

## Intensive Winter Grazing Regulations Changes

The Government has announced changes to the regulations for Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG) following feedback on the National Environment Standard for Freshwater Management released in 2020. These apply from 01 November 2022. This means any winter crops you plan to sow in spring for grazing during winter of 2023 need to consider the new provisions.

### What is the Criteria?

IWG is a permitted activity provided that:

- You carried out IWG between 01 July 2014 and 30 June 2019
- The intended IWG area is no more than 50ha or 10% of the farm area, whichever is greater, **and** no more than the maximum area used for IWG between 2014-19
- The slope of the paddock is less than 10 degrees measured over any 20m distance - we can provide a map of your farm showing this detail
- Livestock are kept at least 5m away from waterways (river, lake, wetland or drain) - sub-surface drains are now excluded
- New Requirement:** Grazing must not occur in critical source areas (CSA). A critical source area is defined as a landscape feature such as a gully, swale or depression that accumulates runoff from adjacent land, and delivers **or has the potential to deliver** one or more contaminants to a river, lake, wetland or drain or their beds, **regardless of whether they have water in them at the time**. The areas you currently or historically use for IWG may be limited further. Note that water does not need to flow or accumulate to meet the definition, and the management and cultivation of CSA when working through a re-grassing programme will require specific consideration. Vegetation must be maintained as ground cover over all CSA, and that vegetation must not include any cultivation or harvesting of annual crops.

### What Evidence do I need to show I am meeting the Criteria?

Industry guidance is expected to be released later in the year. We suggest it could include evidence of:

- Observation and monitoring of soil conditions
- Minimising impact on soil structure through on/off grazing
- Back fencing
- Altering paddocks or ends of the paddock
- Putting straw or bedding material down to reduce impact of cows pacing
- Regular breaks and bigger feeding faces
- Weather forecasting
- Implementing your Winter Management Plan

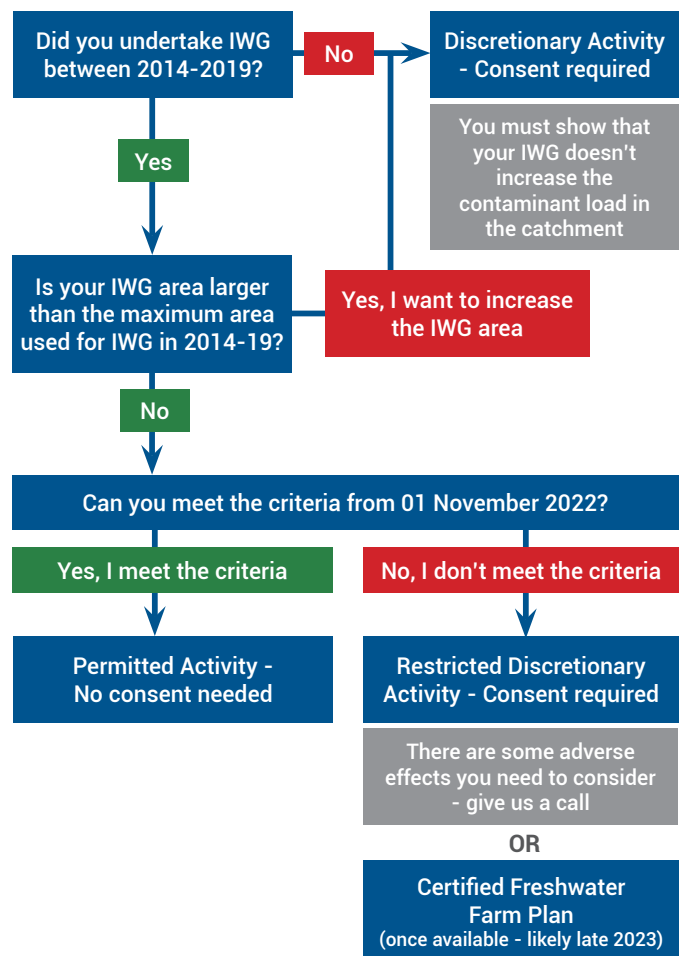
Evidence could take the form of photos, diary entries, meeting notes, or screenshots of text messages.

### Definition of Intensive Winter Grazing

IWG regulations apply to any forage crop that is grazed where it is grown (in situ), for all livestock classes, between 01 May - 30 September.

It does not include pasture or a crop grown for arable or horticultural land use. This exempts crops such as maize or grain, along with any beet you may lift and feed out.

### Do I meet the Criteria?



In addition to the criteria, you need to take all reasonable steps to minimise pugging, and resow the paddock as soon as practicable after livestock have finished grazing. It is not possible to obtain a consent to exempt you from these requirements.

Questions? Contact AIC's Environmental Advisor:



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