

Authorised Land Use

Frequently Asked Questions

Our new discharge consent was granted on 13 May 2021. Our new consent requires us to meet nitrogen reduction targets in 2025 and 2030, as well as hold us to account if there is on-going deterioration to water quality in our catchment.

We know we can achieve our nitrogen reduction targets if farm systems remain at their current intensity and adopt Advanced Mitigation. Increasing farm intensity without implementing mitigations can make it more difficult for all shareholders to comply with our consent, so it is important all shareholders have clarity on what their existing farm system actually is and what intensification means to them.

What is an Authorised Land Use?

We have developed an Authorised Land Use (ALU) which describes your permitted farm system and identifies the intensification activities at high risk of having effects on the environment. If you want to start to undertake or expand these activities, you will first need to seek permission from MHV Water through the Farm Activity Variation Application (FAVA) process. In some instances, you may also require resource consent from Environment Canterbury.

What information is used to set the Authorised Land Use?

The ALU is determined using the information you have provided us through your FEP updates and Overseer nutrient budgets over the 2014-2020 period or which have been approved via a FAVA. The period that defines the ALU aligns with the 'reference period' in the Government's Essential Freshwater Package and our proposed resource consent conditions.

What will an Authorised Land Use be used for?

The ALU describes the farm system you can operate within without seeking permission from MHV Water. When you are audited, you will need to show the auditor data to confirm your farm system is still within these parameters. Potential purchasers or leases of a property also need to understand these limitations as they will need to run a similar farm system when they take over the property. You will **not** need to demonstrate your nitrogen losses are less than the Nitrogen Discharge Allowance (NDA) in your audit.

My Authorised Land Use is inaccurate, can I change it?

The information in your ALU is based on what you declared to us as being a true and accurate record of your farming activities. However, sometimes we make a mistake, or there is other information available which we don't have which can change your ALU. If this is the case, you do have an opportunity to rectify any issues identified and/or provide further information to support the change you would like to make.

What is a Nitrogen Discharge Allowance?

When an ALU is prepared for the purpose of a Farm Activity Variation Application (FAVA), property sale or lease, your ALU will include a Nitrogen Discharge Allowance (NDA) and is not relevant to your day-to-day farming.

NDA is only used in the FAVA process to make sure changes in farm system result in an overall net improvement in water quality outcomes from your property. Your NDA is based on robust Overseer nutrient budgets used for the ALU, standardised to Good Irrigation Management Practice, and is only applicable in the version of Overseer available at the time the NDA was prepared. If you want to apply for a FAVA, but Overseer has updated since your NDA was created, you will need to contact the Irrigo Environmental Team to confirm your NDA.

Why don't I have an NDA on my Authorised Land Use?

Your NDA will change regularly with different versions of Overseer. The Irrigo Enviro Team will be able to let you know what your NDA is at any given point in time, but have excluded from reporting it in your ALU unless your ALU was specifically prepared for a property sale or lease or FAVA.

Is my NDA my new nitrogen baseline I have to comply with?

No. You can continue to farm your existing system at Good Management Practice as described in the ALU. If you want to intensify your existing farm system, then we will look to make sure the change you make is within the NDA.

Why are there seasons with missing information in the Authorised Land Use or NDA?

Sometimes, the information provided in the past is inaccurate, no longer represents the approved farm system or was impacted by some event. In these circumstances, the information is excluded from inclusion in the ALU or NDA. An example where we might exclude information might be when a FAVA was approved and changed the farm system, or the year a property was impacted by M.bovis.

Who do I contact if I need more information?

Feel free to contact the Irrigo Environmental Team for more information:

Steph Wright on 027 281 1251

or

Nicole Matheson on 027 205 2355