

SECTION 3: RURAL ZONE RULES

Note: The “grey-out” highlighted text indicates the provisions which have been appealed to the Environment Court. All other provisions are operative and have legal effect.

3.1 CATEGORIES OF ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are permitted activities in the Rural Zone, provided activities comply with all relevant Permitted Activity Performance Standards in Section 3.2 and all other Sections of the District Plan:

- (a) Farming and intensive farming activities.
- (b) Rural service activities.
- (c) Residential activities.
- (d) Home occupations.
- (e) Marae.
- (f) Papakainga development.
- (g) Community activities.
- (h) Open space.
- (i) Operation and use of existing camping grounds/motor camps.
- (j) Home-based childcare service.
- (k) Home based visitor accommodation.
- (l) Holiday homes.
- (m) Forestry planting, forestry maintenance, and forestry harvesting.
- (n) Aggregate/soil extraction.
- (o) Airport operations and development at Hawera Aerodrome.
- (p) Within land administered by the Department of Conservation:
- (q) Construction, maintenance and removal of accommodation (huts) and toilets, visitor information signs, staff accommodation, information centres, and storage sheds.
- (r) Commercial guiding and outdoor recreation activities.
- (s) Species protection and conservation management work, including restoration and re-vegetation work.
- (t) Control of pest plants and animal pests.

- (u) Within the Parihaka Cultural Area:
 - (i) Education and childcare facilities (including Kohanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa).
 - (ii) Farmers and craft markets.
 - (iii) Papakainga housing.
 - (iv) Marae.
 - (v) Residential care facilities.
 - (vi) Community facilities.
 - (vii) Retail activities.
 - (viii) Tourism information and museum activities.
 - (ix) Temporary activities.
 - (x) Small-scale renewable electricity generation.
 - (xi) Community wastewater treatment system.
 - (xii) Car parks.
- (v) Stock loading and unloading facilities.
- (w) Recreational vehicles or other easily moveable buildings, such as caravans, and motor homes and porta cabins, used for temporary residential housing for up to six (6) months within a calendar year.
- (x) Activities on the surface of any waterbody.
- (y) Earthworks within the National Grid Yard.
- (z) Buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard.
- (aa) The construction, alteration of, addition to, removal and demolition of buildings and structures for any permitted activity.
- (bb) Landfarming.

Note: For activities occurring within 30 m of a Gas Pipeline as shown on the Planning Maps, consultation with Vector Gas Limited should be undertaken.

3.1.2 CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES

None.

3.1.3 RESTRICTED DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

The following activities are restricted discretionary activities in the Rural Zone:

- (a) Unless listed elsewhere in the District Plan, any permitted activity listed in Section 3.1.1 which does not meet one or more of the performance standards in Section 3.2.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating of actual or potential effects deriving from non-compliance with the particular performance standard(s) that is not met, except where specifically identified in other rules below.
- (b) Any activity that will generate unusual heavy vehicle traffic.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the effects of the increase in heavy vehicle movements beyond the boundary of the site.
- (ii) Road safety, maintenance and upgrades.
- (iii) Dust.
- (iv) Noise.
- (v) Hours of operation.
- (vi) Heavy vehicle traffic routes.
- (vii) Access.
- (viii) Whether a review condition is necessary.
- (ix) Financial contributions.
- (c) Industrial activities occupying existing buildings.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Location.
- (ii) Landscaping.
- (iii) Appearance.
- (iv) Heavy vehicle movements.
- (v) Financial contributions.
- (d) Forestry planting which does not meet one or more of the performance standards in Section 3.2.9.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating of any effects deriving from non-compliance with the particular standard(s) that is not met.
- (ii) Shading and landscaping.
- (iii) Effects on adjacent properties.
- (e) Recreational vehicles or other easily moveable buildings, such as caravans, motor homes and porta cabins, used for residential housing for more than six (6) months within a calendar year.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Duration of use.
- (ii) Effects on the surrounding character and amenity values.
- (iii) Location.
- (iv) Appearance.

