

Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

Rubbish management and offal pits



Storing or disposing of household and business rubbish and dead animal material can contaminate land, water and air. The proposed Plan requires landowners to consider the effects of their rubbish and its disposal on human health, and the environment, particularly the health of ground and surface water.

While rubbish disposal services are provided by city and district councils, all people are encouraged to use the recycling facilities and transfer stations available in their area.

Can I have a farm refuse dump?

Farm refuse dumps of up to 50m³ are a permitted activity under Rule R89 for solid waste generated on the same property, subject to a number of conditions that protect neighbouring properties and the environment, particularly ground and surface water. One condition is that the property must be more than 20ha in size and more than 20km away from a transfer station. In order to protect ground and surface water, farm refuse dumps are not permitted in gullies, close to water bodies, close to the water table or on porous soils.

What can I put in my farm refuse dump?

You cannot put any hazardous substances into a farm dump. A hazardous substance can be materials and substances like, old paint tins, used chemical containers used for pest and weed control, any fuels or solvents, and toxic materials like asbestos. Other substances not allowed to be put into farm dumps are offal or dead animal matter, or any wastewater which is liquid waste from domestic, industrial or commercial premises, including human effluent, grey water, sillage and trade wastes.

Can I place cleanfill on my property?

The placement of up to 100m³ of cleanfill is a permitted activity under Rule R70 subject to a number of conditions. For example, the cleanfill cannot be located within 20m of a surface water body or in areas prone to natural hazards. Cleanfills should be managed in accordance with MfE's 'A Guide to the Management of Cleanfills'. The location of cleanfill sites must be recorded using GPS and the cleanfill stabilised and revegetated when no longer used.

Can I have an offal pit on my property?

The use of offal pits for the disposal of dead animal material is a permitted activity under Rule R91 subject to a number of conditions including that the dead animal is disposed on the property from which it came. For example, they are not located near water bodies or in areas prone to flooding. Offal pits must not be dug in porous soils and must not be deeper than the highest level of the water table.



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.