

A guide to Variation 6

Policies and rules for the allocation and use of freshwater in the Waikato region



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Contents

Introduction	2
History	3
Development timeline	3
The original policies and rules	3
Two key decisions from the Environment Court	4
Protection for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down takes	4
What does Variation 6 mean for my farm?	5
Group A: Permitted activity	6
Group B: Taking less than 15m ³ but in an over-allocated catchment	7
Group C: Existed at 2008, no increase (grandparented water takes)	8
Group D: Existed at 2008, but increased cow numbers since 2008	9
Group E: Converted since 2008, and taking more than 15m ³ of water	10
Key questions	11

Overview

Variation 6 is a set of policies and rules in the Waikato Regional Plan that relate to the allocation and use of freshwater (both ground and surface) in the Waikato region. They came into force in April 2012.

For dairy farmers, water takes that are greater than 15 m³ per site, per day and are used in the farm dairy require resource consent – even if you have been doing this for years.

But, even if you don't need resource consent (e.g. you are taking less than 15 m³ of water per site, per day), there are still things you need to be aware of, and do.

Variation 6 is complex, and resource consenting can be a confusing and costly process.

This guide aims to break through the complexity of Variation 6 and provide you with information about what it means for you and your farm, what you need to do, when and why.

We have attempted to simplify a very complex set of rules to provide generic information and direction to dairy farmers in the Waikato region. However, just like dairy farming, resource consenting is a 'case-by-case' process and there are still many subtleties in the Variation that cannot be elaborated on in this document. Where this occurs, we have recommended that you contact the Waikato Regional Council or a resource management professional.

Introduction

Variation 6 of the Waikato Regional Plan introduces a set of policies and rules governing the way that ground and surface water is allocated and used across the Waikato region. They came into legal effect in early 2012 after a ten year development process including Environment Court hearings.

Variation 6 contains allocation limits for all surface waterbodies (e.g. streams, rivers, creeks, ponds, drains and lakes). No limits have been set on the region's groundwater resources – yet. Instead management levels are used to monitor abstractions and continued availability.

It also contains rules relating to the taking and use of water – and, they apply to everyone including industry, horticulture, irrigators, municipalities and dairying.

For dairy farmers, resource consent is required if more than 15 m³ of water per Certificate of Title, per day is used for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down (e.g. more than 215 cows). But even if you are under this threshold, there are still things you need to know and do.

This is not a new requirement; this rule has always been in the Waikato Regional Plan – it was just not well known or actively enforced by the Waikato Regional Council. Consequently, almost 3,500 (90 percent) of the region's dairy farmers will have to obtain resource consent to take and use water in the farm dairy for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down – even if they have been doing it for years.

The rules in the Variation can be confusing and complex as they differentiate between ground and surface water takes, those water takes that existed prior to 15 October 2008 and those that did not, and also volumes abstracted.

These guidelines contain a brief history of the Variation's development to provide understanding of where the rules came from, and why, as well as a simple decision tree to help farmers work out what they need to do. Finally, a series of frequently asked questions are provided to clarify issues around the resource consent process, differences between ground and surface water takes, water measurement and riparian planting.

We have attempted to simplify a very complex set of rules to provide generic information and direction to dairy farmers in the Waikato region. However, just like dairy farming, resource consenting is a 'case-by-case' process and there are still many subtleties in the Variation that cannot be elaborated on in this document. Where this occurs, we have recommended that you contact the Waikato Regional Council or a resource management professional.



History

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) began developing Variation 6 of the Proposed Waikato Regional Plan (Variation 6) in the early 2000s after it became apparent that the water allocation policies in the Waikato Regional Plan (Regional Plan) were not addressing current levels of demand or competition for water.

The rules and the policies in Variation 6 are the result of a policy development process that occurred over almost ten years.

Development timeline

2003-5	Variation 6 developed, based on scientific and technical investigations
2006-7	Waikato Regional Council hearings
2007-8	Waikato Regional Council hearings
15 Oct 2008	Decisions of the Waikato Regional Council adopted, all water takes subject to common expiry date Appeals lodged with the Environment Court
2009	Environment Court mediation begins
2011	Environment Court hearings
Nov 2011	Compromise reached to protect existing dairying
1 Dec 2011	Environment Court decision released
15 Jan 2012	No appeals, Variation has full legal effect
April 2012	Waikato Regional Council formally adopts new Variation 6 policies and rules

The Variation was notified for public submission in late 2006. Between December 2007 and March 2008, the Council's Hearing Committee heard a number of submissions. The decisions and recommendations of the Hearing Committee were adopted in October 2008.

These decisions were appealed to the Environment Court by a large number of parties including those representing the dairy sector. The Environment Court process which occurred between 2008 and 2011 included mediations between the parties and a hearing. At the end of 2011, a decision was made and released by the Environment Court. No appeals were made and the Variation has had full legal effect since it was adopted by WRC in April 2012.

The original policies and rules

The original policies and rules that resulted were formed early in the process to develop the Variation and are different from what we see today.

Initially, the Variation contained priorities for water use, and common expiry dates for all consent applications. In practice, this meant that on a particular date, all the resource consents in a particular catchment would 'expire' and all abstractors would need to re-apply (or apply for the first time) to abstract (or take) and use water.

When processing these applications, priorities would be given to certain types of water use over others. For example, existing and new municipal consents were given a higher priority than existing agriculture or industrial activities. Furthermore, all resource consents for agriculture and industrial activities would be subject to the first-in, first-served process whereby applications are processed and granted in the order that they are received.

Two key decisions from the Environment Court

There were two important Environment Court decisions that would impact dairying in the Waikato.

The first relates to the inclusion of a “grandparenting” rule which provides additional protection for water takes that are used for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down if they existed prior to 15 October 2008.

