

# Intensive Winter Grazing and how to apply for a resource consent

Some farmers may now need a resource consent for intensive winter grazing activities. Just like any license or permit, there is an application process for resource consents. This factsheet is designed to step farmers through the resource consent application process, specifically for intensive winter grazing activities under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.



## Where to start

### STEP 1 Check if you need a resource consent

Some intensive winter grazing activities are permitted. However, if your intensive winter grazing activities breach the permitted activity threshold, you will require a resource consent. Use B+L NZ's factsheet 'Intensive Winter Grazing Regulations - what does it mean for me?' (available at the [B+L NZ knowledge hub](#)) to help you decide if you need to apply for a resource consent.

### STEP 2 Find the forms

If you need a resource consent, find the application forms on your local council's website.

### STEP 3 Fill out the forms

The council's forms will outline what information you need to provide as part of your consent application.

### STEP 4 Talk to your council

Talk to your council's consent staff early! Doing so can make the application process easier and will avoid unnecessary delays and costs. By law, councils can only accept resource consent applications that have all the necessary information. If your application is deficient, council has no option but to send it back. Councils want you to talk to them before you submit your application.

Many councils offer support, such as a one-hour free advice service or reviewing your draft application before you formally lodge it. Have a look at the resource application pages on your local council's website to see what they offer and get in touch with their consents team.

### STEP 5 Lodge your application

Once lodged, the council will decide whether other people need to know about your proposed IWG activity. This will determine how your application is processed, and the length of time that processing will take.

### Non-notified applications

If your intensive winter grazing proposal is unlikely to affect other people or the environment, your application will probably proceed as 'non-notified'. This means there is no requirement to notify the public about your application, and processing times are quicker. Approximately 95 percent of all resource consent applications proceed as non-notified.

- ▶ You lodge your application.
- ▶ The council has 20 working days to decide the outcome of your application. Please note that the council can 'stop the clock' if they need more information or written approval from affected parties.

**Total time to process a non-notified resource consent application is 20 working days.**

### Limited notified

In some cases, the council may decide that your IWG resource consent application should be 'limited notified'. In these instances, affected parties will be told about the application, and are allowed to lodge a submission.

- ▶ You lodge your application. The council has 20 working days to decide whether they notify your application.
- ▶ Affected parties are told about your application and have 20 working days to make a submission on your proposal.
- ▶ Submissions close and the council has 20 working days to process your application.

**Total time to process limited notified resource consent applications: 60 working days**

Please note: If the council receives submissions on your application, and the submitters want to present their arguments in person, then a hearing will be held. In these instances, the processing time is increased to 100 working days.

**Notified**

Notified consents allow members of the public and potentially affected parties to give feedback on the resource consent applications that affect them. The council will hold a hearing if they receive submissions on your application and people want to present their arguments in person.

- ▶ You lodge your application. The council has 20 working days to decide whether they notify your application.
- ▶ Affected parties are told about your application and have 20 working days to make a submission on your proposal.

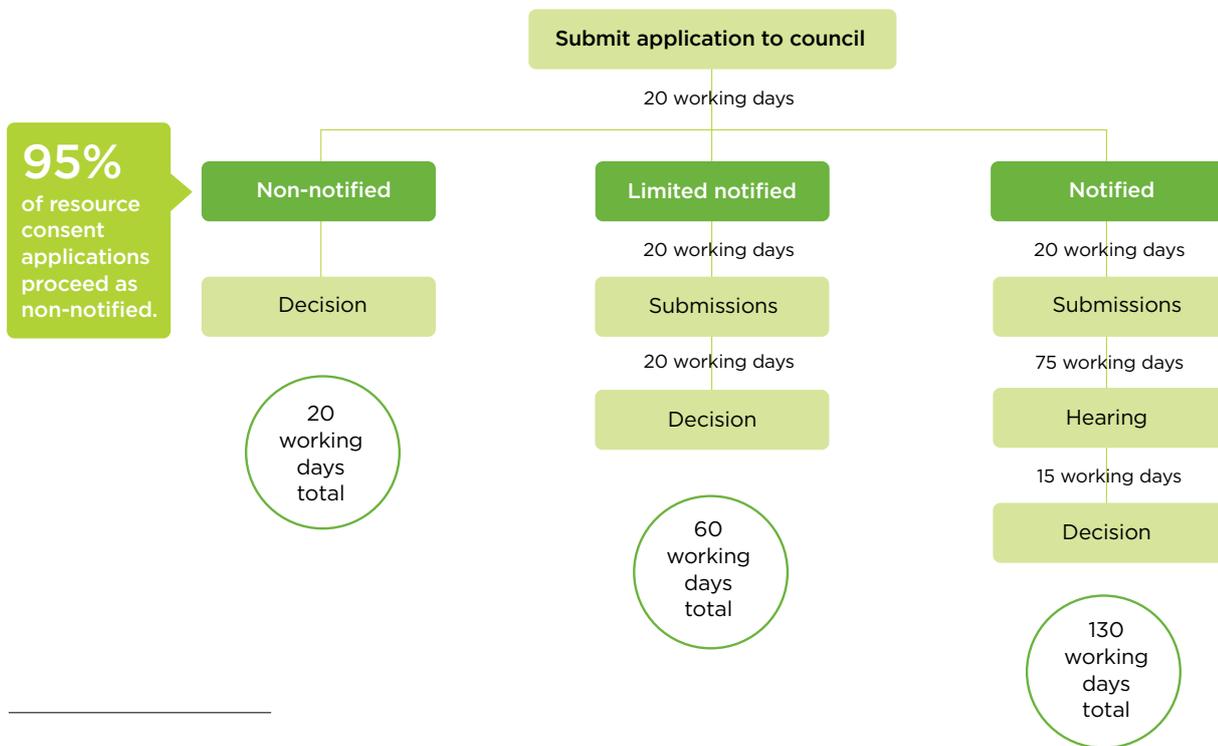
- ▶ If affected parties want to present their argument, a hearing must be completed with 75 working days from the closing date of submissions.
- ▶ The council must release a decision within 15 working days of the end of the hearing.

**Total time to process notified resource consent applications: 130 working days**

NB: If a hearing is not required, your application will be processed within 20 working days from the submissions closing.

Figure 1 below summarises these application processes and their timeframes for IWG resource consent applications.

**Figure 1:** Common IWG resource consent processing – stages and timeframes.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Please note that the council can 'stop the clock' if they need more information or written approval from affected parties. This means actual timeframes will be longer than what is stated in the diagram.

**i Need more information**

For more information about the good management of intensive winter grazing, refer to B+LNZ's website at [www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing](http://www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing)

Remember to talk to your local council, they're there to help.

There are also lots of businesses that can help you with your resource consent application.



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