- (v) Landscaping.
 - (vi) Connection to services.
 - (vii) Proximity to public amenities (parks, beaches).
- (f) Activities on surface of rivers and lakes which cannot meet one or more of the performance standards for permitted activities.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Protection of natural character, conservation, ecological, amenity, heritage and cultural values.
 - (ii) Compliance with relevant statutes, regulations and licences.
 - (iii) Nature and scale of the activity.
 - (iv) Noise.
 - (v) Access.
- (g) Any childcare facility that provides for more than 4 children and up to a maximum of 30 children.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Effects on character and amenity values.
 - (ii) Location and characteristics of the site.
 - (iii) Traffic effects.
 - (iv) Parking effects.
 - (v) Noise.
- (h) Within 50m of the natural waterbody of a river or stream listed for Natural Hazard values in Schedule 5, the construction or addition to any building.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Risks from natural hazards and to public health and safety, including whether the activity would accelerate or worsen natural hazard risks.
 - (ii) Building location, design, floor level and ability to be relocated.
 - (iii) Changes to existing land contour and site reinstatement.
 - (iv) Potential to displace floodwaters onto adjoining properties and associated site drainage.
 - (v) Sewage disposal.
 - (vi) Effects on recreational values, public access and the natural and conservation values of the Significant Waterbody.
- (i) Within 30m of the natural waterbody of any river or stream listed in Schedule 5 with values other than natural hazards, the construction or addition to any building.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Effects of the proposed building on the values for which the significant waterbody has been identified in Schedule 5.
- (ii) Building location and design.

- (iii) Changes to existing land contour and site reinstatement.
- (iv) Potential to displace floodwaters onto adjoining properties and associated site drainage.
- (j) Any building within 500m of the Significant Waterbody of Lake Rotorangi, except for any buildings for the Patea Hydro Scheme, Lake Rotorangi Campground or Hawera Water Ski Club (500m setback is shown on the map in Natural Environment Appendix 1).

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Effects on natural character and landscape values, visual amenity, recreational values, cultural values, and quality of the environment.
- (k) Within the National Grid Yard, any earthworks and/or aggregate/soil extraction that does not comply with performance standards in Rule 3.2.14.1.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Impacts on the operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of the National Grid.
- (ii) Compliance with NZECP34:2001.
- (iii) Technical advice provided by Transpower.
- (iv) The risk to the structural integrity of the National Grid.
- (v) Any impact on the ability of the National Grid owner (Transpower) to access the National Grid.
- (vi) The risk of electrical hazards affecting public or individual safety, and the risk of property damage.
- (l) Any building within 20m of the secured yard of a National Grid substation.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) The extent to which the development may adversely affect the efficient operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the substation.
- (ii) The extent to which the proposed development design and layout enables appropriate separation distances between activities sensitive to National Grid lines and the substation.
- (iii) The results of any detailed investigations to determine appropriate separation distances between activities sensitive to National Grid lines and the substation.
- (iv) Any other measures proposed to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects, including reverse sensitivity effects, on the substation.
- (v) The risk of electrical hazards affecting public or individual safety, and the risk of property damage.
- (m) Additions to existing noise sensitive activities within the Outer Control Boundary (OCB) of Hawera Aerodrome shown on Planning Maps (Special Map 1).

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) The nature, size and scale of the proposed development.
- (ii) The internal noise environment of the proposed addition.
- (iii) The effects on the safe and efficient functioning and operation of Hawera Aerodrome.

- (n) Any building or aggregate/soil extraction within 100m of the Patea River.

Matters to which the Council restricts its discretion:

- (i) Effects on the cultural values and the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with the Patea River.
- (ii) Effects on public access, recreational values, natural character, landscape values, and visual amenity.

