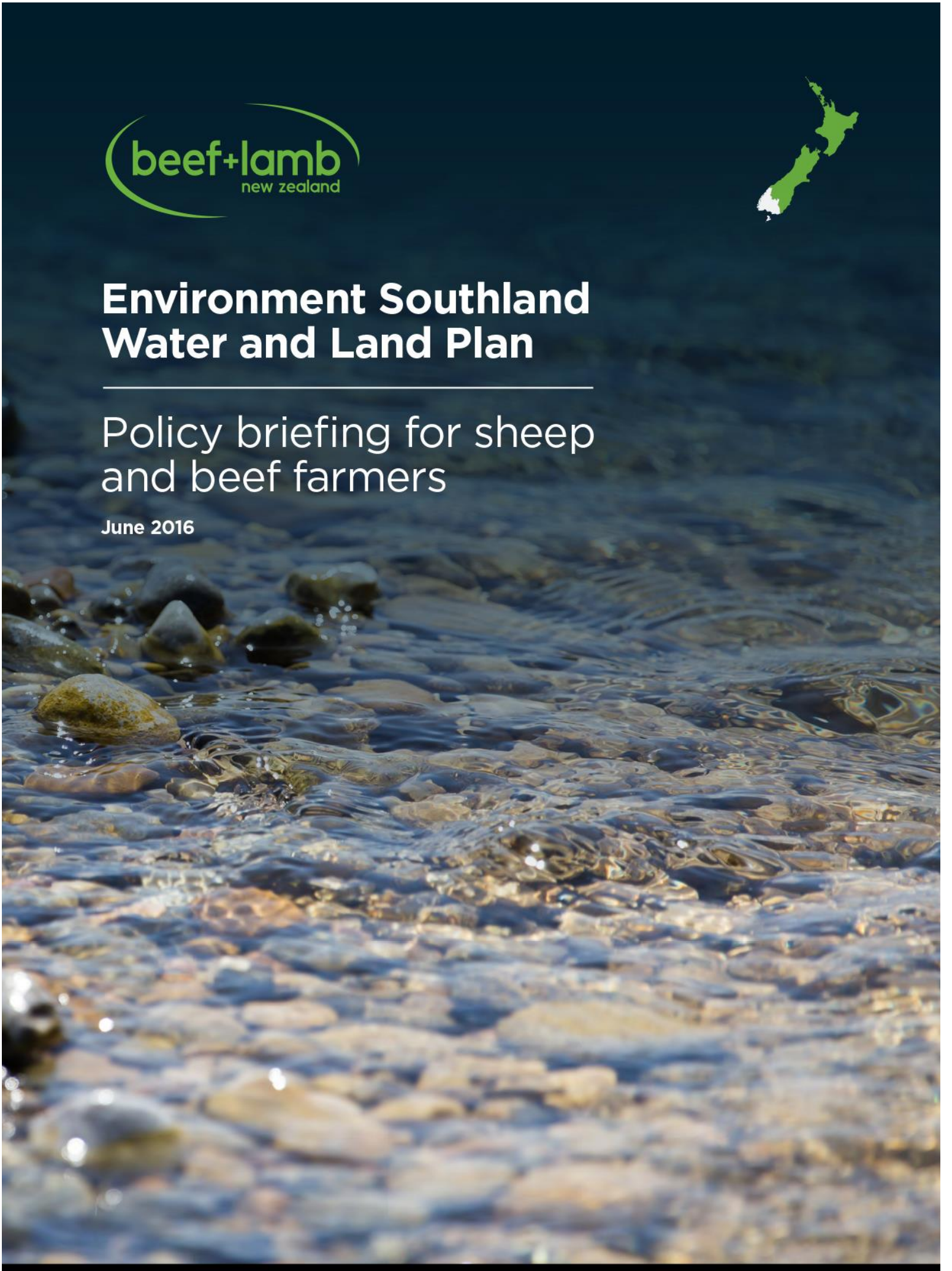


Environment Southland Water and Land Plan

Policy briefing for sheep and beef farmers

June 2016

KEY ISSUES FOR SHEEP AND BEEF FARMERS

Environment Southland is currently consulting on its Water and Land Plan. This document outlines the key issues for sheep and beef farmers.

Key issues:

- Physiographic Zones
- Dairy Conversions
- Intensive Winter Grazing
- Stock Exclusion
- Tile Drains
- Farm Management Plans
- Cultivation on Slopes
- Coastal Marine Area

Get involved

It is critical that you get involved in the submission process directly. The plan will impact your farm so it is important you have your say. Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 1 August.

