



Kaipara District Council

Stormwater & Land Drainage Bylaw

This Bylaw is made pursuant to the Local Government Act 2002

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Part A

Preliminary provisions

1. Title

1.1 This Bylaw is the Stormwater & Land Drainage Bylaw

2. Commencement

2.1 This Bylaw comes into force on 20 December 2021.

3. Application

3.1 This Bylaw applies to the Kaipara District.

4. Purpose

4.1 The purpose of this Bylaw is to protect people and property by managing stormwater within the Kaipara District by:

- a. protecting Council's public drainage network
- b. ensuring drainage over private property is managed and maintained appropriately.

5. Interpretation

5.1 In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

Approval or Approved means approved by Council or by an Authorised Officer and includes a permit.

Authorised Officer means

- a. a person authorised by Council to perform duties under this Bylaw
- b. a person appointed by Council as an enforcement officer under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Crossing means any structure by which any vehicle, livestock, or person may go over, through, or under any drain or watercourse and includes a bridge, culvert or ford.

Council means the Kaipara District Council.

Drain has the meaning as in the Land Drainage Act 1908 and includes public and private drains.

Flood Plain means land which is allowed to flood as a means of managing flood waters.

Herbicide means a substance that is toxic to plants and includes chemical sprays used to control unwanted vegetation.

Material or Thing	means any material or object of whatever kind, and includes soil, rock, vegetation, vehicles/vehicle parts, household appliances/furniture, litter, chemical, hazardous substance, contaminant, rubber, paper, plastic or metal.
Natural flow	means the flow of water by gravity and excludes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> water discharged from a pipe or hose water released from an artesian well water released from an irrigation system water released under pressure.
Nuisance	has the meaning given by the relevant subsections of section 29 of the Health Act 1956 ,as they are applicable to the purpose of this Bylaw in accordance with clause 4.
Occupier	means a person who inhabits, leases, uses or controls any property, whether as an owner, tenant, licensee or otherwise.
Open drain	means a drain that is open to the sky as opposed to a drain that is enclosed in a pipe.
Overland flow path	means the path taken by surface stormwater crossing a property comprising low points in the terrain (not including rivers and identified water courses), which will accommodate flood flows in a one percent annual exceedance probability rainfall event.
Owner	means, in relation to real property, a registered proprietor, trustee and any person for the time being entitled to receive the rent of the property, land, building, or premises or who would be entitled to the rent if the property were let to a tenant. Where any such person is absent from New Zealand or mentally incapable as defined in section 94 of the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, 'owner' includes his or her attorney or agent.
Person	includes an individual, a corporation sole, a body corporate, and an unincorporated body.
Private drain	means any drain or section of a drain on a property that only services the dwelling(s) or building(s) on that property to the point where it either meets the boundary of that property or joins with another drain.
Property	means any land, dwelling, storehouse, warehouse, shop, cellar, yard, building, or part of the same, or enclosed space separately occupied, and all lands, buildings, and places adjoining each other and occupied together shall be deemed to be the same property.
Public drain	means any drain that is not a private drain.
Public drainage network	means the Council or Drainage Area infrastructure used to manage stormwater and includes any drain, floodgate, stopbank, pipe, pump, reservoir or other fixture forming part of that infrastructure.

Public stopbank	means an embankment bordering one or both sides of a drainage channel or watercourse to contain flows of water and that is vested in, or under the management or control of, or under the jurisdiction of Council or a Drainage Area.
Stock	means any cattle, deer, alpaca, llama, sheep, goat, donkey, mule, horse and any other animal kept in captivity, or farmed, and dependent on humans for their care and sustenance.
Stormwater	means any water that falls as rain.
Vegetation	means any plant or part thereof whether living or dead and includes both vascular and non-vascular plants including algae.
Watercourse	has the meaning in the Land Drainage Act 1908.
Wetland	has the meaning in the Resource Management Act 1991.

- 5.2 Words implying the singular include the plural and vice versa.
- 5.3 The Interpretation Act 1999 applies to this Bylaw.
- 5.4 Where the meaning of a word has been determined to have the same meaning as provided for that word or term in a stated piece of legislation or other regulatory tool, for completeness, in the event of the meaning of a word or term changing in the relevant legislation or regulatory tool, then the meaning of the word or term changes for the purposes of this bylaw as well.
- 5.5 Any explanatory notes and attachments are for information purposes, and do not form part of this Bylaw, and may be inserted, amended, or revoked without formality. Explanatory notes are provided within the boxes throughout this Bylaw.

