

What can you do?

If you're planning an earthworks project in the Waikato region, including small scale works on private property, you need to make sure you're sticking to the rules.

Having a clear plan for erosion and sediment control, getting the right consents (if you need them), and meeting relevant conditions when the work is permitted, protects you, your property and the environment.

The steeper the land and the closer you are to water, the greater the risk. For earthworks on slopes greater than 25 degrees, within 100 metres of water, or on a large scale, you'll probably need a consent.

Some less risky projects can be carried out under permitted activity rules but you'll still need to comply with certain conditions.

We're always on call for the environment and to help you get your projects done right, working with landowners and contractors alike to strike the right balance for our region.



Knowing the rules before you dig helps protect you and your property



Appropriate erosion protection controls for in-stream works



Lining a channel with geotextile sheets helps prevent erosion and sedimentation



Let's talk Water quality

If you're planning to dig near water, let us know first

Why is it important?

People and our economy need clean water, and the health of our environment depends on it too. With our support, landowners are already taking great steps to reduce contaminants to water, but risks remain.

Common earthworks like trenching, tracking, building culverts, and vegetation removal can bring important practical and commercial benefits to our communities. But, if the right erosion and sediment plans aren't put in place, they can destabilise the land, creating significant safety issues and financial risks for you and your property.

Without proper controls, earthworks can release excessive amounts of sediment into our wetlands, waterways and coastal areas. This can have serious impacts on water quality, natural ecosystems and local businesses, often with serious long-term effects. It also affects everyone's enjoyment of the environment, threatens food sources and degrades areas of cultural significance to Māori communities.



Unstable earthworks near a Karapiro tributary



Contractor prosecuted for illegal earthworks near water



Make the right call

If in doubt, check with us before you dig

 Get in touch 24/7 on 0800 800 402