

## **STANDARD FOR KEEPING STOCK (Excluding Pigs)**

**(See General Bylaw, Control of Stock, Poultry & Bees 2019)**

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Stock means sheep, goats, horses, cattle, deer, llamas, rabbits, emus and ostriches and any other animal herded, mustered or handled in the manner of a farm animal or kept within a fence or enclosure for farming or grazing.

To keep livestock you need to understand:

- Responsible animal ownership including the welfare needs of the animal (i.e. food, water, shelter).
- The type of property suitable.

**You will need to apply to Council for a permit to keep stock. The minimum requirements for keeping stock are overleaf.**

### **STANDARD FOR KEEPING STOCK IN THE DISTRICT**

Depending on the size and suitability of your property, you need to consider:

- Fencing/Housing & Drainage for intended purpose.
- Waste disposal control.
- How to limit potential nuisances.
- An adequate supply of pasture and/or hard feed must be available to meet the nutritional needs of the stock.

Responsible ownership is important for ensuring animals do not create a nuisance or a health concern to neighbours.

### **STANDARD FOR BEDDING AND SLEEPING AREAS**

- Where applicable, bedding and sleeping areas should be kept clean and dry.
- Lined with hay, untreated wood chips, sawdust, or shredded newspaper.
- Cleaned at least on a weekly basis and all old bedding removed from the property weekly.

### **VERMIN**

Leaving food on the ground can often attract rats and mice.

You can prevent this by using vermin proof receptacles. These also keep out the rain and provide stock with good access to food.

Once vermin find an accessible food supply, they will continue to return; leaving excrement that can contaminate animal feed and water. This also exposes you and your neighbours to the diseases that rats and mice carry.

It is your responsibility to keep your property clean to minimise potential smells and health problems for both livestock and people. This is a requirement of the Health Act 1956.

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## **STOCK IMPOUNDING**

If stock is found wandering on the berm, road, public or private property (other than permitted property) Council may impound it. The owner must pay a fee for the release of impounded stock and a property check will be undertaken before the stock is released. If repairs are needed to the property these shall be carried out before the release.

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR KEEPING STOCK**

1. Horses / Cattle and other large grazing animals may be kept on any vacant section with no dwelling house which is at least one acre (0.4 hectares) in size per animal.
2. Goats must have adequate shelter.
3. As a guideline, the minimum standard of construction for fencing should be a top wire or rail not less than 1.5 metres from the ground, at least 6 galvanised wires or equivalent and a bottom wire or rail not more than 125mm from the ground, so that any horizontal gaps are no wider than 145mm. Wire fences should be properly strained and battened and all fences need to have sturdy posts, securely rammed. Gates must be lockable and of solid hinged construction (i.e. not 'Taranaki' style).

Fencing is also subject to the provisions of the General Bylaw Part 2: Public Places.

4. Access to reticulated water supply must be available for the stock at all times. A backflow prevention device is required to be fitted to the supply line to stop water supply contamination. Where an authorized officer determines extraordinary usage of water, the landowner shall be required to install a water meter.