

Ngā Ture ā-Rohe Tōpu o Wairarapa

Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw

Wāhanga Rima: Te Tiaki
Kararehe, Kikomanu me ngā Pī

Part Five: Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees

Timatanga | Commencement

The Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw came into force throughout the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa Districts on 1 November 2025.

Whakaae | Adoption

Date	Summary of Amendments	Adopted By
14 August 2013	Consolidated Bylaw 2012: Parts One to Eighteen	Masterton District Council
31 July 2013	Consolidated Bylaw 2012: Parts One to Six, Parts 8 and 9, Parts Eleven to Sixteen	South Wairarapa District Council
26 June 2019	Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019: Part Six – Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees	Masterton District Council Carterton District Council South Wairarapa District Council
8 October 2025	Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw: Part Five - Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees	Masterton District Council Carterton District Council South Wairarapa District Council

Arotakenga | Review

The Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw is next due for review by November 2030. If not reviewed by this date, the Bylaw will revoke in November 2032 in accordance with section 160A of the Local Government Act 2002.

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Tuhinga Pāhekoheko | Referenced Documents

Reference is made in this document to the following legislation:

- Animal Products Act 1999
- Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Health Act 1956
- Impounding Act 1955
- Local Government Act 2002
- Veterinarians Act 2005

Reference is made in this document to the following other documents:

- Wairarapa Combined District Plan

Kupu Takamua | Foreword

Part Five is made under sections 145 and 146 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 64(1)(m) of the Health Act 1956.

If any provision of this Part is inconsistent with Part One – Introductory, then the provisions of this Part prevail.

1. Aronga me te Pūtake | Scope and Purpose

- 1.1. Part Five regulates the keeping of Animals in a way that minimises Nuisance and the risk to public health and safety.

Explanatory Note:

Part Five supplements other Animal owner obligations, including but not limited to, those set out in the Animal Welfare Act 1999, any codes developed under such legislation, and those in Council plans and other bylaws.

As at the date the Bylaw comes into force, the control of Animals in Public Places in Wairarapa is regulated by Part Two - Public Places (including Parks and Reserves) of the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw and the control of dogs is regulated by the Control of Dogs Policies and Bylaws of the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils for their respective districts.

The Wairarapa Combined District Plan also contains controls relating to resource management issues such as intensive farming, the keeping of goats, and requirements for the housing and keeping of Animals in confinement.

2. Kuputaka | Definitions

Refer to the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw: Part One - Introductory for any definitions not included in this Part.

- 2.1. The following definitions are applicable to Part Five:

Apiary: has the meaning given to it under section 2(1) of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998.

Beehive: has the meaning given to it under section 2 (1) of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998.

Dwelling: means any house, tent, Vehicle or other structure, whether permanent or temporary, and whether attached to the soil or not, used in whole or in part for human habitation and includes the land of the dwelling.

Excrement: means waste matter discharged from the bowels.

Feral Animal: means an Animal that may be descended from domesticated species but is existing in a wild untamed state and has none of its needs met

by humans. Feral Animals generally do not live around centres of human habitation.

Flight Path: means the distinct route taken by many bees leaving from or returning to their Beehive.

Honey Bee: has the meaning given to it under section 2(1) of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998.

Owner: means every Person who:

- a. owns the Animal; or
- b. is the parent or guardian of a Person under the age of 17 years who:
 - i. is the Owner under paragraph (a) of this definition; and
 - ii. is a member of the parent or guardian's household living with and dependent on the parent or guardian.

Poultry: means any live domesticated or farmed bird farmed for their meat and/or eggs including but not limited to chickens, quail, fowl, goose, duck, pigeon, turkey, pheasant, peacock, ostrich, guinea fowl, or emu.

Poultry Enclosure: means a structure suitable for housing Poultry, including but not limited to a Poultry house, mobile Poultry cage, Poultry run.

Premises: means any private land that is occupied or unoccupied.

Slaughter: means the process of killing, skinning and dismemberment, the retention of any parts of use, and disposal of the balance. "Slaughtering" has a corresponding meaning.

