

## 18.4 SURFACE WATER YIELD PROTECTION AREA

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

### 18.4.1 Scope of Section

This section deals with the establishment of new plantation forestry in the Surface Water Yield Protection Area as shown on the planning maps. Information required with resource consent applications is detailed in Chapter 19 (*refer, in particular, to 19.2.8*).

### 18.4.2 Plantation Forestry

#### 18.4.2.1 Permitted Activities (Existing Plantation Forestry)

**NOTE:** Rule 18.4.2.1 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 in the Surface Water Yield Protection Area 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 to be planted does not exceed the area of forest that existed as at 3 November 2001 in the same location within the Surface Water Yield 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.

#### 18.4.2.2 Permitted Activities (New Plantation Forestry)

**NOTE:** Rule 18.4.2.2 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 in the Surface Water Yield Protection Area, 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 forestry 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 Surface Water Yield 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.

### **18.4.2.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities (New Plantation Forestry)**

Plantation forestry, using evergreen trees or a combination of evergreen and deciduous trees, that does not comply with the permitted conditions of rules 18.4.2.1 or 18.4.2.2 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 reserved 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 and 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).

### **18.4.20 Principal Reasons for Rules**

The rules provide for restrictions on plantation forestry in the Surface Water Yield Protection Area because the further plantation forestry in the Area will adversely affect water runoff and thus affect the sustainable yield of the surface water resource. The rules reflect the Council's policy aims to balance the opportunities of land users affected by restrictions on forestry as well as land users dependent on access to water. Where water has been fully or over allocated for abstraction purposes, the Council is also aware of the threats to the life-supporting capacity of water.

People taking water for irrigation, industrial or other uses have made a significant investment in land crops, buildings and equipment. There is an expectation that their existing security of supply will be maintained by the Council. The afforestation will decrease security of supply and increase the frequency of rationing, as well as further compromise instream values. These effects of plantation forest are greatest in the Moutere Gravel derived, low rainfall areas of the District. The extent of the effects and level of regulation of further afforestation to mitigate these effects varies according to existing land uses and forest cover, existing abstractive water uses, and nature and significance of any instream values in affected water bodies.

Rules restricting water takes in Part V of this Plan complement the above rules and maintain sustainable water use.

The most at-risk catchments are Upper Wai-iti, Pigeon Valley, Quail Valley, Dove (above the granite), Eighty Eight Valley, Pretty Bridge Valley, O'Connors Creek, Trass Valley, Moutere Inlet Streams, Redwood Valley, Upper Moutere, Waimea Inlet Stream, Hoult Stream, Blackbird, Neudorf and Gardiner Valleys, Central Road streams, and Teapot Valley.

Of these areas, Hoult, Trass, Teapot and Pigeon valleys have already had plantation forest established on over 70 percent of the area, and additional forest is likely to have less significant impact on low flows. Some of the streams would normally dry up in a dry year anyway and there is very minimal abstractive use of the water and minimal instream values in these streams. They include Eves Valley, Redwood Valley, O'Connors Creek and Pretty Bridge Valley.

The remaining catchments have less plantation forest currently established, higher low flows that make a contribution to the Waimea River, or have more abstractive water use.

Plantation forestry in the Surface Water Yield Protection Area above 20 percent per title is a discretionary activity. This will enable Council to control the adverse effects of the forest on water yield in the catchments most at risk.