The second relates to increasing the volume of allocable water available in the Upper Karapiro Catchment from 3.6 percent of the Q5 to 5 percent.

Protection for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down takes

The rule requiring water takes greater than 15 m³ per site, per day, to obtain resource consent is not new. However it was never well-known amongst dairy farmers, nor was it actively enforced by WRC.

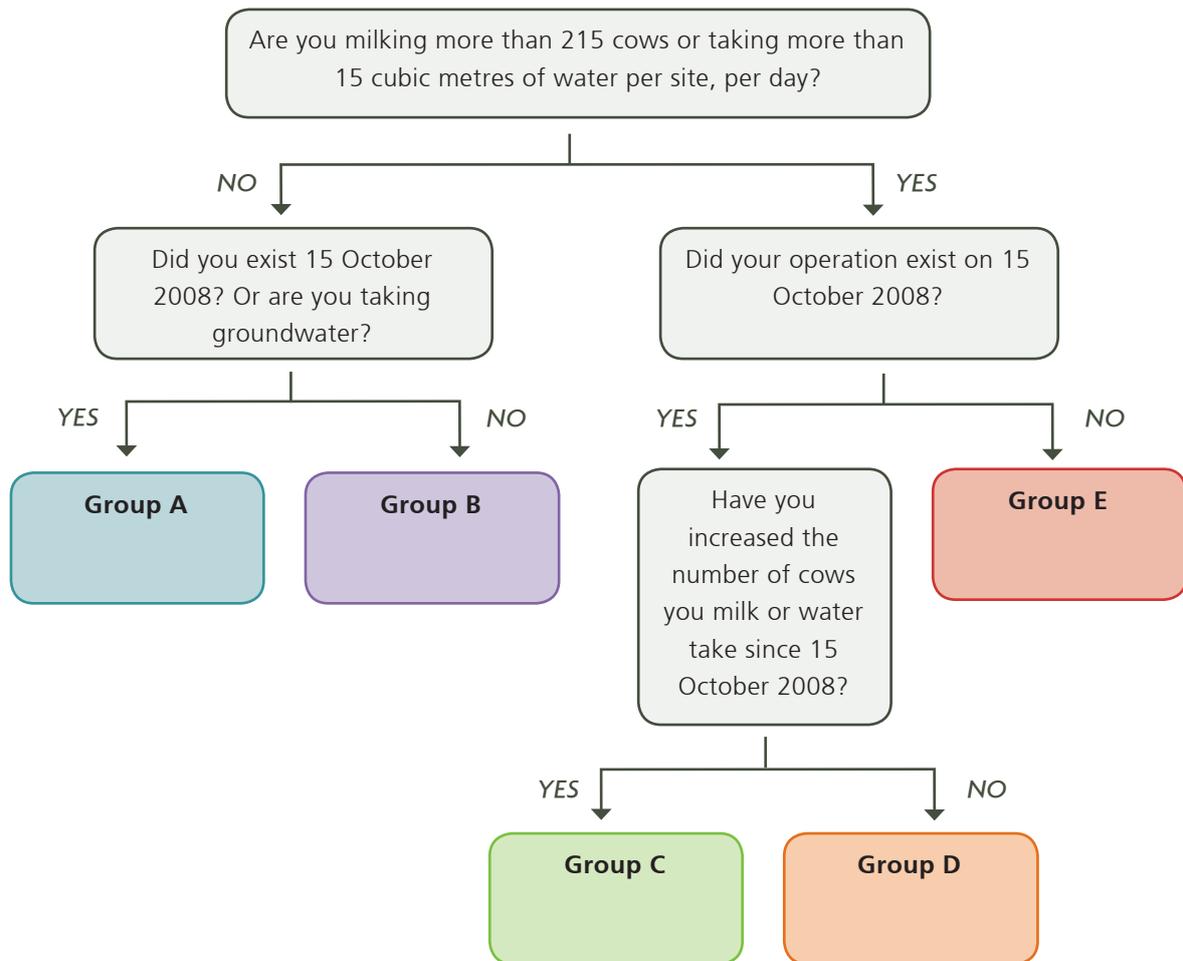
Recognising this, and the large number of dairy farms in the Waikato region that would need to apply for resource consent (about 3,500), the Environment Court directed the Waikato Regional Council to include a “grandparenting” provision in the Regional Plan. This provision would protect water takes that existed prior to 15 October 2008 and were used for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down. These water takes are afforded a “controlled activity” status, so they will be granted if they meet the listed standards and terms and are lodged with WRC by 1 January 2015.

Water takes that did not exist at this date (e.g. increases in cow numbers and conversions) are still subject to the first-in, first served process.

What does Variation 6 mean for you?

Variation 6 contains different rules for different volumes of water used, for water takes that existed before and after 15 October 2008, and for ground and surface water takes.

Use this flow chart to find out what rules apply to you and what you need to do. The following pages provide information on what you need to do, and by when.



Group A: Permitted activity: you still need to do something!

Are you taking less than 15 m³ of water per Certificate of Title per day? And, are you relying on the permitted activity rule (e.g. not apply for resource consent)?

If yes, you still need to do something!

Have a folder in the farm dairy

If someone from compliance and monitoring at the Waikato Regional Council comes to your farm, you need to show why you are a permitted activity.

Action: Create a folder at the farm dairy showing why your water takes and use in the farm dairy fall under the permitted activity rule.

