

## Schedule 7 Farm Environment Plan – PC 5

**Management Area** – means the areas of farm management practice as set out below:

- (a) Nutrients
- (b) Irrigation
- (c) Cultivation and soil structure
- (d) Collected Animal Effluent and Solid Animal Waste
- (e) Waterbodies (riparian areas, drains, rivers, lakes, wetlands)
- (f) Point sources – offal pits, farm rubbish pits, silage pits
- (g) Water use (excluding water associated with irrigation) – stock water and wash-down water

**Objective** – means the overarching outcome sought in relation to each Management Area Target – means a measurable, auditable statement that contributes to achievement of the Objective in each Management Area.

### **Part A – Farm Environment Plans**

A Farm Environment Plan can be based on either of:

1. The material set out in Part B below; OR
2. Industry prepared Farm Environment Plan templates and guidance material that:
  - (a) includes the following minimum components:
    - (i) the matters set out in 1, 2, 3, 4B and 5 of Part B below;
    - (ii) contains a methodology that will enable development of a plan that will identify actual and potential environmental effects and risks specific to the property, addresses those effects and risks and has a high likelihood of appropriately avoiding, remedying or mitigating those effects;
    - (iii) performance measures that are capable of being audited as set out in Part C below; and
    - (iv) matters or requirements set out in Part B of Schedule 7 that have been added as a result of a sub-region planning process; and
  - (b) has been approved as meeting the criteria in (a) and being acceptable to the Canterbury Regional Council by the Chief Executive of the Canterbury Regional Council.

### **Part B – Farm Environment Plan Default Content**

The plan requirements will apply to:

- (a) a plan prepared for an individual property or farm enterprise; or
- (b) a plan prepared for an individual property which is part of a collective of properties, including an irrigation scheme, principal water supplier, or an Industry Certification Scheme

The plan shall contain as a minimum:

1. Property or farm enterprise details
  - (a) Physical address
  - (b) Description of the ownership and name of a contact person
  - (c) Legal description of the land and farm identifier

2. A map(s) or aerial photograph at a scale that clearly shows:

- (a) The boundaries of the property or land areas comprising the farming enterprise.
- (b) The boundaries of the main land management units on the property or within the farming enterprise.
- (c) The location of permanent or intermittent rivers, streams, lakes, drains, ponds or wetlands.
- (d) The location of riparian vegetation and fences adjacent to water bodies.
- (e) The location on all waterways where stock access or crossing occurs.
- (f) The location of any areas within or adjoining the property that are identified in a District Plan as “significant indigenous biodiversity”.
- (g) The location of any critical source areas for phosphorus or sediment loss for any part of the property including any land within the High Runoff Risk Phosphorus Zone.
- (h) The location of flood protection or erosion control assets, including flood protection vegetation.
- (i) Public access routes or access routes used to maintain the rivers, streams, or drains.

3. A list of all Canterbury Regional Council resource consents held for the property or farming enterprise.

4A. An assessment of the adverse environmental effects and risks associated with the farming activities and how the identified effects and risks will be managed, including irrigation, application of nutrients, effluent application, stock exclusion from waterways, offal pits and farm rubbish pits.

- 4B
- (a) nutrient budgets which show the nitrogen baseline and nitrogen loss calculation for the property or farming enterprise; and
  - (b) a report from the Farm Portal which shows for any property or farming enterprise the Baseline GMP Loss Rate and Good Management Practice Loss Rate or in those circumstances provided for in this Plan, the Equivalent Baseline GMP Loss Rate and Equivalent Good Management Practice Loss Rate

5. A description of how each of the following objectives and targets for each Management Area, where relevant, will be met and the specific actions that will be implemented to attain the targets.

#### **5A Management Area: Nutrients**

##### ***Objectives:***

- (1) Use nutrients efficiently and minimize nutrient losses to water.
- (2) Nutrient losses do not exceed consented nitrogen loss limits.

##### ***Targets:***

- (1) Nitrogen losses from farming activities are at or below the:
  - (a) Baseline GMP Loss Rate or Good Management Practice Loss Rates (whichever is the lesser) for the property;
  - (b) consented nitrogen loss limits.
- (1A) Available nitrogen loss mitigation measures (excluding those associated with irrigation, fertiliser or effluent management) are implemented.
- (2) Phosphorus and sediment losses from farming activities are minimised.
- (3) Manage the amount, timing and application of fertiliser inputs to match the predicted plant requirements and minimise nutrient losses
- (4) Store and load fertiliser to minimise the risk of spillage, leaching and loss into water bodies.

