

# Stockwater Races

***The Council's stock water network is a system of approximately 758kms of open races that run through the Waimakariri District, servicing about 1,670 properties to provide water to stock.***

The race network has its main intake point at Browns Rock on the Waimakariri River.

The Stockwater Race Bylaw 2019 details the rules to protect the water race network.

Maintenance of part of the Council's stock water race network is contracted out to Waimakariri Irrigation Limited, on behalf of Council. Maintenance of races on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

Refer to the map on the Council website or call us to find out if the water race on your property is part of this network or if you are responsible for its maintenance.

## ***Water from stockwater races***

May be used by landowners for:

- Stock water
- Domestic irrigation (only with Council approval).

But not for:

- Irrigation other than domestic irrigation
- Any use that would lead to the contamination of the water by either chemicals, nutrients or any backflow from irrigation equipment.

## ***Protecting the network***

No one is to destroy or damage any part of the water race. This means you cannot:

- Obstruct the flow of water
- Waste water willfully or through neglect



- Use any chemical/herbicide in such a way as to destabilise the banks of the race
- Allow stock to cause a nuisance or bank damage, creating pollution. Drinking stations located outside the race are the preferred method for avoiding damage to the water race.



### **Written permission of the Council is required to:**

- Widen deepen, alter, or close a water race
- Draw off or divert any water, for example to create a pond
- Plant or grow any trees or other plants, or erect a building of any kind within 10m from either side of a water race.

**Landowners can apply for permission using the Stockwater Application Form available at [waimakariri.govt.nz](http://waimakariri.govt.nz)**

### **Your responsibilities**

The Council owns the water race, but it is the responsibility of the owner, or occupier of the land, through which the water race runs to keep it clear of silt, weeds, rubbish and obstructions.

As the owner, you must also maintain the banks of the races, all culverts and bridges. Maintenance disputes for neighbouring properties should be addressed to the property owners in the first instance.

### **What if there is a problem with the supply?**

Contact Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd on 03 313 0200 to report problems of water supply such as low flows.

### **Penalties**

Breaches of the Bylaw may be penalised with a fine of up to \$20,000.

### **Funding**

Every property with access to the water race network pays an annual rate to the Council that covers the cost of their operation.

This is a combination of a fixed charge and per hectare rate. It is included in the annual rates assessment.

Access is generally defined as being on the property or along the boundary, including the other side of a boundary fence.

### **More information**

**This factsheet is a quick guide.**

Refer to specific factsheets on 'Maintenance and Biodiversity', 'Stock Access and Fencing'. Find the 'Stockwater Race Bylaw 2019' with all of the rules designed to protect the water race network on our website [waimakariri.govt.nz](http://waimakariri.govt.nz)



Credit: Ashburton District Council

**Find out more at [waimakariri.govt.nz](http://waimakariri.govt.nz), or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.**