

Clean Version of the Soil Conservation Provisions

<p>Earthworks</p>	<p>The disturbance of a land surface from the time soil is first disturbed on a site until the time the site is stabilised. Earthworks includes blading, contouring, ripping, moving, removing, placing or replacing soil or earth, by excavation, or by cutting or filling operations, or by root raking.</p> <p>Earthworks do not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) cultivation of the soil for the establishment of crops or pasture, and (b) the harvesting of crops, and (c) thrusting, boring, trenching or mole ploughing associated with cable or pipe laying and maintenance, and (d) the construction, repair or maintenance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) pipelines, and (ii) electricity lines, and (iii) telecommunication structures or lines, and (iv) radio communication structures, and (v) firebreaks or fence lines (vi) a bore or geotechnical investigation bore (e) repair or maintenance of existing roads and tracks, and airfield runways, and (f) maintenance of orchards and shelterbelts, and (g) domestic gardening, and (h) repair, sealing or resealing of a road, footpath, driveway, and (i) any earthworks or soil disturbances covered by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.
<p>Erosion prone land</p>	<p>The pre-existing slope of the land exceeds 20 degrees.</p>
<p>Stabilised</p>	<p>The process of having made an area of disturbed soil resistant to erosion. This may be achieved by using indurated rock or through the application of base course, or grassing a surface that is not otherwise resistant to erosion. Where seeding or grassing is used on a surface that is not otherwise resistant to erosion, the surface is considered stabilised once 80% vegetative ground cover has been established over the entire area.</p>
<p>Vegetation clearance</p>	<p>The clearance or destruction of woody vegetation (exotic or native) by mechanical or chemical means, including felling vegetation, spraying of vegetation by hand or aerial means, hand clearance, and the burning of vegetation.</p> <p>Vegetation clearance does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) any vegetation clearance, tree removal, or trimming of vegetation associated with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, and (b) any vegetation clearance or vegetation disturbance covered by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.

Objective O42



Soils are healthy and productive, and retain a range of uses, and accelerated soil erosion is reduced.

Objective O47



The amount of sediment-laden runoff entering water is reduced.

Policy P98: Accelerated soil erosion



Earthworks, vegetation clearance and plantation forestry harvesting activities that have the potential to result in significant accelerated soil erosion, or to lead to off-site discharges of silt and sediment to **surface water bodies**, shall use measures, including **good management practice**, to:

- (a) minimise the risk of accelerated soil erosion, and
- (b) control silt and sediment runoff, and
- (c) ensure the site is **stabilised** and vegetation cover is restored.

Rule R99: Earthworks– permitted activity

The use of land, and the associated discharge of sediment into water or onto or into land where it may enter water from **earthworks** up to a total area of 3000m² per **property** per 12 month period is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) soil or debris from **earthworks** is not placed where it can enter a **surface water body** or the coastal marine area, and
- (b) **earthworks** will not create or contribute to instability or subsidence of a slope or another land surface at or beyond the boundary of the **property** where the **earthworks** occurs, and
- (c) work areas are **stabilised** within six months after the completion of the **earthworks**.
- (d) any **earthworks** shall not, after the **zone of reasonable mixing**, result in any of the following effects in receiving waters:
 - (i) the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums of foams, or floatable or suspended materials, or
 - (ii) any conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity, or
 - (iii) any emission of objectionable odour, or
 - (iv) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by animals, or
 - (v) any significant adverse effect on aquatic life, and
- (e) **earthworks** shall not occur within 5m of a **surface water body** except for activities permitted by Rule R114 or Rule R115.

Note

Rule R99 does not control any earthworks or soil disturbances covered by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.

Rule R100: Vegetation clearance on erosion prone land – permitted activity

The use of land, and the associated discharge of sediment into water or onto or into land where it may enter water from **vegetation clearance** up to a total area of 2ha per **property** per 12 month period on **erosion prone land** is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) any soil or debris from the **vegetation clearance** is not placed where it can enter a **surface water body** or the coastal marine area, and
- (b) any soil disturbances associated with the **vegetation clearance** shall not after the **zone of reasonable mixing**, result in any of the following effects in receiving waters:
 - (i) the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums of foams, or floatable or suspended materials, or
 - (ii) any conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity, or
 - (iii) any emission of objectionable odour, or
 - (iv) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by animals, or
 - (v) any significant adverse effect on aquatic life.
- (c) **vegetation clearance** shall not occur within 5m of a **surface water body** except for activities permitted by Rule R114 or Rule R115.

Notes:

- (a) **Vegetation clearance** is also controlled by provisions in district plans and bylaws, and the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.
- (b) Rule R100 does not control any **vegetation clearance** or vegetation disturbances covered by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.

Rule R101: Earthworks and vegetation clearance – discretionary activity

The use of land, and the associated discharge of sediment into water or onto or into land where it may enter water from **earthworks** not permitted by Rule R99 or **vegetation clearance** on **erosion prone land** that is not permitted by Rule R100 is a discretionary activity.

Note:

Rule R101 does not control any **earthworks** or **vegetation clearance** covered by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017