Relationship between this Bylaw and Acts, regulations, bylaws and Council's District Plan

Compliance with the Bylaw does not remove the need to comply with all other applicable Acts, regulations, bylaws, the Kaipara District Plan, and the Regional Plan for Northland.

Where there is any conflict between this Bylaw and any Act or Regulation, the Act or Regulation will take precedence. This includes permitted discharges under the Regional Plan for Northland or any resource consent.

In addition to this Bylaw, Council has a range of powers with respect to stormwater drainage. These include powers under the Land Drainage Act 1908 (LDA), the Local Government Act 1974 (LGA74), the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02), the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Building Act 2004 and the Public Works Act 1981(PWA).

Part B

Stormwater management

6. Protection of the public drainage network

- 6.1 No person may damage the public drainage network or cause a nuisance to the public drainage network, including by:
- a. allowing stock to access the public drainage network
 - b. allowing any material or thing to enter the public drainage network
 - c. allowing dead stock to be placed or remain in the public drainage network.
- 6.2 Clause 6.1 does not apply to any damage caused by water entering a drain as a result of natural flow.
- 6.3 No person may obstruct the public drainage network, including by:
- a. placing any material or thing into, over or near the public drainage network, that in the opinion of an Authorised Officer is causing, or is likely to cause, an obstruction.
 - b. growing, or allowing any vegetation to grow in, or within the vicinity of the public drainage network that in the opinion of an Authorised Officer is likely to impede the flow of water.

Further protection

In addition to enforcement action under this Bylaw, Council can:

- prosecute a person who wilfully and maliciously damages anything built under s82 of the LDA.
- prosecute anyone who excavates or otherwise interferes with any land in the vicinity of the public drainage network (ss 237 and 238 PWA)
- prosecute anyone who, without the written authority of Council, connects any drain with a public or private drain, or covered watercourse; and recover the costs of replacing or repairing any property destroyed or damaged as a result (s467 LGA74).

7. Stormwater management on private property

- 7.1 The owner, occupier, or manager of any property must ensure that any drain, watercourse, flood plain, overland flow path or wetland on the property is kept free from obstruction or interference, that in the opinion of an Authorised Officer may
- a. adversely affect the performance of the drain, watercourse, flood plain, overland flow path or wetland
 - b. adversely alter the velocity of stormwater
 - c. adversely divert or obstruct the flow of stormwater
 - d. cause a nuisance
- unless the obstruction or interference has been authorised by a resource consent or building consent.

- 7.2** It is the responsibility of the owner or occupier of any property to inspect, maintain and repair any damage to a private drain that services that property.

Other legislative provisions

The purpose of clause 7.1 is to prevent actions affecting drainage on one property impacting adversely on another. Examples may include where alterations to drainage divert water onto a downstream property or prevent water draining away from an upstream property causing ponding.

Under legislation, Council can also:

- require any tree, plant, weed or growth, the roots of which in the opinion of the Council may enter any drainage channel or watercourse, to be cut down or removed (s468 LGA74)
- order the removal of an obstruction from a drain or water course (s62 LDA)
- cause unauthorised drains to be remade as it thinks fit and recover the costs of this work (s 459 LGA74)
- order landowners to connect any existing private drain with any public drain or watercourse other than the public drain or watercourse with which the private drain was previously connected. Or to relay or alter the course, direction, and outfall of any existing private drain (s 459 LGA74)
- require new drains to be constructed through adjoining private land (s 460 LGA74)
- require an owner to provide and affix to any private drain all such traps, methods of ventilation, and other fittings whatever as the council directs (s 459 LGA74)
- remove an unauthorised connection to a public or private drain and fix anything that was broken and recover the cost of these works (s 467 LGA74).

