

The Water Supply Agreement places restrictions on the activities which Farmers, their teams and contractors can undertake within Easement Land, to protect Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC) infrastructure. Certain activities require prior written approval from AIC.

## Pasture and Seasonal Crops

Farmers can cultivate Easement land containing underground infrastructure (i.e., pipelines) for pasture and seasonal crops using normal on-farm practices without fear of damaging the pipe as 900mm of material was reinstated over the pipelines providing sufficient cover to allow this work.

Planting fodder crops for winter grazing along waterways, including the open race, should be done in line with Good Management Practice and include a buffer strip beyond the riparian margin, i.e., an additional buffer strip will be required beyond the side of the open race.

## Building Activities and Improvements

The default position is to decline requests for construction of permanent structures on Easement Land. Replacement of AIC infrastructure, particularly large GRP pipe, has been anticipated in determining the width of the easement and this may not be possible without damaging structures above it.

An exception may be made if sufficient information is provided to show that the structure or improvement will have minimal impact on future AIC operations.

## Excavation

Any work within Easement Land which disturbs the ground below plough depth (typically 200mm bgl) is a potential risk to AIC's buried pipelines. Excavation, trenching, mole ploughing, ripping, subsoiling and post and warratah driving all require approval.

AIC holds survey equipment which can accurately locate underground infrastructure and offers this service free of charge to landowners at their request.

## Perennial, Shelterbelt and Riparian Planting

Please refer to AIC's *Factsheet: Planting on Easement Land* for lists of plants which are automatically approved by AIC for planting on Easement Land.

These lists outline the species that can be planted over top of and across the full width of the easement corridor, and the species that can be planted within the easement corridor subject to the condition that they are not planted within 5m of the pipeline. We can mark out this pipeline offset on request.

Specific approval from AIC is required for species not included in our published lists. In these instances, our default position will be to decline the request unless sufficient information is provided that the species poses an insignificant risk to AIC infrastructure.

Planting along open races and around aboveground infrastructure requires individual consideration and approval.

All planting on Easement Land is at the risk of the Farmer. We cannot guarantee the survival of any planting within the corridor as they may be damaged during infrastructure repair or maintenance activity.

## Definition of Easement Land

Easement Land (sometimes referred to as the easement corridor) refers to a 30m wide strip or 15m buffer zone around AIC infrastructure.

For pipelines and open races, this is 15m from the pipe or race centre point. For aboveground infrastructure (e.g., pump stations) it is a 15m buffer zone around the exterior of the footprint of the infrastructure. For ponds, the surveyed footprint has been calculated to protect the integrity of the infrastructure and may exceed 15m.

## Obtaining Approval for Activities on Easement Land

Farmers must submit a request for approval to AIC in advance of any work commencing. Submissions can be sent to [operations@amuriirrigation.co.nz](mailto:operations@amuriirrigation.co.nz).

We will provide an initial response within two working days of receipt.

The following information should be included:

- Location of the intended work (ideally a marked up plan, aerial photograph or Google Earth screenshot)
- Description of the activity/Scope of Works with any associated plans or drawings
- Proposed timing
- Health & Safety control measures to mitigate risk
- List of intended contractors involved (if any)

Written approval will only be provided once we are comfortable the risk to AIC assets can be appropriately managed.

We may impose conditions on the work depending on the nature, timing and location of the work to be undertaken. In some instances, modifications to the proposed activity may be required to minimise the risk to AIC infrastructure.

We may require an AIC representative to stand over work during critical aspects, or when risk of striking the pipe is present; or monitor any imposed conditions while undertaking our regular operational and maintenance duties.

It is likely that we will need to mark the pipe location prior to any work commencing.

## Undertaking Work without Approval

If AIC becomes aware of any activity that has not been authorised and may pose a threat to AIC infrastructure, we will immediately ask the Farmer to cease that activity. It will be registered as a near miss incident which will trigger the requirement for an internal health and safety investigation.

The outcome of that investigation will be reported to the AIC Board as a breach of the Water Supply Agreement, and may result in the on-charging of any costs incurred by AIC for the repair of damage to our infrastructure.