Farm map

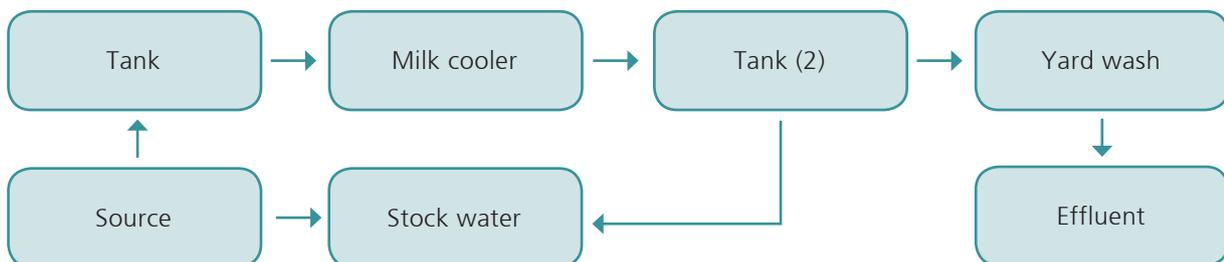
Showing (for example) the:

- Boundaries of the Certificate(s) of Title - - -
- Where water takes are X and what they are used for (stock, milk cooling, wash down, house, neighbour)
- Where the farm dairy is ■
- How water gets to the farm dairy



Water reticulation in the farm dairy

Draw a diagram showing how water enters, moves through and leaves the farm dairy. For example:



Keep water use records

You need to show how much water is being used for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down, and be able to link this back to the different water sources.

Use water meters to determine how much water is being used in the farm dairy.

Keep track of cow numbers

Keep records of cow numbers (e.g. tax or herd records), and include dates.

Group B: Taking less than 15 m³, but in an over-allocated catchment

Have you increased cow numbers, or converted since the surface water catchment became 'officially' over-allocated? Or, are you in the Piako Catchment?

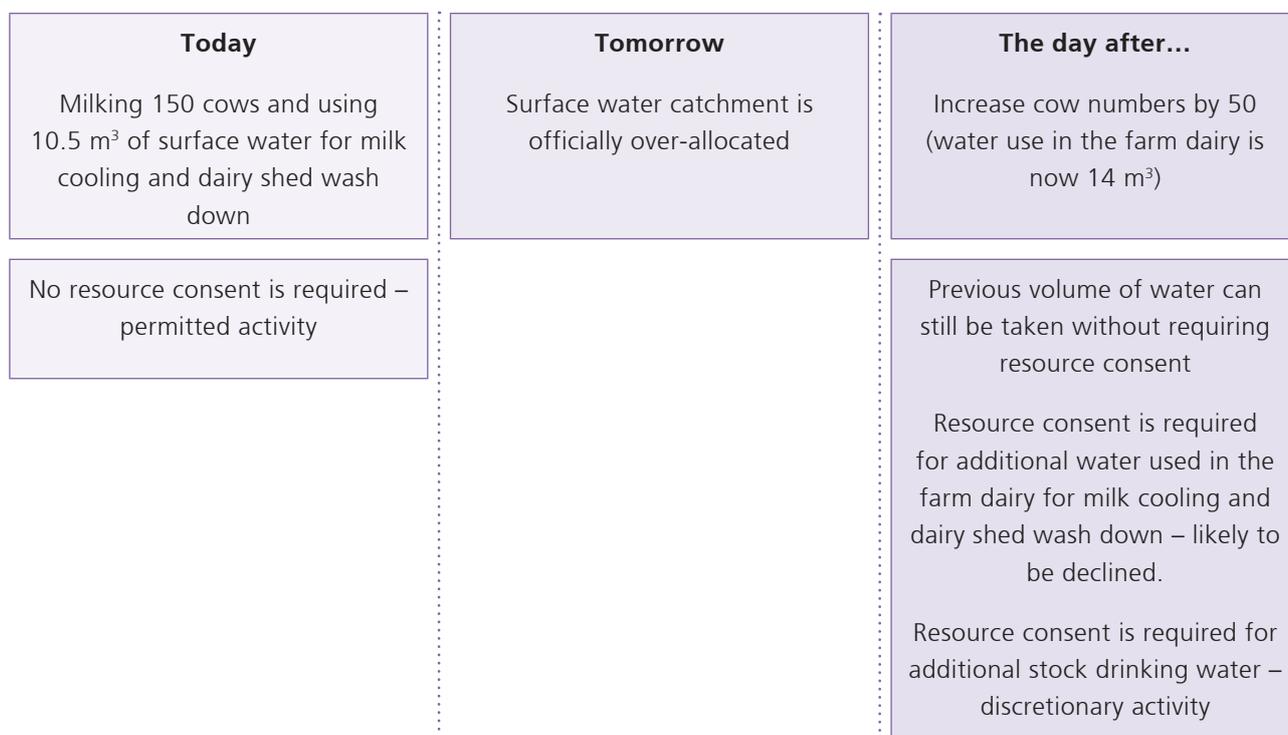
If yes, then your operation could be at risk.

Over-allocation of a surface waterbody

When a surface water catchment reaches full allocation, any new surface water takes that begin after the date of over-allocation require resource consent – regardless if it is for 2 m³, 5 m³, or 6 m³ or if you are still under the permitted activity volume of 15 m³.

In addition, all new stock drinking water takes from surface water also need resource consent.

What happens when a surface water catchment becomes over-allocated?



Group C: Existed at 2008, no increase (grandparented water takes)

Was your dairy farm operating before 15 October 2008? And, are you taking more than 15 m³ of water for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down?

If you have answered yes, then you are able to take advantage of the grandparenting rule. This means that while you still need to apply for resource consent, it will be granted if you can meet the standards and terms and you apply before 1 January 2015.

