



## **FAQs relating to Decision on Plan Change 65: Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes**

Date: 13/5/2021

### **1. What did the Hearings Panel decide?**

The Hearings Panel have made a decision on submissions and made a number of changes to reflect their decisions. In summary, they have approved Plan Change 65 but made a number of changes based on evidence provided by submitters and Council.

### **2. Is the Plan Change 65 decision final?**

The decision on submissions shows the final changes that have been made to the provisions in the District Plan. Unless there are any appeals to the Environment Court, there will be no further changes made.

Submitters to the Plan Change have 30 working days to lodge an appeal with the Environment Court. The 30 working day count starts the day submitters receive notification of the decision.

### **3. Do the rules apply to all my property?**

No. The rules only apply to that land identified within the ONFL or the SAF mapped areas in the ONFL Chapter. You can look at the interactive map on Council's website to check where the line of the ONFL or SAF is on your property.

Interactive Map:

<https://manawatudc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a488a07db2114db39c1135d4bd9aaaa9>

### **4. Will I need to change any of the farming practices I am undertaking?**

The ONFL chapter permits existing farming activities within the ONFL or the SAF mapped areas. That means you can continue to graze land already in pasture, crop land that you traditionally cropped, undertake pest control, and maintain your existing tracks for example.

If you are already farming within an area identified as an ONFL or SAF then you have what is known as "existing use rights" under section 10 of the Resource Management Act and you can continue to farm. Some landowners find it helpful to create a record of the current farming practices or activities to give them additional certainty around existing uses.

Note these FAQs relate to the changes to the Manawātū District Plan. Refer to Horizons Regional Council for any questions about regulations and changes to the Horizons One Plan.

## **5. Can I expand my farming activity?**

Within the ONFL or SAF, you will not be able to cut down trees to convert into pasture without a resource consent. This is considered to be new farming activity. You can change your stock rates and alter crop species (if you already do that as part of your current farming practice). You will not be able to plant pine plantations within the ONFL or SAF areas without a resource consent.

## **6. What farm buildings can I build?**

Within the Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature you can construct a new farm building provided the new building is no higher than 4m, no greater than 60m<sup>2</sup>, and setback from any property boundary by 1.5m. In other areas, new buildings would need a resource consent.

Remember that these rules only apply to land within the mapped ONFL or SAF, not your entire farm.

## **7. Can I maintain tracks or create new ones?**

You can maintain existing tracks under the new ONFL chapter. You can create new farm tracks where these are 1.8m wide. If you want to create a track that is wider than 1.8m then you will need to get a resource consent. Note that you still need to check Horizons Regional Council provisions to ensure you don't need a consent from them to build a new track (especially if it requires the removal of vegetation).

## **8. Can I remove trees within an ONFL or SAF??**

The new ONFL chapter only restricts the removal of indigenous vegetation. If other exotic vegetation is planted with the ONFL or SAF there are no restrictions on its removal.

## **9. Can I irrigate within an ONFL or SAF?**

If you are already irrigating land within a ONFL or SAF then this is an existing activity and you can continue. If you would like to undertaken new or extend irrigation in the future within an ONFL or SAF then a resource consent will be required. New irrigation would be considered a new farming activity.

Remember to talk with Horizons Regional Council.

## **10. Do I need to change any practices next to the mapped area?**

No you do not need to change your practices next to the mapped areas. The rules only apply within the ONFL or SAF areas.

**11. Can I put in water storage within an ONFL or SAF?**

Creating a new water storage area (say a dam) is not permitted by the plan change. It would be considered a new farming activity. A new rule was added to the chapter that enables domestic scale micro hydro activities as a Restricted Discretionary activity.

**12. Who can I contact (or where can I go) for more information?**

You can ring or pop in to see one of the planners at the Manawatu District Council to check if you require a resource consent for an activity.