*[The Director General of Conservation appealed seeking a new restricted discretionary rule for the keeping of goats within 2 kilometres of Egmont National Park and the contiguous areas of land managed by the Department of Conservation]*¹

3.1.4 DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

- (a) Aggregate/Soil Extraction which does not meet one or more of the performance standards in Section 3.2.11, except within the National Grid Yard (refer Rule 3.1.3(k) or Rule 3.1.5(c)(vi)) or in the Coastal Protection Area (refer Rule 17.1.5(a)(i)).
- (b) Any industrial activity, other than those in existing buildings (refer Rule 3.1.3(c)).
- (c) Community activities which do not meet one or more Permitted Activity performance standards.
- (d) Any community activity designed to accommodate a maximum occupancy of more than 100 people within a building(s).
- (e) New camping grounds/motor camps or upgrades to existing camping grounds/motor camps.
- (f) Any childcare facility which provides for more than 30 children.
- (g) Commercial activities.
- (h) Entertainment activities.
- (i) Visitor accommodation
- (j) Wastewater treatment facilities.
- (k) Private function centres/facilities.
- (l) Any retail activity which occupies 500m² or less gross floor area.
- (m) Any activity that is not listed as a permitted, controlled, restricted discretionary, non-complying or prohibited activity.

3.1.5 NON-COMPLYING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Any retail activity which occupies more than 500m² gross floor area.
- (b) New noise sensitive activities within the Outer Control Boundary (OCB) of Hawera Aerodrome shown on Planning Maps (Special Map 1).

¹ Appeal – Director General of Conservation – ENV-2016-WLG-000075

- (c) Within the National Grid Yard:
- (i) Any new building or addition to an existing building for a sensitive activity.
 - (ii) Any change of use to a sensitive activity or the establishment of a new sensitive activity.
 - (iii) Dairy/milking sheds or buildings (excluding associated ancillary structures) intensive farm buildings, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* (PSA) structures, and commercial greenhouses.
 - (iv) Note: PSA is a bacterium that can result in the death of kiwifruit vines.
 - (v) Significant hazardous facilities.
 - (vi) Any building or structure not permitted by Rule 3.1.1 (z).
 - (vii) Earthworks and/or aggregate/soil extraction that does not comply with performance standards in Rule 3.2.14, points 2 or 3.

3.1.6 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

None.

3.2 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS - PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

The following performance standards shall apply to all permitted activities:

3.2.1 Number of Dwelling Units

1. The maximum number of dwellings units per site shall be:
 - (i) One dwelling unit per site under 20 hectares.
 - (ii) Two dwelling units per site between 20 – 40 hectares.
 - (iii) Three dwelling units per site between 40 – 60 hectares.
 - (iv) Four dwelling units per site over 60 hectares.
 Except that:
 - (v) Papakainga development is exempt from the above maximum number of dwellings units.

3.2.2 Bulk and Location

1. Buildings shall comply with the height and location requirements in Table 1.

Table 1: Height and Location Requirements

Type of activity	Minimum setback: State Highway
Dwelling unit, home occupation and other sensitive activities	20 m

Intensive farming buildings	75 m
Stock loading and unloading facilities	0 m
Dairy/Milking Sheds	10 m
Farm and other buildings	10 m

2. Buildings shall be contained within a building recession plane from points 3m above site boundaries as shown in Section 4: Residential Zone Appendix 1.

Except that:

- (i) The recession plane shall not apply to road boundaries.
 - (ii) Intensive farm buildings and stock unloading and unloading facilities are exempt from the Building Recession Plane requirements.
3. Within the Parihaka Cultural Area, the following standards shall apply to all permitted activities.

² Appeal – Fonterra Ltd – ENV-2016-WLG-000073

- (i) All buildings shall be located no closer than 5m to any road or other boundary.
- (ii) No part of any building shall extend more than 15m above natural ground level.
- (iii) The total gross floor area of all retail activities (excluding tourism related activities) within the Parihaka Cultural Area shall not exceed 400m².