Stock: has the meaning given to it under the Impounding Act 1955 and may also include donkeys, alpaca, and llama.

3. Te Tiakina o ngā Kararehe | General Keeping of Animals

3.1. Every Person keeping an Animal must ensure:

- a) that the Animal does not cause a Nuisance to any other Person;
- b) that the Animal does not cause a risk to public health and safety;
- c) that the Animal is kept in conditions that do not cause a Nuisance to any other Person or do not cause a risk to public health and safety (including, but not limited to, the attraction of flies, insects or vermin);
- d) that the Excrement from the Animal does not accumulate to the point of causing a Nuisance or a risk to public health and safety and that the Excrement is disposed of in a manner that does not cause a Nuisance;

- e) the Animal is caged or otherwise confined within the boundaries of the Premises where the Animal is usually kept (noting that this does not apply to cats, bees, pigeons, and doves) and does not prevent a Person from driving, leading or riding any Animal.

4. Te Tiaki Ngeru | Keeping of Cats

- 4.1. Written approval by an Authorised Officer is required to keep more than three cats aged three months or older on any property located in an Urban Area for a period exceeding 14 days.

5. Te Tiaki Kikomanu | Keeping of Poultry

- 5.1. In Masterton and Carterton Districts, Poultry kept in an Urban Area must be confined in a Poultry Enclosure or not confined within a Poultry Enclosure, but allowed to roam within the boundaries of the Owner's or Occupier's property. To clarify, the Owner or Occupier must prevent the Poultry from wandering beyond the property boundary.
- 5.2. In South Wairarapa District, Poultry kept in an Urban Area must be confined in a Poultry Enclosure.
- 5.3. Written approval by an Authorised Officer is required to keep more than 12 Poultry in an Urban Area.
- 5.4. All Poultry kept in an Urban Area must have access to a Poultry Enclosure that is maintained in good repair and includes an area covered with a waterproof roof with a floor of concrete, wood or other suitable material.
- 5.5. A Poultry Enclosure must not be erected or maintained within:
 - a) two metres of any boundary of an adjoining property; or
 - b) 10 metres of a Dwelling location on an adjoining property.
- 5.6. No roosters are to be kept in an Urban Area.

6. Te Tiaki Pī Miere | Keeping of Honey Bees

- 6.1. Beehives must be positioned to ensure the primary Flight Path does not interfere with a Dwelling on an adjoining property.
- 6.2. Beehives must not be placed within:
 - a) two metres of any boundary of an adjoining property; or
 - b) 10 metres of a Dwelling located on an adjoining property.
- 6.3. Except with written approval by an Authorised Officer, the maximum number of Beehives allowed on any property in an Urban Area is:

Property Area	Maximum number of Beehives
Up to 700m ²	2
701 m ² to 1000 m ²	4
1001 m ² to 2000 m ²	6
2001m ² or greater	8

- 6.4. An Authorised Officer may prescribe conditions relating to the location and number of Beehives able to be kept on any property in a Rural Area.

Explanatory Note:

Any Person that keeps Honey Bees in New Zealand is legally required under the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998 to register any Apiary. Registrations are processed through The Management Agency, National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan, through its online platform HiveHub. See the Ministry of Primary Industries website www.mpi.govt.nz and www.afb.org.nz for further advice.

7. Te Tiaki Waerenga | Keeping of Stock

- 7.1. Any Person keeping Stock must ensure that it is confined within the boundaries of the land it is being kept or grazed on by stock-proof fencing of a standard that, in the opinion of an Authorised Officer, is sufficient to effectively contain it and prevent its escape.
- 7.2. No pigs are to be kept in an Urban Area.

Explanatory Note:

Section 19.7 of Part Two – Public Places (including Parks and Reserves) of the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw contains provisions relating to the grazing of Stock on road verges in a Rural Area.

Section 353 of the Local Government Act 1974 imposes a general duty on Councils to take all sufficient precautions for the general safety of the public, traffic and road workers. In particular, if the land next to a road does not have a fence or proper barrier, the Council can order the owner or occupant to build one to the satisfaction of the Council, to ensure public safety.