8. Crossings

- 8.1** A person must not construct or maintain a crossing in or over any part of the public drainage network without a vehicle crossing permit, or a permit under this Bylaw.
- 8.2** Council may issue permits for the construction or maintenance of crossings over any part of the public drainage network.
- 8.3** Where an Authorised Officer considers damage may occur from crossing the public drainage network without a properly constructed crossing, an Authorised Officer may:
- a. require any owner of a property to construct, maintain or renew a crossing to meet specified requirements
 - or
 - b. construct, maintain or renew a crossing, and recover the cost incurred from the owner of the property.

Vehicle crossing permits

A vehicle crossing permit is a permit issued under the Kaipara District Council Consolidated General Bylaw, which authorises the building of a crossing from a public road to private land, including addressing the crossing of any footpath, water table or drain within the road corridor. Where a person has obtained a vehicle crossing permit which addresses the crossing of part of the public drainage network, a permit under this Bylaw is not required.

9. Public stopbanks

- 9.1 No person may damage or cause a nuisance on or within the vicinity of a public stopbank, including by:
- allowing stock to access the public stopbank
 - removing any vegetation by mechanical means or through spraying herbicide
 - undertaking earthworks or causing other structural changes to the public stopbank.
- 9.2 An owner of a property adjacent to a stopbank may apply for a permit to undertake any of the activities provided in Clause 9.1.
- 9.3 No person may, within 15 metres of the foot of a public stopbank, obstruct access (including machine access) to the public stopbank, including by:
- constructing, erecting or placing any building, fence or structure
 - allowing vegetation to grow in a manner that in the opinion of an authorised officer would obstruct access.

10. Weed maintenance in the public drainage network

- 10.1 Council may use any chemicals, including herbicides, in the construction and maintenance of the public drainage network.
- 10.2 An owner or occupier can request alternative approaches to weed management on the public drainage network located on or adjacent to their property. Council may recover any additional costs incurred from the owner or occupier for an alternative weed management approach.
- 10.3 An owner or occupier can apply for a permit to manage weeds in the public drainage network located on or adjacent to their property themselves. Clause 10.2 does not apply in cases where owners and occupiers manage weeds in accordance with a permit issued under this clause.

Permits

Permits provided under clause 10.3 will include general guidelines and conditions and may include an approval to plant native species. If a person does not comply with the conditions of the permit, Council may give notice of its intent to maintain the public drainage network in accordance with the Local Government Act 1974 (ss 459, 460, 468, 511) or the Land Drainage Act 1908 (s 62), and may carry out the required maintenance using any method it deems efficient, including the use of herbicides.

Anyone wanting to apply herbicides and chemicals to land and waterways also needs to consider the requirements and restrictions of the Regional Plan for Northland.

- 10.4 No person may apply any chemicals, including herbicides within 1 metre of the edge of any open public drain.

11. Spoil from drains

- 11.1 The owner or occupier of property with or adjoining a public drain must accept the spoil from that drain because of Council maintenance works.

- 11.2 Council will manage any spoil deposited in accordance with Clause 11.1 in accordance with best practice guidelines to ensure appropriate setbacks are achieved to support sediment control and minimise soil disturbance.
- 11.3 Council shall not be responsible for spreading or moving spoil deposited in accordance with clause 11.1 beyond what is necessary to remove it from the public drain.

Spoil

The cleaning of drains inevitably results in spoil. This is usually piled up on either side of the drain on the adjacent properties. Council generally will advise of drain cleaning ahead of time. If a landowner does not wish to accept the spoil, Council will seek an agreed alternative solution. This may include owners or occupiers being asked to pay for the costs of the agreed solution.

Part C

Powers of access

12. Access to public drains

- 12.1 No person may within one (1) metre of a public drain (measured from the bank of an open drain or from the edge of a drainage pipe), obstruct access of an Authorised Officer, or any plant or machinery to be used under the instruction of an Authorised Officer, including by
- planting, growing or allowing any vegetation to grow in a manner that in the opinion of an authorised officer would obstruct access
 - erecting or maintaining any fence, building, bridge or other construction
 - undertaking earthworks.
- 12.2 If a public drain is within the Raupo Drainage Area as provided in section 504 of the Local Government Act 1974, no person may, within 15 metres of the public drain (measured from the bank of an open drain or from the edge of a drainage pipe), obstruct access by an Authorised Officer, or any plant or machinery to be used under the instruction of an Authorised Officer, including by
- planting, growing or allowing any vegetation to grow in a manner that in the opinion of an authorised officer would obstruct access.
 - erecting or maintaining any fence, building, bridge or other construction
 - undertaking earthworks in a manner that in the opinion of an authorised officer would obstruct access.
- 12.3 No person may cover any service opening such as manholes, catchpits or any other surface infrastructure associated with the public drainage network.