- Make a submission using B+LNZ's submission template;
- Review the full Plan and download an Environment Southland submission form here;
- Review B+LNZ's one page summary and 15 page summary of key issues here;
- Attend a farmer led meeting near you on the 18th July, see schedule here.

Share your thoughts or get help with your submission by contacting Environment Policy Manager Julia Beijeman at julia.beijeman@beeflambnz.com , phone (03) 357 0697 or mobile 027 406 4274.

Physiographic Zones

What does the plan say?

Environment Southland has separated the region into nine physiographic zones. The zones are determined by factors such as climate, topography, geology, and soil type. The idea behind each zone is that land use within them has a different influence and different risk factors that may impact on water quality.

These zones have been introduced to help Environment Southland take a risk based approach to managing activities that potentially affect water quality – i.e. the physiographic zones with the greatest risk to water quality will have stricter rules and limits. B+LNZ has developed a matrix help you to determine how policy will differ between physiographic zone. This is provided in Appendix A.

The physiographic zones were determined over a number of years using a considerable amount of science. This approach has been externally reviewed and has generally been supported as a sound way of categorising different risk factors. How these zones and risks are managed by policies and rules is now up for submission in this plan change. It is incredibly important that you understand what this might mean to your current and future land use for your property.

View the map to see which physiographic zone(s) your property is within.

Where can I find out more?

Physiographic Zones, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 18-21

Physiographic Zone Policies, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 26-28

Physiographic Zones Map Series 4

What do I need to consider for my farm?

Different rules apply in some physiographic zones, make sure you check what the rules are for your zone or zones and understand how they will affect your farm. Make sure you view the map as it relates to your property. Do you think that its mapped correctly from your understanding of soils?

- How will the physiographic zones affect your operations?

Dairy Conversions

What does the plan say?

The Water and Land Plan strongly discourages applications to establish new, or further intensify existing dairy farming, especially where:

- the effects on water quality cannot be avoided or fully mitigated; and/or
- water quality is already degraded to the point of being over allocated.

This means that dairy expansion will become:

- Prohibited in the Alpine Zone;
- Non-complying within the Old Mataura and Peat Wetlands zones; and
- Discretionary everywhere else.

Where can I find out more?

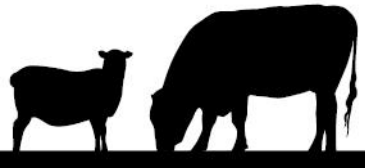
Policy 16, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 30

Rule 22, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 50-51

What do I need to consider for my farm?

This provision may have an impact on the value of your land, especially if it has the potential to convert to dairy farming in the future. You also need to consider what impact this policy might have in the future if it is associated with nutrient allocation.

- Can you quantify the impact that dairy conversion restrictions could have on your property?
- Please consider sharing this data with B+LNZ – this data (aggregated to protect your privacy) could be used as evidence in our submission/ hearing statement.



Intensive Winter Grazing

What does the plan say?

The definition for intensive winter grazing is *"Grazing of stock between May and September (inclusive) on forage crops."*

Sheep included in definition - The proposed definition captures all stock, including sheep.

Cereal crops included in definition - 'Forage crops' has not been defined within the Plan, which means the following crop are most likely included in the definition - cereals, swedes, triticale, kale, oats, turnips, brassicas, chicory, and fodder beet.

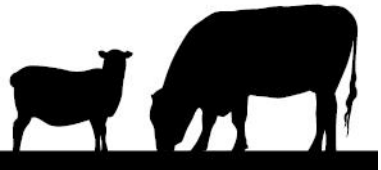
'High stocking rate' is not defined - The proposed Plan does not define what stocking rate should be considered as 'high' or intensive.

Five months of winter - winter grazing restrictions will run from May to September, five months of the year.

Resource consent required – Increasing winter grazing by more than 20Ha and existing larger operators will be managed through resource consent. The type of consent needed will depend on the size of the area being grazed and the physiographic zone it is in – see appendix A for more information.

Winter grazing will be a permitted activity until 30 May 2018. After this date, the following restrictions will apply:

	CONSENT TYPE	HIGH RISK PHYSIOGRAPHIC ZONE	OTHER PHYSIOGRAPHIC ZONE
EXISTING WINTER GRAZING	Permitted	≤20 ha	≤50 ha
	Restricted discretionary	>20 ha	>50 ha
NEW WINTER GRAZING	Permitted	≤20 ha	≤50 ha
	Discretionary		>50 ha
	Non-complying	>20 ha	



Intensive Winter Grazing Continued

Vegetation buffers - must be maintained to be able to undertake winter grazing of forage crops as a permitted activity and stock must be excluded between intensive winter grazing paddocks and waterways. The buffer distances based on slope are:

No winter grazing on the coast without a resource consent – winter grazing is a restricted discretionary activity within 100 metres of any lake or within the coastal marine area.

