

Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

Gravel extraction, reclamation and stream diversion



Can I take gravel from a river or stream and how much can I take?

Gravel extraction from the bed of a river or stream is a permitted activity under Rule R120 subject to a number of conditions. To see these conditions go to <http://www.gw.govt.nz/proposed-natural-resources-plan/>. The limits are: 15m³ for an individual person's needs per year, or 50m³ for use on a property on which the river bed occurs or is immediately adjacent to, per year. The exception is the Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River, where extraction rates are lower - a maximum of 1m³ per year can be collected.

Can I take gravel from a river mouth?

Most river mouths are in the coastal marine area where the removal of gravel is a discretionary activity under Rule R194. Rule R193 provides a list of the mouths of some waterways that can be cut as a permitted activity provided the purpose of the cut is for flood protection and/or erosion mitigation and the activity is carried out by or for a local authority. There are also a number of other conditions in Rule R193 to meet in order to remain a permitted activity.

Can I divert a stream?

In most instances, changing the natural course of a stream or river requires a consent as a discretionary activity under Rule R131. Diverting a stream to undertake a permitted activity, such as placing a small culvert, is permitted subject to conditions.

Can I reclaim a waterbody?

The reclamation of any part of the bed or bank of a permanently flowing river, stream or lake requires a consent under Rule R127 as a non-complying activity. The reclamation of any outstanding lake identified in Schedule A2 including Lake Wairarapa, is a prohibited activity.



What is the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region?

The Proposed Natural Resources Plan (the proposed Plan) is a new regional plan designed to integrate the Wellington Region's five existing regional plans-- the [Regional Coastal Plan](#), [Regional Freshwater Plan](#), [Regional Soil Plan](#), [Regional Air Quality Management Plan](#) and [Regional Plan for Discharges to Land](#). Regional plans are developed under the Resource Management Act to set out the objectives, policies and methods for people and organisations that use a region's resources for a variety of purposes:

The proposed Plan was developed following a review of the five existing regional plans from 2011 to 2015. Until the GWRC decides to adopt the proposed Plan, resource users must comply with rules in the proposed Plan and rules in the five existing plans.

There is a lot of information in the proposed Plan and a lot to understand, so if you need help to figure out if your activity is permitted, or requires a resource consent, or if you have any questions at all, please contact us for more information 0800 496 734 or regionalplan@gw.govt.nz

Permitted: no resource consent is required provided you comply with the conditions in the rule.

Controlled, discretionary or non-complying: a resource consent from Wellington Regional Council is required. Conditions may need to be met.

Prohibited: cannot be undertaken at any time.