Standards and terms

Surface water takes	Ground water takes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proof that the amount of water taken is the same or less than that occurring prior to 15 October 2008• All stock on the property shall be excluded from the waterway• A riparian management plan• Leak detection mechanisms are included in your reticulation network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proof that the amount of water taken is the same or less than that occurring prior to 15 October 2008• Leak detection mechanisms are included in your reticulation network• Demonstrate how you will monitor and record water takes and uses• Register your well with the Regional Council

Waikato Regional Council's staged implementation process

It is estimated that almost 3,500 dairy farms in the Waikato will need to apply for resource consent. To manage this process, and reduce costs for dairy farmers WRC are using a staged implementation process.

This involves approaching the different catchments in stages and asking for consent applications to be lodged on a particular date. By doing this WRC are able to process applications in 'bulk' rather than on a case-by-case basis e.g. one report is prepared and shared over multiple applications.

If you lodge your application before your catchment's closing date, the costs may be reduced.

The catchment closing dates are:

Catchment	Closing date
Waihou	14 December 2012
Lower Waikato & West Coast	29 March 2013
Upper Waipa & King Country	31 July 2013
Coromandel	31 July 2013
Lower Waipa & Raglan	29 November 2013
Upper Waikato	31 March 2014
Piako	31 July 2014

Please note that some catchments may have already closed.

If you have missed your catchment closing date, you can still take advantage of the grandparenting rule. You just need to lodge your application before 1 January 2015.

Group D: Existed at 2008, but increased cow numbers since 15 October 2008

Has the number of cows you are milking increased since 2008?

If yes, then there are a few things that you need to consider.

Consent application will be in two parts

In this case, your resource consent application will be divided into two parts.

The first will relate to the volume of water you were using prior to 15 October 2008 (Consent A), and the second will relate to the volume of water you started using after 15 October 2008 (Consent B). Each part will be treated differently.

Consent A Pre-15 October 2008 water take volume "Grandparented" water	Consent B Post-15 October 2008 water take volume "New" water
This consent application will be granted as long as you meet the standards and terms of the controlled activity rule and lodge your application with the Waikato Regional Council by 1 January 2015.	This consent application will be subject to the traditional 'first-in, first-served' process whereby applications are processed and granted in the order that they are received. The Waikato Regional Council can only grant this application if there is water to allocate (give out).

You need to lodge your resource consent application now

As part of your consent application is subject to the 'first-in, first-served' process, it is important that you lodge your application with the Waikato Regional Council as soon as possible.

These resource consent applications can be complex – particularly if you are taking surface water, or are in the Upper Karapiro or Piako catchments.

It is recommended that you discuss your situation with a resource management professional.

Can you milk more cows with less water?

Gaining access to water volumes that did not exist prior to 15 October 2008 may be difficult or costly for many dairy farmers – simply because the water resource is fully allocated or over-allocated. Therefore, rather than applying for the second consent to cover the increase in water use, are you able to make efficiency gains in the farm dairy and essentially milk more cows with less water?

For example: You had 300 cows prior to 15 October 2008, and were using 70 litres per cow, per day for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down (21 m³). You increased to 330 cows in 2009. By reducing 'per cow water use' from 70 litres to 64 litres, you can cover the increase without applying for a second consent.

For more information

DairyNZ's Smart Water Use programme has lots of ideas on how to reduce water use in the farm dairy.

For more information on how to become more efficient with water in the farm dairy, go to

www.dairynz.co.nz/smartwateruse.

Group E: Converted since 15 October 2008, and taking more than 15 m³ of water

Have you converted your farm to dairy since 15 October 2008, and do you take more than 15 m³ of water per Certificate of Title, per day?

If yes, then you need to read this section.

First-in, first-served process

The grandparenting provision in Variation 6 does not apply to water takes that did not exist prior to 15 October 2008 (e.g. you have converted since this date). Instead, these water takes are subject to the first-in, first-served process whereby applications are lodged in the order that they are received.

This means that if your application is lodged in fifth place, it will be processed and granted fifth. The danger being that the water resource reaches full allocation before your application is processed. If this happens, it could be declined.

You need to lodge your resource consent application now

As your consent application is subject to the first-in, first-served process, it is important that you lodge your application with the Waikato Regional Council as soon as possible.

These resource consent applications can be complex – particularly if you are taking surface water, or are in the Upper Karapiro or Piako Catchments.

It is recommended that you discuss your situation with a resource management professional.

Key questions

The answers to some of the key questions around Variation 6 can be found in this section, including:

- Resource consenting** What if I already have consent? Who should apply for resource consent?
- Your water take** What if the bore or intake structure on the stream is not on my property? Do you supply water to your neighbours? Are you on a rural or district council water supply scheme?
- Stock drinking water** Do I need consent for my stock water?
- Permitted activity takes** What is a site? Am I a permitted activity?
- Ground or surface water** What is ground water and what is surface water? What happens if the surface water catchment is over-allocated?
- Water volumes** How much water are you taking? How much water is 15 m³? How do I prove water use in 2008?
- Water measurement** Why should I measure peak water use? What am I measuring? When do you have to start metering? Who can help me?
- Riparian planting** What is a riparian area? Is a spring surface water? What if the surface water intake is on the neighbour's property?



Resource consenting

What if I already have consent?

You may already have consent to take and use water on your property for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down. If you do, you will not need to apply for resource consent again.

Action: Check consent conditions including expiry dates.

Who should apply for resource consent?

Resource consents are not tied to the land – rather they are held by a person (e.g. John Smith).

However, the grandparented volume of water is tied to the actual take that was occurring prior to 15 October 2008. Therefore, this take is tied to the land (e.g. the location of the bore or the intake structure on the stream). But, it is the person who was taking water (or the new owner of the land upon which there is an existing take) who has the right to obtain a consent for that grandparented volume.

Where can I get an application form?

Application forms can be downloaded from the Waikato Regional Council website or call 0800 800 402.

Who can help me with my resource consent?