Subsurface drains must be mapped - The location of any subsurface drains within winter grazing paddocks, along with the drains' outlet position, must be mapped and provided to Environment Southland on request.

Where can I find out more?

Policy 16, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 30

Rule 23, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 52-53

Glossary, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 110

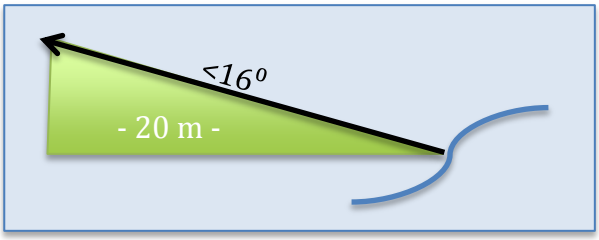
What do I need to consider for my farm?

- Will the definition of winter grazing restrict your farming operations?
- Are the area restrictions (20ha/ 5aha) appropriate? If not, what is a more reasonable area and why?
- Will the vegetation buffers affect your farming operations? If yes, can you quantify the cost of it?
- Will the winter grazing restrictions in the coastal marine area restrict your farming operations? If yes, can you quantify this? Is there a more suitable alternative and why?
- Please consider sharing this data with B+LNZ – this data (aggregated to protect your privacy) could be used as evidence in our submission/ hearing statement.

Stock Exclusion

What does the plan say?

To remain farming as a permitted activity stock (excluding sheep) must be excluded from all water bodies when slope is 16° or less (when measured 20m from waterway) – as outlined in the diagram below.



The deadlines for stock exclusion rules to take effect are:

- 1 May 2018 for cattle, and from 1 May 2020 deer will be added.

Cattle and deer access to waterways after these deadlines will become a discretionary activity. This means farmers will need to apply for a resource consent, and will be asked prepare a riparian management plan outlining how they will comply with the stock exclusion rules by 1 January 2025.

NB: the Ministry for the Environment is currently working on a national regulation to exclude stock (cattle, beef, deer and pigs) from waterways through a staged process from 2017 onwards.

Where can I find out more?

Policy 18, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 94

Rule 70, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 94

What do I need to consider for my farm?

- Is this rule reasonable? Why/ why not?
- Can you quantify the impact that the stock exclusion rules could have on your property?
- Please consider sharing your empirical data with B+LNZ – this data (aggregated to protect your privacy) could be used as evidence in our submission/ hearing statement.

Tile Drains

What does the plan say?

Mapping tile drains – farmers must map new tile drains, and when they upgrade or undergo maintenance of existing tile drains. This map must include the drain location, and the drain outlet's relative depth and position. This requirement can be managed using a Farm Environment Plan (see the next section for more information on Farm Environment Plans)

Within intensive winter grazing - The location of any subsurface drains within intensive winter grazing paddocks, along with the drains' outlet position, must be mapped and provided to Environment Southland on request.

This is an important difference – see the table below:

Intensive winter grazing	All other areas
You must map drain location, and the drain outlet's relative depth and position of **any** tile drains	You must map drain location, and the drain outlet's relative depth and position of **new** tile drains, or when you **upgrade/maintain** existing tile drains

Discharge – there must be no noticeable change in receiving waters 20 meters from the tile drains discharge point.

Where can I find out more?

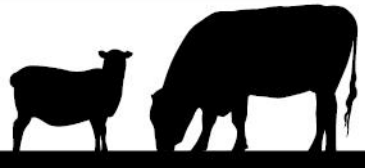
Policy 30, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 36

Rule 13, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 45

Appendix N, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 198 to 202

What do I need to consider for my farm?

- Is this rule reasonable? Why/ why not?
- Will this rule add any costs to your existing farming operations?
- Do you know where all the tile drains are within your intensive winter grazing paddocks?



Farm Environment Plans

What does the plan say?

The Southland Water and Land Plan will require many farmers to develop an farm environment plan for their property. This rule is there to keep farming a permitted activity, while ensuring that farmers have a plan to manage or to mitigate against their environmental risk.

There are a number of reasons why a farmer may need a plan, such as complying with criteria for a permitted activity, or as part of a resource consent.