Except as provided for above, marae and papakainga development shall comply with the standards set out in Rule 3.2.1.

Note: All buildings within the Parihaka Cultural Area are exempt from the performance standards in Section 3.2.1: Number of Dwelling units and the “additional setbacks/requirements” in Rule 3.2.2.1: Bulk and Location.

3.2.3 Home Occupations

1. The total floor area dedicated to home occupations on a site shall not exceed 50m².

3.2.4 Lighting

1. The spill of light from any outdoor artificial lighting shall not exceed 10 lux (measured horizontally and vertically) when measured at the boundary of a site zoned Residential in separate ownership, or at the notional boundary of an existing dwelling unit on a site in separate ownership in the Rural Zone.

3.2.5 Outdoor Storage

1. All areas used for the storage of goods, materials or waste products shall be maintained in a tidy condition and shall be screened from view from adjoining properties and from roads.

3.2.6 Odour

1. No activity shall result in offensive or objectionable odours to the extent that it causes an adverse effect at or beyond the boundary of the site in which the activity is located on.

Note 1: For the purpose of this performance standard, an offensive or objectionable odour is that odour which can be detected and is considered to be offensive or objectionable by at least two independent observers; including at least one Council officer. In determining whether an odour is offensive or objectionable, the “FIDOL factors” shall be considered (the frequency; the intensity; the duration; the offensiveness (or character); and the location of where the odour is measured (i.e. the sensitivity of the receiving environment)).

Note 2: This performance standard shall not apply if the discharge of odour is authorised by a discharge permit granted by the Regional Council.

3.2.7 Access and Rooding

1. All activities shall be provided with practicable vehicle access from a road, and on-site parking, manoeuvring areas and loading facilities in accordance with the permitted activity standards in Section 10: Parking and Transportation.

3.2.8 Flood Hazard Area

1. Any new dwelling unit to be located within the Flood Hazard Area shall be designed with a finished floor level above a 0.5% Annual Exceedance Period (1 in 200 year) flood event.

3.2.9 Forestry Planting

1. Forestry planting shall comply with the following setbacks:
 - (i) 15 m to any road or rail boundary.
 - (ii) 10 m to any site boundary in separate ownership.
 - (iii) 40 m from any existing dwelling unit on a site in separate ownership.
2. Forestry planting shall not be planted or allowed to grow in any position which could result in any icing of a road as a result of shading of the road surface between 10.00am and 2.00pm on the shortest day (refer to Rural Zone Appendix 1 for guidance).

Note: If there is a recorded archaeological site within 100 m of the vicinity of the proposed work, or if the presence of an archaeological site is suspected, the operator is advised to contact Heritage New Zealand for further information. Work that may modify or destroy any archaeological sites is subject to a consent process under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, separate to the District Plan consent requirements.

3.2.10 The keeping of goats within two (2) kilometres of Egmont National Park

1. The keeping of goats within 2km of Egmont National Park shall comply with the following standards:
 - (i) All goats shall be contained within areas with fencing erected and maintained in accordance with the following standards:
 - (a) Wire post-and-batten fence with no internal or external stays with a minimum of high tensile 2.5 mm diameter galvanised steel, and either have:
 - Nine wires, with the bottom wire placed no higher than 80 mm above ground level and, above that, wires placed at the following intervals: 100, 100, 100, 110, 120, 135, 150 and 165mm. The top wire should be approximately 50mm below the top of the post; or
 - Seven wires, with the bottom wire barbed, and no higher than 80mm above ground level and, above that, wires placed at the following intervals 100, 120, 140, 160, 210 and 250mm. The top wire should be approximately 50mm below the top of the post. An electric wire on an outrigger shall also extend for the full length of the fence.
 - (ii) Posts to be at the following intervals:
 - (a) Less than 30 degrees ground slope: 5m
 - (b) 30 degrees to less than 45 degrees: 4m
 - (c) 45 degrees or more: 3m
 - (iii) Battens to be at 1m intervals.