Every farm is different, and therefore so will the application of the Variation 6 rules to your property. While this guide will provide you with an overview of the rules and how they apply to different situations – there are a number of subtleties.

There are a number of people who can help you with your resource consent application including the Waikato Regional Council or a resource or environmental management consultant.

DairyNZ and Waikato Regional Council will be holding events throughout the Waikato region to help you with your resource consent application. Go to www.dairynz.co.nz/v6 to find out when these are on.



Your water take

The bore or intake structure on the stream is not on my property

If the bore or the intake structure on the stream is not located on your property (e.g. the neighbour supplies your water, or it is on the adjoining forestry block), then you need to ensure that you have legal access to that water supply.

Action: Do you have legal access to your water source (e.g. an easement)?

Do you supply water to your neighbours?

If you supply water to your neighbour's for domestic or stock drinking purposes, resource consent may be required as this does not technically fall under section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (e.g. you are taking more than your individual needs).

If you supply water to your neighbour, and that water is used in the farm dairy this may not be covered by the grandparented provision.

Action: Contact Waikato Regional Council or a resource management professional to discuss your situation.

Rural or district council water supply scheme

If a rural or district water scheme supplies water to your property, then the owner of that scheme (e.g. typically a district council) will hold the resource consent. Therefore, you do not need to apply for resource consent under Variation 6.

However, some rural or district water schemes may not be functioning as reliably as they should, or there may be issues around the future certainty or security of supply. If this is the case, you may consider applying for water from a bore or surface waterway for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down.

However, you will not have access to the grandparented provision. Instead your application will be assessed on a first-in, first-served basis, and will only be granted if there is water available to allocate.

Action: Is the water supply from the scheme reliable, secure and of good quality?

In the first instance, contact the owner of the Scheme to discuss its status and future viability.

Alternatively, contact Waikato Regional Council or a resource management professional to discuss your situation.

Stock drinking water

You can take and use water for stock drinking and domestic purposes without the need for resource consent under section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991. However, you can choose to include this volume of water in your consent – it is up to you.

Some stock drinking water takes require consent

There will be instances in the future where stock drinking water takes require consent. For example, where there is an adverse effect on the environment, or where a new water take is established after a surface water catchment reaches full allocation.

Permitted activity water takes

Generally, water takes that are less than 15 m³ per Certificate of Title, per day do not require resource consent. But, there are still things that you need to be aware of, and do.

What is a “site”?

A site is defined as “one or more allotments contained in a single Certificate of Title”.

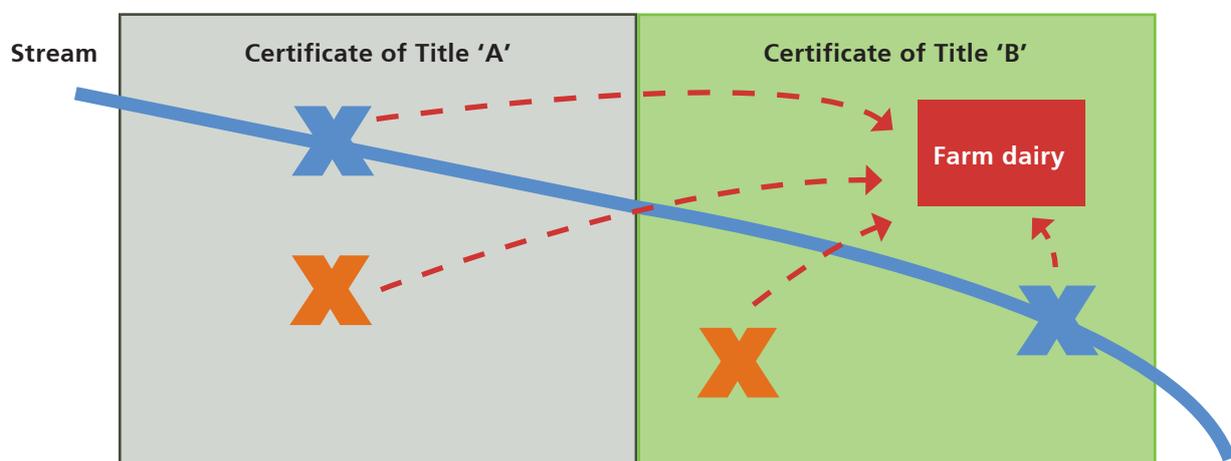
Water takes under Variation 6 are assessed on a “per Certificate of Title” basis – that is you can take 15 cubic metres of surface and/or ground water per Certificate of Title, per day as a permitted activity.

For example

If you have two Certificates of Title and a surface waterway runs through your property, you can take two 15 m³ surface water takes and two 15 m³ ground water takes – one of each from each Certificate of Title – which gives you 60 m³ of water as a permitted activity.



But you must transfer from each of the take points to the farm dairy. You cannot take a total of 60 m³ from one point on your property. If you did, you would need to apply for resource consent for this water take.



Action: Check how many Certificates of Title make up your property.

How easily can you move water from multiple take points to the farm dairy?

How can you prove that you are taking less than 15m³ per Certificate of Title, per day?

If the surface water catchment is over-allocated

If the surface water catchment is fully or over-allocated, your ability to access up to 15 m³ of surface water per Certificate of Title, as a permitted activity will be limited.

We recommend that you discuss your application with the Waikato Regional Council or a resource management professional.

Surface water takes

Are you using ground or surface water?

The rules in the Variation treat ground and surface water takes differently.

A ground water take is water that is generally taken from a bore.

A surface water take is water that is generally taken directly from a stream, spring, creek, river, drain, lake or pond.

Action: What are your water sources? And, how many do you have on your property?

Surface water takes

Limits have been set for all surface water bodies in the Waikato region. These are called allocable flows.

The map provided as Attachment A shows a general picture of the allocation status of the major catchments in the Waikato region.