B+LNZ are beginning discussions with Environment Southland to develop an approved Farm Environment Plan template specific for sheep and beef farmers to make the plan useful for farmers, easy to use and ensure compliance with the water and land plan. B+LNZ will provide farm plan workshops to help farmers develop their plans under the guidance of a trained facilitator.

Farm Environment Plans are compulsory **–** plans will become compulsory as part of the following permitted activities. If a plan is not prepared as part of these activities, then a resource consent will be required.

- Sheep, beef, and deer > 20 ha
- Intensive winter grazing (physiographic zone dependent – see Appendix A and intensive winter grazing section for more detail)

Farmers operating in higher risk physiographic zones will be required to develop their farm environment plans first – see appendix A for more detail.

A number of farms operate across physiographic zones, which will cause different mandatory start dates for different sections of their property. For example, a farm spanning the Oxidising and Bedrock/ Hill Country zones will need:

- a plan for the oxisiding zones on their farm from May 2018 onwards; and
- a plan for the bedrock zones on the farm from May 2019 onwards – see appendix A for more information.

Farm environment plans are annual documents **-** Farmers will be required to review and update their farm management plans each year, and each plan will run from 1 June to 31 May.

Farm Environment Plans Continued

Farm Environment Plan will need to contain:

- Physical address, description of ownership etc
- A map that shows:
    - Property boundaries; significant farm infrastructure; critical source areas; physiographic unit, waterways; subsurface drainage (depth, location, outlet position); stock crossings/ access to waterways; heritage sites; significant indigenous biodiversity;
- A nutrient budget;
- Good Management Practices that will be implemented each year;
- Key transport pathways and contaminants for each of the physiographic zones within the property;
- A Riparian Management Plan in written and/or map form;
- A cultivation map;
- A plan for any areas of intensive winter grazing; and
- Irrigation maps and records.

Nutrient budget reviews - Farmers will be required to complete an annual review of their nutrient budget input data.

Where can I find out more?

Rule 20, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 49-51

Appendix N, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 198 to 202

What do I need to consider for my farm?

- How often do you think farm plans should be reviewed and/or updated? Please justify your response.
- Are the farm plan requirements acceptable/ feasible? Why/why not?
- Will the plan requirements add costs to your farming operations? If yes can you quantify these costs?
- Do you have a nutrient budget now or know how much a Plan compliant nutrient budget would cost you?

Cultivation on Slopes

What does the plan say?

Cultivation on sloping land remains a permitted activity if it can meet the following waterway buffer zone requirements:

- 3 metres from the outer edge of the bed on land with a slope of less than 4 degrees;
- 10 metres from the outer edge of the bed on land with a slope between 4 and 16 degrees;
- 20 metres from the outer edge of the bed on land with a slope of greater than 16 degrees; and
- cultivation does not occur above 700 metres above mean sea level, or mechanical cultivation on land with a slope greater than 20 degrees.

Farmers will be required to develop a cultivation plan as part of their farm environment plan.

Where can I find out more?

Rule 25, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 54

Appendix N, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, pages 198 to 202

What do I need to consider for my farm?

- Is this rule reasonable? Why/ why not?
- Will this rule add costs to your farming operations?
- Would you currently be required to get a resource consent to meet these buffer distances?

Coastal Marine Area

What does the plan say?

A number of the rules prohibit activities within 100 metres of any lake, and within the coastal marine area. These are outlined in the table below.

	Inside Coastal Marine Area	Within 20m of Coastal Marine Area	Within 50m of Coastal Marine Area	Within 100m of Coastal Marine Area	Within 100m of any lake
Dust suppressants	X	X	X	Y	Y
Winter grazing	X	X	X	X	X
Tile drain discharge	X	X	X	Y	Y
Effluent storage	X	X	X	Y	Y
Effluent discharge to land	X	X	Y	Y	Y
Agricultural dip discharge	X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Animal/vegetative waste	X	X	Y	Y	Y
Silage storage	X	Y	Y	Y	Y

What do I need to consider for my farm?

- Will this have any impact on your farming operations? If yes, can you quantify the costs?
- Is your farm in the coastal marine area or border a lake? If so we encourage you to think really carefully about how this rule might impact on you- check the maps and contact us to help us understand the implications of the rules

Where can I find out more?

Rule 17, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 47;

Rule 23, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 52;

Rule 26, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 55;

Rule 32, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 59

Rule 35, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 60;

Rule 37, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 63;

Rule 38, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 63;

Rule 40, Southland Land and Water Plan Part A, page 64;