

18.3 GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROTECTION AREA

Refer to Policy sets 5.1, 5.5, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4.

18.3.1 Scope of Section

This section deals with land uses in the Groundwater Recharge Protection Area as shown on the planning maps. Information required with resource consent applications is detailed in Chapter 19.

18.3.2 Plantation Forestry

18.3.2.1 Permitted Activities (Plantation Forestry Replanting)

NOTE: Rule 18.3.2.1 is subject to the regulations of the National Environmental Standards Plantation Forests 2017 (NES-PF). The NES-PF regulations for activities in relation to plantation forestry (as defined within the NES-PF) prevail unless specifically stated otherwise in advice notes below.

Plantation forestry that results from the replanting of existing forest, using evergreen trees or a combination of evergreen trees and deciduous trees, is a permitted activity that may be undertaken without a resource consent, if it complies with the following conditions:

- (a) The area planted does not exceed the area of existing forest in either the same or another location within the Groundwater Recharge Protection Area.
- (b) Where any area of plantation forest existing as at 3 November 2001 ceases at any time to be plantation forest, that area may be subsequently replanted to become plantation forest.

Advice Note: Conditions (a) and (b) prevail over the regulations of the NES-PF as they regulate an effect that is outside the scope of the NES-PF.

18.3.2.2 Permitted Activities (New Plantation Forestry)

NOTE: Rule 18.3.2.2 is subject to the regulations of the National Environmental Standards Plantation Forests 2017 (NES-PF). The NES-PF regulations for activities in relation to plantation forestry (as defined within the NES-PF) prevail unless specifically stated otherwise in advice notes below.

Plantation forestry, using evergreen trees or a combination of evergreen trees and deciduous trees, that does not result from the replanting of existing forest, is a permitted activity that may be undertaken without a resource consent, if it complies with the following conditions:

- (a) Not more than 20 percent of the area of land contained within any record of title existing as at 3 November 2001 may be in plantation forest at any time, notwithstanding any subdivision of any such record of title.
- (b) The owner or occupier of the land that is to be subject to plantation forestry shall supply to the Environment and Planning Manager of the Tasman District Council the following information within six months of planting:
 - (i) the ownership of the proposed plantation forest;
 - (ii) a map showing the location and area (in hectares) of the land to be planted;
 - (iii) a copy of the record of title or titles for the land to be planted.
- (c) Where only part of any record of title lies within the Groundwater Recharge Protection Area, this rule shall apply to that part as if it were a complete record of title.

Advice Note: Conditions (a) to (c) prevail over the regulations of the NES-PF as they regulate an effect that is outside the scope of the NES-PF.

18.3.2.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities (Plantation Forestry)

Plantation forestry, using evergreen trees or a combination of evergreen trees and deciduous trees, that does not comply with the permitted conditions of rules 18.3.2.1 or 18.3.2.2 is a restricted discretionary activity.

A resource consent is required. Consent may be refused or conditions imposed only in respect of the following matters to which Council has restricted its discretion:

- (1) The likely significance of effects of the proposed plantation on the water yield from the affected catchments.
- (2) The timing, density and location of planting, species of tree, silvicultural and harvesting regimes.
- (3) Measures to ensure the proposed plantation forest does not reduce the water yield from affected catchments, or adversely affect values of the water body or security of supply for other water users, including through the provision of dams or alternative water supplies.
- (4) The nature and scale of benefits arising from the establishment of indigenous plantations.
- (5) The duration of the consent (Section 123 of the Act), timing of reviews, and the purposes of reviews (Section 128 of the Act).
- (6) Financial contributions, bonds and covenants in respect of the performance of conditions and administration charges (Section 108 of the Act).

18.3.2.0 Principal Reasons for Rules

The rules provide for restrictions on plantation forestry in the Groundwater Recharge Protection Area because the further plantation forestry in the Area will adversely affect recharge rates (the amount of rainwater percolating into the deep Moutere aquifers) and thus affect the sustainable yield of the groundwater resource. The effect of reduced recharge will be felt by existing groundwater users and will also limit future taking from the groundwater resource. The rules reflect Council policy aims to balance the opportunities of land users in the Groundwater Recharge Protection Area and in the Moutere Coastal, Eastern, Southern and Western Groundwater zones of the Moutere Groundwater Management Plan.

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