What happens if the surface water catchment is over-allocated?

Regardless of the allocation status of a surface waterway, if your dairy farm operation existed prior to 15 October 2008, you will still get your grandparented water.

If you have increased cow numbers (or your water take) or converted since 15 October 2008, and do not hold resource consent, your access to that increased volume of water will be at risk.

Your ability to get more water in the future from a surface water resource that is fully or over-allocated is limited – this is because effectively, there is no more water to give out.

Action: Contact Waikato Regional Council and ask for the allocation status of the surface waterbody that you are taking water from.

Groundwater takes

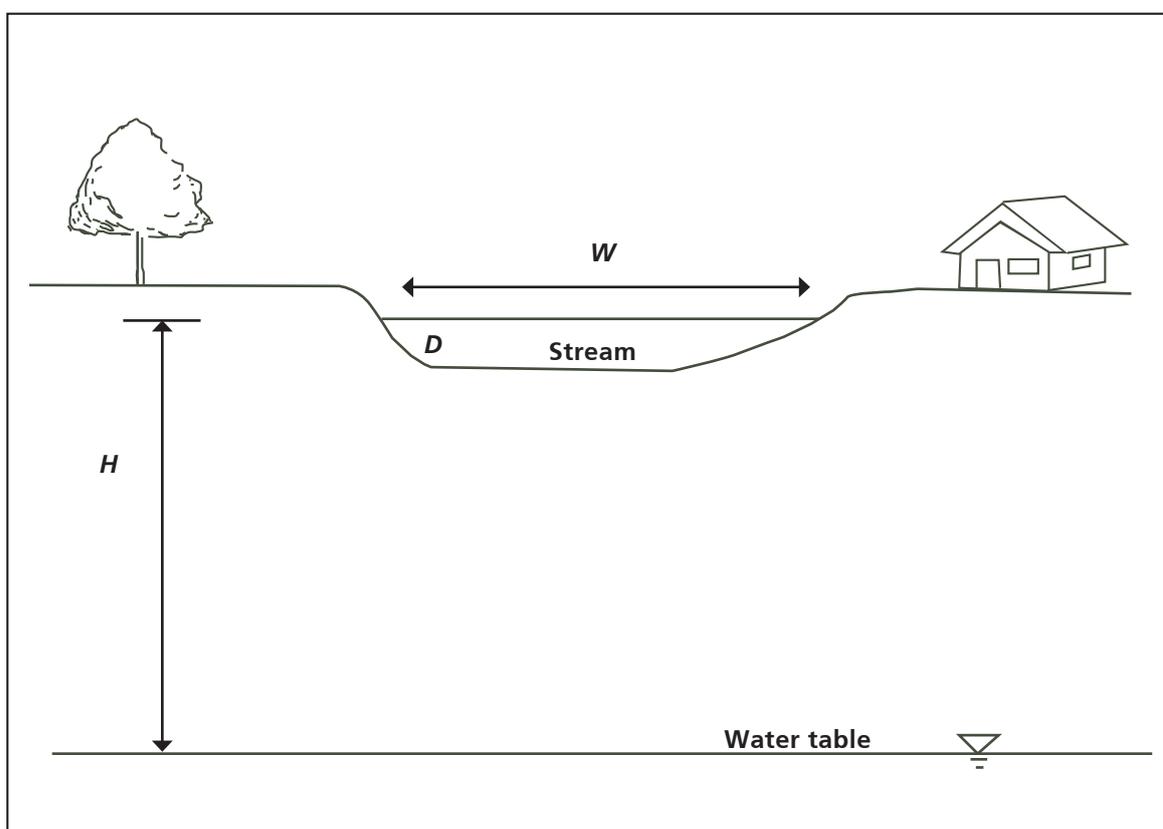
No limits have been set for groundwater (e.g. aquifers) bodies in the Waikato region – YET. These will be set at some point in the future.

Instead, management levels are used to monitor how much groundwater is being abstracted. When the total volume reaches a trigger point, an investigation into the sustainability of the resource will occur.

From here a water quantity limit may be developed. The process to do this will be similar to that used for Variation 6 and you will be alerted when this occurs.

When a groundwater takes are considered to be surface water

Some groundwater takes are considered to be surface water takes. For example, if you have a groundwater take located in, or very close to a stream.



Action: How far is your groundwater (bore) from the nearest surface waterbody (e.g. creek, river, stream, spring, wetland or lake)?

Water take volumes

How much water are you taking?

Generally, if you are taking more than 15 m³ of ground or surface water per Certificate of Title per day for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down, you will need to apply for resource consent.

There are some cases where water takes less than 15 m³ per Certificate of Title, per day will also need consent. For example, if you are in a fully or over-allocated catchment and you are taking surface water.

How much water is 15 m³?

Based on 70 litres per cow, per day, 15 m³ is about enough water for 215 cows.

However, some farm dairies need more water, and some need less. You can apply for more water – but, you have to demonstrate or prove the need for it. Consent won't just be given to you because you want it.

The most robust and defensible way to do this is through water meters.

Think about your 'per cow' water use

If you use 50 litres per cow, 15 m³ will be enough water for 300 cows – you may not need resource consent. However, if you use 100 litres per cow, 15 m³ will only be enough water for 150 cows.

Action: Find out how much water you are actually using for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down.

Can you reduce your 'per cow water use' and avoid the need to apply for resource consent?

Proving water use in 2008

Many dairy farmers did not have water meters installed at the farm dairy in 2008. Therefore, to calculate water use in the farm dairy Waikato Regional Council will use a default calculation of 70 litres per cow, per day multiplied by cow numbers.

Cow numbers can be proven using stock reconciliation figures in your tax records, herd records or legal agreements (e.g. property sale and purchase or sharemilking agreements).