Powers of entry

Council has general powers of entry onto private land to inspect, repair and maintain the public drainage network and to inspect private drains (ss 171, 172, 181 and 182 LGA02, s 510 LGA74, ss 17 and 18 LDA).

Planting of vegetation

Council acknowledges that in certain circumstances, the planting of vegetation in the immediate vicinity of drains is desirable to avoid or remedy erosion related matters. Authorised Officers will take any such matters into consideration on a case by case basis. Any planting for erosion control should meet any regional and national requirements to avoid pest plant species and preference will be given to native plant species.

Part D

Enforcement powers

13. Consequences of breach of the Bylaw

- 13.1 In addition to the powers conferred on it by any other Act, Council may
- a. remove or alter a work or thing that is, or has been, constructed in breach of this Bylaw
 - b. remove or alter an obstruction or vegetation that is in breach of this Bylaw
 - c. repair any damage resulting from a breach of this bylaw.
- 13.2 Council may recover from the person who committed the breach of this Bylaw the reasonable costs in connection with any action under clause 13.1.

Part E

Offences and Penalties

14. Offences

- 14.1 It is an offence to breach this Bylaw.
- 14.2 Any person commits a breach of this Bylaw who:
- a. does, or causes to be done, or knowingly permits or suffers to be done anything contrary to the provisions of this Bylaw
 - b. omits or neglects to do, or knowingly permits or suffers to remain undone, anything which according to the purpose of this Bylaw, ought to be done by that person at the time and in the manner provided for by this Bylaw
 - c. does something which under this Bylaw they are required not to do
 - d. knowingly permits or suffers any condition or thing/s to exist contrary to any provision/s in this Bylaw
 - e. fails to comply with any notice or direction given to that person under this Bylaw
 - f. obstructs or hinders any Authorised Officer in the performance of any duty to be discharged by that Officer under or in the exercise of any power conferred upon them by this Bylaw.

- 14.3 Where it is suspected that any person has committed a breach of this Bylaw, that person shall, on the direction of an Authorised Officer provide their full name and address.

15. Penalties

- 15.1 Every person who commits an offence against this Bylaw is liable to the penalty set out in section 242 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Bylaw breaches

A breach of the bylaw is an offence under s 239 of the LGA02 and the fine of up to \$20,000 is provided under s 242 of that Act.

In accordance with section 162 of the Local Government Act 2002 Council may apply to the District Court for an injunction to restrain a person from committing a breach of this Bylaw.

A person may also be guilty of an offence punishable under the Resource Management Act 1991, the Health Act 1956, the Land Drainage Act 1908, the Building Act 2004, the Litter Act 1979, and any other applicable Act, depending on the circumstances.

Part F

Permits, exceptions and savings

16. Permits

- 16.1 Council may issue permits under clauses 8, 9 and 10 of this Bylaw.
- 16.2 Council may request specific information for an application for a permit and prescribe any conditions on permits issued in accordance with clause 16.1.
- 16.3 Council may by resolution, after consultation in accordance with section 150 (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002:
- a. set fees for receiving and processing an application and issuing a permit
 - b. determine situations when permit fees may be remitted, refunded or waived.
- 16.4 A permit under this Bylaw may be cancelled by Council at any time.

Raupo Drainage Area

The Raupo Drainage Area is managed by the Raupo Drainage Committee. Any applications for permits that are located within the Raupo Drainage Area will be presented to the Committee for consideration and determining of any conditions prior to the permit being issued.

17. Exceptions

- 17.1 A person is not in breach of this Bylaw if that person proves that the act or omission followed the directions of an Authorised Officer or was in accordance with an approval of Council.

18. Savings

- 18.1 Any permissions, approvals or other authorisations issued under part 11 of the Consolidated General Bylaw 2020 continue to be in force in accordance with their terms, unless re-negotiated, renewed, or cancelled by Council.