

Selwyn District Council is responsible for the maintenance and operation of council classified drains within its Drainage Districts and recovers the cost of the maintenance work by way of a targeted rate levy on properties in the district.

The primary function of the land drainage network is to drain land. The Selwyn District Council also promotes, where appropriate, the enhancement of drains to increase biodiversity. There are ten classified Land Drainage Districts of which the majority are located in the Lincoln/Leeston area with the Hororata River Drainage Area being associated with a section of the Hororata River adjacent to the Hororata Township. The classified drains are either located within private land or on Council road reserve. Within each classified drain district are private drains which are the responsibility of the surrounding or adjoining landowners.

Responsibilities for land drainage use and maintenance are determined by the Local Government Act, Land Drainage Act and Selwyn District Council policies. Selwyn District Council is responsible for the cleaning of the classified drains. Environment Canterbury is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Halswell drainage district.

Selwyn District Council tries to make contact with landowners prior to entering a property however, this is not always possible and you may see drain maintenance work being undertaken on your property. If it is imperative for us to make contact with you prior to undertaking maintenance work in the future, please contact the Council so that we can record your contact details. See the back page for contact details.

Policies and schedules listing the classified drains can be read on the Selwyn District Council website [www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz) or paper copies are available at all Selwyn District Council centres.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LANDOWNER

### ACCESS

Access is required for cleaning the classified drains that run through or adjacent to landowner property. This includes gates in boundary and internal fences and in fence lines beside drains, ensuring fences are an appropriate distance from the drain; and that trees, hedges, and other vegetation do not impede access or the ability of people or machinery to enter the drain.

Landowners may not fence, plant trees, or erect structures within 7.5m of a classified drain without Selwyn District Council's approval. This preserves access for drain maintenance. All other drains that are not part of the classified drain network are the responsibility of the surrounding or adjoining landowners.

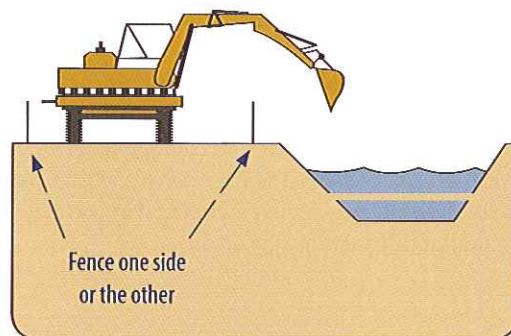


Diagram of how to provide access for maintenance.

Provide good access ways between your fences and drains.



### GOOD MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Prevention is always better than cure, so the best strategy is to manage drains to reduce the need for maintenance, which helps to keep your rates down.

Good management practices to reduce the need for drain maintenance include:

- Reduce stock damage to drains. This is best achieved by fencing drains.
- Where permanent fencing isn't practical, use a single electric wire to stop cattle from crossing or entering the drain.
- Ensure good access to drains so they're easy to get to for cleaning. This includes putting in gateways in drain fences, and maintaining vegetation.
- If you need to trim vegetation around a drain, remember to remove the trimmings from the drain.
- If you would like to undertake planting, you will need to contact the Council to ensure this is appropriate on your drain.

#### Vehicles using this access way include:

- light vehicles
- tractors
- dragline or excavators
- spray trucks or tip trucks

Shading the water's edge means reduce weeds entering the drain.







*An example of a clean, spring fed drain*

## CULVERTS/BRIDGES

All bridges and culverts over or in the classified drains are the responsibility of the landowner whose access is over the classified drain. When they need to be replaced, it is the landowner's responsibility.

Approval is required for the installation of a culvert or bridge across a Selwyn District Council classified drain. The structure owner is responsible for ensuring that the structure is maintained at all times so that it does not restrict the flow or cause scour to the bed or banks of the drain and does not impede the drain.

## STOCK

Stock can cause damage to drains and may significantly reduce the effectiveness of the scheme by causing bank instability and drain siltation. This reduces drain capacity and increases maintenance costs. The landowner is responsible for ensuring drains are not damaged by stock.

All large animals cause  
waterway damage.



## CONTACT DETAILS

*For drain maintenance matters,  
contact the Selwyn District Council helpline:*

Telephone: 03 347 2800

Fax: 03 347 2799

PO Box 90  
2 Norman Kirk Drive,  
Rolleston 7643, Canterbury

## RECEIVING ENVIRONMENTS

Drains can impact on the receiving environments they empty into. Drains can be a vehicle to transport sediments, nutrients and bacteria into streams, drains and lakes. In order to protect these environments including ecological and cultural values of the drains themselves, it is important that appropriate management practices are employed. Drains can hold plants and animals that are significant and rare elsewhere in Canterbury and New Zealand.

## SPRAYING

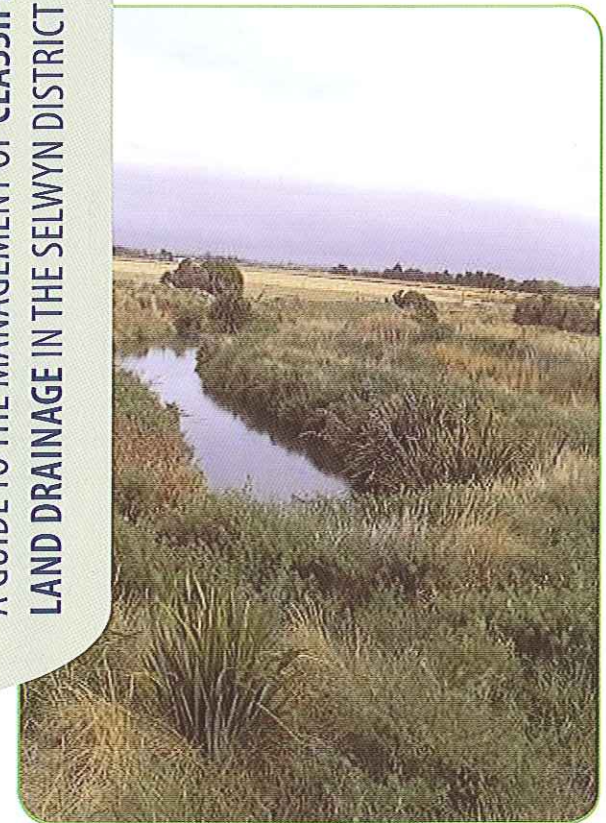
This activity requires a Resource consent from Environment Canterbury. Selwyn District Council holds a consent for the spraying of noxious weeds around the Council classified drains only. Drains should only be sprayed for noxious weeds as vegetation provides stability to the drain banks.

## DRAINAGE COMMITTEES

The ten land drainage areas are managed through Drainage Committees. These committees are very proactive in the operation and management of the individual schemes.

The names of the land drainage committee members are available on the Selwyn District Council website. Members can be contacted to discuss concerns that you may have regarding the land drainage areas.

## A GUIDE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF CLASSIFIED LAND DRAINAGE IN THE SELWYN DISTRICT



*Working together to benefit you, your waterways and Selwyn*