Action: How will you prove cow numbers and water use in 2008?



Water measurement and water meters

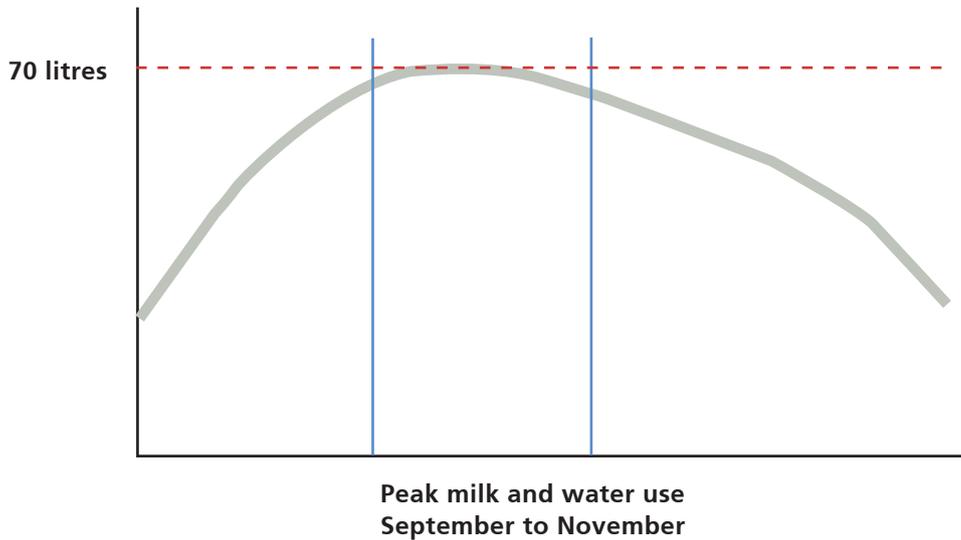
There are two reasons why metering water use on your farm and in the farm dairy may be required as part of Variation 6.

- You apply for the right amount of water for your system in your consent application
- It may be a condition of your resource consent

Measure peak water use

The rules in Variation 6 apply to volumes – they do not apply to cow numbers. If you do not know how much water you are actually using for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down, WRC will use a default value of 70 litres per cow per day multiplied by cow numbers. In some cases this may be enough, but in others it may not. The only way you can be sure is to measure actual water use.

Variation 6 is concerned with the maximum amount of water used for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down, on any one day. Peak water use tends to coincide with peak milk production (i.e. you typically need 2-2.5 litres of water per litre of milk).

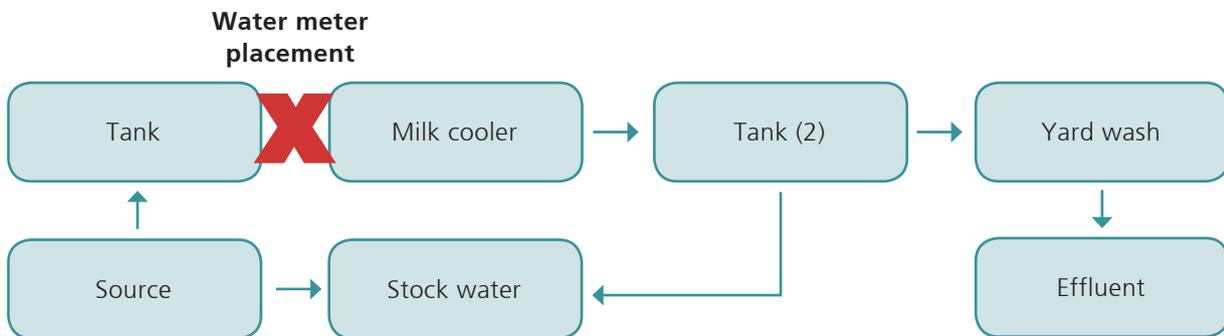


This means that on days that you do not use all of your consented water that you have the option to store this for use at a later date.

Water measurement in the farm dairy

The consent for water used for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down is interested in the first productive use of the water, e.g. the point of entry into the farm dairy. The rules do not provide explicit recognition for efficient water use e.g. use of the milk cooling water for yard wash down and stock drinking water.

Water meter placement in a typical farm dairy water system:



Note: Some farm dairies will need more than one water meter.

Action: Talk to a Blue Tick Accredited water meter installer. Go to IrrigationNZ website www.irrigationnz.co.nz

You need to measure water as part of your consent conditions

If you are taking more than 50 m³, you will be required to measure water use as a condition of your resource consent. This volume includes water taken and used for milk cooling, dairy shed wash down, domestic and stock drinking.

There may be other circumstances where you have to measure and report on water use as a condition of consent (e.g. taking water from an over-allocated surface waterbody).

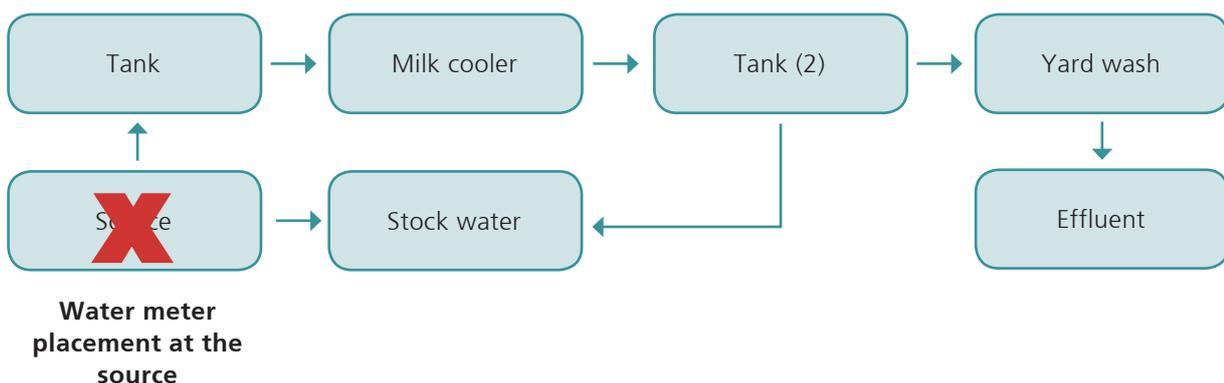
Typical conditions will require you to take a reading once per week to allow calculation of an average daily value and report twice a year (January and June).