- (iv) Fences across water bodies shall require a floodgate to be constructed of H3 treated 100 mm x 50 mm timber suspended from an overhead wire or rail in such a way that the spacings will allow the passage of water but will not allow stock including goats to pass through. A cross-bar shall be positioned in the top third of the floodgate. Wire netting will not be used in floodgate construction. Flood gates across culverted watercourses shall be on the downstream side of the culvert.
2. All goats shall be individually tagged or marked with some form of identification with details of the owner.

3.2.11 Aggregate/Soil Extraction

1. Aggregate/Soil Extraction shall comply with the following standards:
- (i) Not exceed 1,000m³ of extracted material within any site per 12 month period.
Setbacks of:
 - (a) 150m from existing dwelling units, home occupations and sensitive activities on sites under separate ownership.
 - (b) 20m from identified heritage building/object in Schedule 1A, historic site or sites of significance to tangata whenua in Schedule 1B.
 - (c) 100m from Significant Natural Areas in Schedule 2.
 - (d) 100m from the Patea River.
 - (e) 50m from a Significant Waterbody in Schedule 5 identified with natural hazard values, and
 - (f) 30m from all other Significant Waterbodies in Schedule 5.
 - (ii) Not use blasting as a method of exploration or extraction unless a copy of the necessary licence obtained from Worksafe New Zealand has first been submitted to the Council, and at least 48 hours' notice has been given to all property owners and occupiers within a 1 km radius of the blasting site.
 - (iii) Provide landscaping and planting of at least 2 m depth at site boundaries where the extraction area is visible from a public road, public place, or any dwelling unit on a site in separate ownership.
 - (iv) Achieve compliance with Performance Standards 3.2.14 Earthworks in the National Grid Yard.
 - (v) All excavated and disturbed areas shall be progressively rehabilitated (except where otherwise used for permitted activities or provided for by resource consent conditions). Any planting (grass or other vegetation) shall take place as soon as practicable (within the next growing season) following the completion of the excavation activity.

Note: If there is a recorded archaeological site within 100 m of the vicinity of the proposed work, or if the presence of an archaeological site is suspected, the operator is advised to contact Heritage New Zealand for further information. Work that may modify or destroy any archaeological sites is subject to a consent process under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, separate to the District Plan consent requirements.

3.2.12 Hawera Aerodrome Protection Area

1. No building, mast, pole, other structure or tree shall penetrate the flight path protection plane, the transitional side slopes or the horizontal surface as shown on the Planning Maps (Special Map 1) and as defined in Appendices of the District Plan.
2. No road or railway shall be building above or within 4.6m vertically of the flight path protection plane, the transitional side slopes or the horizontal surface as shown on the Planning Maps (Special Map 1) and as defined in Appendices of the District Plan.

3.2.13 Activities on Surface of Rivers and Lakes

1. Activities on the surface of waterbodies:
 - (i) Shall be moored on the surface of a waterbody for less than a 12 month period, and shall dispose of all effluent onshore.
 - (ii) Shall not be commercial activities.
 - (iii) Shall comply with the maximum noise standards for the Rural Zone.

Note:

- (iv) Noise from motorcraft on waterbodies are exempt from the Noise standards in Section 11.
- (v) The Taranaki Regional Council Freshwater Plan manages all structures in, on, or under the beds of rivers and lakes, and the damming or diversion of any water.

3.2.14 Earthworks in the National Grid Yard

1. Earthworks shall be no deeper than 300mm within 12m of any National Grid support structure foundation.

Except that vertical holes not exceeding 500mm in diameter are exempt, provided they:

- (i) Are for a rural fence; and
 - (ii) Are at least 5m from the visible outer edge of a National Grid support structure foundation.
2. Earthworks and agricultural cultivation shall not compromise the stability of a National Grid support structure.
 3. Earthworks and agricultural cultivation shall not result in a reduction in the ground to conductor clearance distances below what is required by Table 4 of NZECP 34:2001 (Working near Power Lines).

