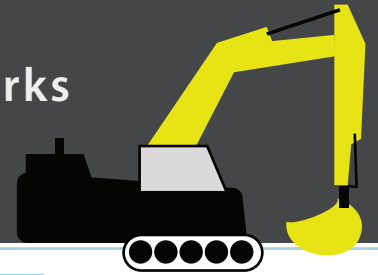


## Things you need to know about

## Carrying out earthworks



# Earthworks

***If you are considering undertaking earthworks on your property, you need to ensure the works comply with District Plan provisions.***

### How does the District Plan define earthworks?

*“... the disturbance of land by excavating, placing or replacing soil or other material, including driveway and access construction, and land drainage works ...”*

Earthworks can lead to a range of adverse effects on the environment.

One of the most significant is when sediment from earthworks enters waterways. This can reduce biodiversity and lead to loss of aquatic habitats.

Earthworks may also affect soil quality where good topsoil is lost, and can create flooding (or magnify the effects of flooding) as gutters and stormwater systems become blocked by soil and debris washed onto roads.

In addition, earthworks may destabilise land and alter the flowpath of water. This can result in damage to retaining walls, fences, building foundations, driveways, trees and underground services on neighbouring properties.

While large scale earthworks have the potential to create significant adverse environmental effects, the cumulative effect of many small scale earthworks can also impact on the environment.

### What specific rules relate to earthworks?

Chapters 23 and 24 of the District plan prescribe rules to mitigate the adverse effects resulting from earthworks.

No soil shall be stockpiled where it can be directly deposited in, or left in a position where it can be carried into a water body

Stockpiling of soil over vegetation shall not cover more than 1000m<sup>2</sup> at any one time on any one site

There shall be no earthworks within 20m of any river or lake, or within 50m of any wetland

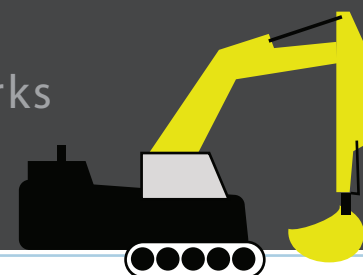
There shall be no vegetation clearance within 20m of any river or lake, or within 50m of any wetland

Earthworks, including the extraction of minerals, in any Residential Zone or Business Zone shall not involve the extraction or redistribution of more than 300m<sup>3</sup>, per 1000m<sup>2</sup>, of soil and/or rock on any one site

Earthworks, including the extraction of minerals, in the Rural Zones, other than in the bed of any river, shall not involve the disturbance of more than 1000m<sup>2</sup> of soil and/or rock per any one hectare

# Things you need to know about

## Carrying out earthworks



### To calculate earthworks in the Rural Zone

Divide your property into 1ha square blocks. Within each of these blocks you may carry out earthworks to up to 1000m<sup>2</sup>. This division of your property can not change in the future.

**Talk to one of our planners if you are unsure.**

### Are different rules in existence for the District's Outstanding Natural Landscapes?

Different rules apply for these areas. These rules recognise these exceptional environments. Please contact the Council's Planning Staff for more information on these rules.

### What does earthworks not cover?

- Cultivation for, or harvesting of agricultural and horticultural crops
- Domestic gardening; digging of postholes for the construction of fences
- Works for research and monitoring such as coring, water bores and use of piezometers
- Maintenance and enhancement of any wetland
- Ripping in of any water pipes.

### CONSENTS/RULES/REGULATIONS governing earthworks that you should be aware of:

Regulations	Consents	Council/Prime	Consultants	Considerations
District Plan Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan Waimakariri Regional River Plan	Resource Consent Discharge Consent Land Use Consent (ECan)	District Plan Rules Consents process	Geotech design & plans Prepare consent application	Contours Support Flowpaths Sediment Control Dust Mitigation Noise

### Want more info?

Copies of the District Plan can be viewed at any Council service centre or library, including Christchurch Central City Library, or on our website [www.waimakariri.govt.nz](http://www.waimakariri.govt.nz).

You can also contact our Planning Staff for more information.  
Phone: (03) 311 8900.

For more information on the Resource Management Act and its provisions log into:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday/index.html>

*Disclaimer: This fact sheet is intended as a guide only.*