How much water is 50 m³?

If we use 70 litres per day for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down, and 70 litres per day for stock drinking water, 50 m³ is enough water for 350 cows.

- 50 m³ (or 50,000 litres) / 140 litres per cow = 350 cows

Water meter placement as a condition of resource consent:



When do you have to start metering?

Your resource consent will state when you need to start metering.

Water meters

DairyNZ recommends that you use a water meter installer who has Blue Tick accreditation.

These installers have met minimum knowledge, training and experience criteria of an industry-approved scheme. There are also feedback and complaints processes if things go wrong!

A Blue Tick accredited installer will be able to provide you with advice on the most suitable type of water meter for your situation and will ensure that it is installed to meet defined standards (e.g. manufacturer's recommendations and regulator's requirements).

Go to www.irrigationaccreditation.co.nz for a list of Blue Tick accredited installers in the Waikato Region.

Water meter considerations

The type of water meter required on your farm will depend on:

Water source

The quality of the water will impact the performance of the meter, e.g. sand, pumice, iron and manganese.

Data recording requirements

If your consent conditions require you to measure daily and report frequently for the lifetime of your consent (e.g. 15 years), a data telemetry device may ensure that this occurs.

Accuracy and reliability

The lifespan of your resource consent will influence what type of meter – if it's 15 years, you would want your meter to last that long too.

Price

Remember to factor in costs associated with purchasing the meter(s), installation and maintenance.

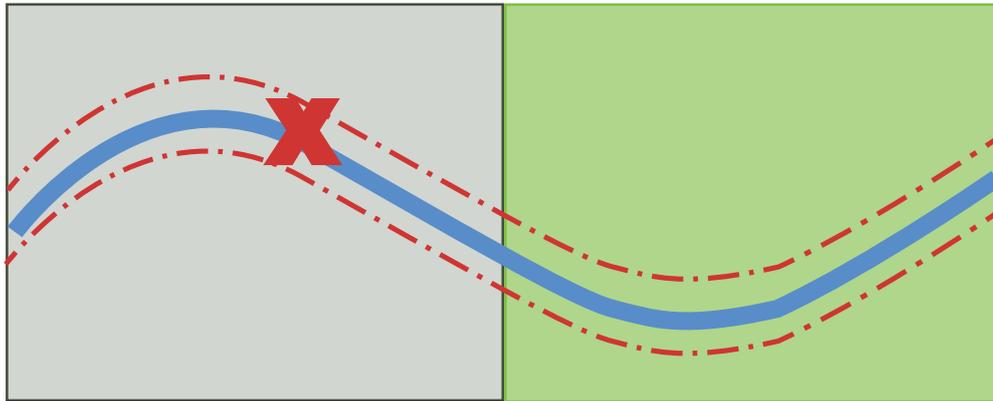


Riparian planting

Some surface water takes, including those relying on the grandparented rule, will have to prepare and implement a riparian management plan.

What is the riparian area?

For Variation 6, the riparian area covers three metres either side of the entire surface waterway which runs through your property (even though it may run through multiple Certificates of Title) or to a confluence point (e.g. t-intersection).



If this is not practical, you will need to develop and justify an alternative solution. For example, the surface waterway is prone to flooding.

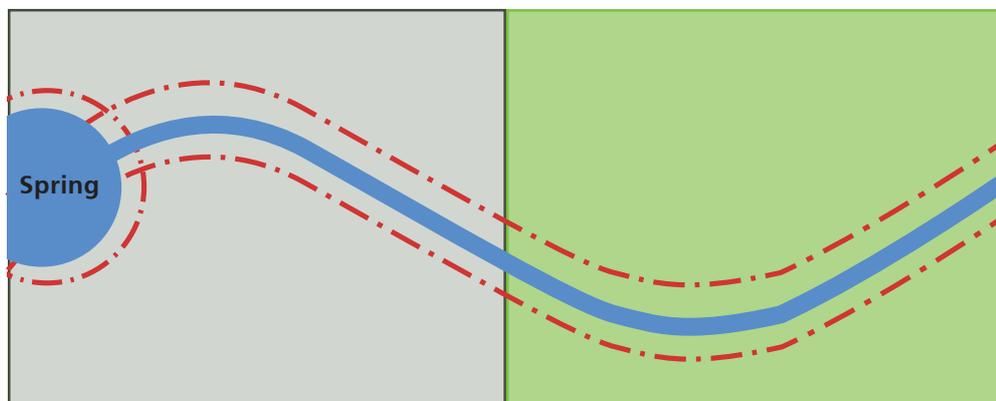
Key points:

- Riparian planting must occur upstream and downstream of the water take point
- Three metres is measured from the top of the bank

Action: Contact Waikato Regional Council to discuss the riparian management requirements.

Springs

If you are taking water from a spring, you will need to plant a three metre wide riparian area around the spring as well as the seepage area.



The surface water intake is on the neighbour's property

If you are sourcing surface water for milk cooling and dairy shed wash down, and the intake structure is on the neighbour's property, you do not have to complete a riparian management plan, or undertake planting.

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