The following are exempt from point 1 above:

- (i) Earthworks undertaken by a network utility operator (complying with NZECP 34:2001).
- (ii) Earthworks undertaken as part of normal rural cultivation, or repair, sealing or resealing of a road (including a farm track), footpath, or driveway.
- (iii) Earthworks that comply with the requirements in Clause 2.2.3 of the NZECP34:2001.

Note: Aggregate/Soil Extraction activities shall also comply with Performance Standards 3.2.14 Earthworks in the National Grid Yard.

3.2.15 Buildings and Structures in the National Grid Yard

Under the National Grid Conductors (wires)

1. All sites within any part of the National Grid Yard, buildings and structures shall:
 - (i) If they are for a sensitive activity, not involve an increase in the building height or footprint where alterations and additions to existing buildings occur, or
 - (ii) Be a fence which is either:
 - (a) Less than 2.5m high and at least 5 m from the nearest support structure.
 - (b) Located within 5m of a support structure where Transpower has given written approval in accordance with clause 2.3.3 of the NZECP 34:2001 (Working near Power Lines); or
 - (iii) Be a network utility (excluding buildings and structures for dams and irrigation schemes)
 - (iv) Be an uninhabitable farm building or structure for farming activities (but not a milking/dairy shed (excluding ancillary structures), *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* (PSA) Structures, or intensive farming buildings); or
 Note: PSA is a bacterium that can result in the death of kiwifruit vines.
 - (v) Be an uninhabited horticultural building or structure other than a commercial greenhouse or intensive farming building.
2. All buildings or structures permitted by point 1 above shall comply with at least one of the following standards:
 - (i) A minimum vertical clearance of 10 m below the lowest point of the conductor associated with National Grid lines; or
 - (ii) Demonstrate that safe electrical clearance distances required by NZECP 34:2001 (Working near Power Lines) are maintained under all National Grid line operating conditions.

Around National Grid Support structures

3. Buildings and structures shall be at least 12m from a National Grid support structure unless it is a:
 - (i) Network utility (excluding buildings and structures for dams or irrigation); or
 - (ii) A fence which is either:
 - (a) Less than 2.5m high and at least 5m from the nearest support structure; or
 - (b) Located within 5m of a support structure where Transpower has given written approval in accordance with clause 2.3.3 of the NZECP 34:2001.
 - (iii) Horticultural structure between 8m and 12m from a single pole support structure that:
 - (a) Meets the requirements of the NZECP 34:2001 (Working near Power Lines) for separation distances from the conductor;
 - (b) Is no more than 2.5m high;

- (c) Is removable or temporary, to allow a clear working space 12 m from the pole when necessary for maintenance and emergency repair purposes; and
 - (d) Allows all weather access to the pole and a sufficient area for maintenance equipment, including a crane.
- (iv) A new horticultural structure or uninhabitable farm building or structure (excluding milking/dairy sheds and intensive farming buildings) where Transpower has given written approval in accordance with clause 2.4.1 of NZECP 34:2001 (Working near Power Lines) to be located within 12m of a tower or 8m of a pole support structure.

Advice Notes

Note: Vegetation to be planted near electricity lines (including the National Grid) should be selected and/or managed to ensure that it will not result in that vegetation breaching the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.

Note: The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001) contains restrictions on the location of structures and activities in relation to telecommunications and electricity lines (including the National Grid). Compliance with the permitted activity standards of the Plan does not ensure compliance with the NZECP 34:2001.

Notification Statement

Where an activity requires resource consent solely because it is within a National Grid Yard, or within 20m of a National Grid substation then the application need not be publicly notified and need not be served on any affected person apart from Transpower New Zealand Limited who will be considered an affected person.

3.3 Rural Zone Appendix 1: Sunchart for Forestry Planting (Performance Standard 3.2.9)

