.
- l. The Council reserves the right to withdraw permission for the planting of trees and shrubs if it is found that any of the clauses in Section 4 of this policy have not been complied with.

5 Links to other policies and community outcomes

- 5.1 This policy links to a companion Stockwater Race Bylaw 2019 and the Community Outcome that there is sufficient water to meet the needs of communities and ecosystems.

6 Adopted by and date

- 6.1 This policy was adopted by the Council on the 2 April 2019

7 Review

- 7.1 The review of this policy will be aligned with the Water Race Bylaw 20019 review programme by June 2029.