8. Te Kohuru Waerenga | Slaughtering of Stock or Poultry

- 8.1. Any Person who Slaughters Stock or Poultry must do so in a way that, in the opinion of an Enforcement Officer, does not create a Nuisance or risk to public health and safety and is not offensive to any Person.

- 8.2. Any Person who slaughters Stock or Poultry must dispose of the waste or remains from the Stock or Poultry in such a way that, in the opinion of an Enforcement Officer, does not create a Nuisance or risk to public health and safety, and is not offensive to any Person.
- 8.3. If the Slaughtering of Stock or Poultry in any Urban Area is likely to be in the view of or audible by any Person (including from inside a Dwelling), then:
- Adequate screening (that is adequate in the opinion of an Enforcement Officer) must be provided around the Slaughtering site; and
 - The screening must be sufficient in height and size to cut out the line of sight by any such Persons so as to prevent the Slaughtering from being seen.

Explanatory Note:

It is an offence under the Health Act 1956 to leave Animals or Animal carcasses in a state where they are offensive or injurious to health. It is an offence under the Resource Management Act 1991 to contaminate waterways with Animal remains.

- 8.4. Stock or Poultry must not be Slaughtered, or their waste or remains must not be disposed of, in a Public Place.
- 8.5. Clauses 8.1 to 8.4 do not apply to:
- a veterinarian as defined under section 4 of the Veterinarians Act 2005;
 - an animal welfare inspector appointed under section 124(1) or section 124(2) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 carrying out their role under that Act; or
 - a person complying with the Animal Products Act 1999 where the animal is slaughtered and processed in a Premises with a registered risk management plan.

9. Kararehe Mate | Dead Animals

- 9.1. A person must not permit, or allow to remain, any dead Animal, Animal part, or offal on any private property, land, Premises or Public Place.
- 9.2. When buried in the ground, every part of the Animal is to be at least 0.5 metres below the existing ground level and covered with not less than 0.5 metres of compacted fill material.

Explanatory Note:

Section 9.1 does not apply to any dead Animal, Animal part, or offal that has been disposed of appropriately, including but not limited to, through burial or an offal pit on a property in a Rural Area for the purposes of disposing of a dead Animal or Animal part from that property which complies with the regional plan. See the Greater Wellington Regional Council Natural Resources Plan for further information www.gw.govt.nz.

10. Kararehe Mohoao | Feral Animals

- 10.1. An Owner or Occupier of a property must not feed or provide sustenance to any Feral Animal in a manner that, in the opinion of an Enforcement Officer, causes a Nuisance or a risk to the health and safety of any other Persons.

Explanatory Note:

Animal rescue activities in the community are permitted unless they encourage Feral Animals to cause a Nuisance of health and safety risk to other persons.

11. Te Kore Whai Ture | Non-Compliance

- 11.1. If an Enforcement Officer considers a Person has breached Part Five, they may issue a written notice requiring the Person keeping the Animal, or the Owner or Occupier of the property, to undertake necessary actions within a specified time to comply. Actions may include reducing the number of Animals, removing certain Animals, and relocating Beehives or Animal enclosures.
- 11.2. A Person issued with a written notice under clause 11.1 must comply with the notice.
- 11.3. An Enforcement Officer may undertake inspections to determine compliance with Part Five and charge an inspection fee. Refer to Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part One - Introductory (Section 13) for further details of Fees and Charges.

12. Ngā Hara me ngā Hāmene | Offences and Penalties

- 12.1. Any person who breaches Part Five commits an offence and may be liable, on conviction, to a penalty under section 242 of the LGA or a penalty under section 66 of the Health Act 1956. Refer to Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2025 Part One - Introductory (Section 15.2) for details of what constitutes a breach of Part Five.

Explanatory Note:

As at the date the Bylaw comes into force, a Person who is convicted of an offence against Part Five is liable on conviction to:

- a fine not exceeding \$20,000 in accordance with section 242 of the LGA;
- a fine not exceeding \$500 in accordance with section 66 of the Health Act 1956, and in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding \$50 for every day on which the offence has continued.