## **5B Management Area: Irrigation**

### ***Objective:***

The amount and timing of irrigation is managed to meet plant demands, minimise risk of leaching and runoff and ensure efficient water use.

### ***Targets:***

- (1) New irrigation systems are designed and installed in accordance with industry codes of practice and standards.
- (2) The performance of irrigation systems is assessed annually and irrigation systems are maintained and operated to apply irrigation water at their optimal efficiency.
- (3) The timing and depth of irrigation water applied takes account of crop requirements and is justified through soil moisture monitoring or soil water budgets and climatic information.
- (5) Staff are trained in the operation, maintenance and use of irrigation systems.

## **5C Management Area: Cultivation and Soil Structures**

### ***Objective:***

The physical and biological condition of soils is maintained or improved in order to minimise the movement of sediment, phosphorus and other contaminants to waterways.

### ***Targets:***

- (1) Farming activities are managed so as to not exacerbate erosion.
- (2) Farming practices are implemented that optimise infiltration of water into the soil profile and minimise run-off of water, sediment loss and erosion.

## **5D Management Area: Collected Animal Effluent and Solid Animal Waste**

### ***Objective:***

Animal effluent and solid animal waste is managed to minimise nutrient leaching and run-off.

### ***Targets:***

- (1) Effluent systems meet industry Codes of Practice or an equivalent standard.
- (2) The timing and rate of application of effluent and solid animal waste to land is managed so as to minimise the risk of contamination of groundwater or surface water bodies.
- (3) Sufficient and suitable storage is available to enable animal effluent and wash-down water to be stored when soil conditions are unsuitable for application.
- (4) Staff are trained in the operation, maintenance and use of effluent storage and application systems.

## **5E Management Area: Waterbodies (wetlands, riparian areas, drains, rivers, lakes)**

### ***Objective:***

Wetlands, riparian areas and the margins of surface waterbodies are managed to avoid damage to the bed and margins of the water body, and to avoid the direct input of nutrients, sediment, and microbial pathogens.

### ***Targets:***

- (1) Stock are excluded from waterbodies in accordance with regional council rules or any granted resource consent.
- (2) Vegetated riparian margins of sufficient width are maintained to minimise nutrient, sediment and microbial pathogen losses to waterbodies.
- (3) Farm tracks, gateways, water troughs, self-feeding areas, stock camps wallows and other farming activities that are potential sources of sediment, nutrient and microbial loss are located so as to minimise the risks to surface water quality.
- (4) Mahinga kai values are protected as a result of measures taken to protect and enhance water quality and stream health.

#### **5F Management Area: Point Sources (offal pits, farm rubbish pits, silage pits)**

**Objective:**

The number and location of pits are managed to minimise risks to health and water quality.

**Target:**

- (1) All on-farm silage, offal pit and rubbish dump discharges are managed to avoid direct discharges of contaminants to groundwater or surface water.

#### **5G Management Area: Water-use (excluding irrigation water)**

**Objective:**

To use water efficiently ensuring that actual use of water is monitored and efficient.

**Target:**

- (1) Actual water use is efficient for the end use.

The plan shall include for each objective and target in section 5 above:

- (a) detail commensurate with the scale of the environmental effects and risks;
- (b) a description of the actions and Good Management Practices (and a timeframe within which those actions will be completed) that will be implemented to achieve the objectives and targets.
- (c) records required to be kept for measuring performance and attainment of the targets and objectives.

6. Nutrient budgets, prepared by a suitably qualified person using the Overseer nutrient budget model, or equivalent model approved by the Chief Executive of Environment Canterbury, for each of the identified land management units and the overall farm or farm enterprise.

#### **Part C – Farm Environment Plan Audit Requirements**

The Farm Environment Plan must be audited by a Certified Farm Environment Plan Auditor who is independent of the farm being audited (i.e. is not a professional adviser for the property) and has not been involved in the preparation of the Farm Environment Plan.

The farming activity occurring on the property will be audited against the following minimum criteria:

1. An assessment of the performance of the farming activity against the objectives, targets, and timeframes specified in the Farm Environment Plan;
2. An assessment of the robustness of the nutrient budget/s;

3. An assessment of the efficiency of water use (if irrigated).

*The Environment Canterbury Certified Farm Environment Plan Auditor Manual sets out the standards and methods to be used by a Certified Farm Environment Plan Auditor to demonstrate proficiency and competency in the auditing of Farm Environment Plans.*