

WHEN YOU NEED RESOURCE CONSENT

Resource consent is required if:

- Willow tree roots are removed by mechanical methods.
- River channels are modified or realigned.
- Structures (e.g. rock armouring) are installed.
- Earthworks exceed permitted thresholds.
- Works occur within protected indigenous vegetation areas.
- Flood capacity could be reduced.



OTHER PEST SPECIES

For advice on control methods for other pest species, please contact Council's Biosecurity team on 03 543 8400 or email biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz

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Need advice?



Planning work in or around a river, stream or waterway?

Getting advice early can help ensure your proposed works meet the rules and avoid problems later.

Whether you're repairing flood damage, managing erosion, moving sediment, planting streambanks, or considering other works in a river, Council can help you understand the appropriate pathway.

Simply contact Council on **03 543 8400** and ask to lodge a service request for Rivers, or email rivers@tasman.govt.nz.

We'll connect you with the right person, help assess your situation, and guide you through any approvals that may be required.



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RULE INTERPRETATION GUIDE 6

Guidance for rivers, streams and waterways

REMOVAL OF WILLOWS OR ERADICATION OR PROGRESSIVE CONTAINMENT PLANTS

This guidance explains when willow removal is permitted, what other Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) rules may apply and what good practice looks like.

Always refer to the TRMP for the full and exact rule wording or speak with Council if unsure.

Willows can spread into the active river bed from where they were planted on the bank. In some small rivers they can choke the channel, while in others they grow on gravel islands and trap sediment, making these areas more stable and stopping the river from shifting naturally. This can restrict flow and increase flood and erosion risk.

Removing willows helps keep the river flowing properly and creates space for native plants and habitat to recover.



WHAT WORK IS PERMITTED BY THIS RULE?

You may remove pest plants that require eradication or progressive containment, as well as grey or crack willow. However, don't use machinery to pull out willow roots. *Rule 28.1.6.1(d)(vi)*

This means:

- You may remove above-ground parts of grey willow and crack willow.
- You may remove pest plants classified as eradication or progressive containment species (defined in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan).
- You must not remove willow tree roots using mechanical methods (e.g. diggers, excavators, stump grinders).

If you comply with this condition, the activity is permitted under that rule.

WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE

- ✓ Cutting, poisoning, or manually removing grey or crack willow is permitted. Seek additional TRMP guidance on the use of herbicides in and around waterways.
- ✗ Mechanical root extraction (for example, pulling out root balls with machinery) is not permitted under this rule. If mechanical root removal is proposed, contact Council for advice.

OTHER TRMP RULES THAT MAY ALSO APPLY

Even if willow removal itself is permitted, other TRMP rules may still apply depending on how the work is carried out.

You must also consider:

A. Works in the bed of a river

If machinery enters the riverbed, or works occur within the active channel, river works rules apply.

Activities must not:

- Divert or dam the river
- Reduce channel capacity
- Cause erosion or scour
- Cause significant deposition

If these effects occur, resource consent may be required.

B. Earthworks

If removal involves excavation, bank reshaping or soil disturbance beyond permitted limits, then TRMP earthworks rules apply. Volume, area, and proximity limits must be met.

C. Discharge of sediment

Sediment entering water from disturbed banks must not exceed permitted discharge levels and if these levels are exceeded, a resource consent may be required.



D. Indigenous vegetation

If willow removal occurs in areas containing protected indigenous vegetation (such as a Significant Natural Area) or natural wetlands, additional rules apply.

E. Flood hazard areas

Works must not increase flood risk or reduce flood-carrying capacity.

GOOD PRACTICE

The TRMP sets minimum legal standards. The following practices reduce erosion risk and protect river health.

Plan removal carefully

- Understand why removal is needed (erosion, flooding, channel blockage).
- Consider staged removal rather than clearing entire reaches at once.
- Assess potential downstream impacts.

Manage debris

- Remove felled trees from floodways.
- Prevent material from re-entering the channel.
- Dispose of or mulch material appropriately.

Avoid bank instability

Rapid removal of mature willow stands can cause:

- Bank collapse
- Channel widening
- Sediment release

Good practice includes:

- Leaving root systems intact (as required by the rule).
- Phased removal over several seasons.
- Replant with more suitable species promptly.

Replant with appropriate species

Willow removal exposes banks.

Best practice:

- Replant with species that meet both the intended purpose and the place of planting. While natives are preferred, non-invasive exotics may provide necessary front line erosion defence.
- Use species adapted to flood-prone environments.
- Establish vegetation early to maintain bank stability.

Timing

Undertake works:

- During low-flow periods.
- Outside fish spawning seasons where possible.
- When soils are not saturated.

