

Schedule 7 Farm Environment Plan

Definitions

In Schedule 7 the following definitions apply:

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

- (a) Nutrients
- (b) Irrigation
- (c) Cultivation and soil structure
- (d) 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 minimise 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 Rate (whichever is the lesser); or
 - (b) consented nitrogen loss limits.
- (2) Available nitrogen loss mitigation measures (excluding those associated with irrigation, fertiliser or effluent management) are implemented.
- (3) Phosphorus and sediment losses from farming activities are minimised.
- (4) Manage the amount, timing and application of fertiliser inputs to match the predicted plant requirements and minimise nutrient losses
- (5) 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.
- (4) Staff are trained in the operation, maintenance and use of irrigation systems.

5C Management Area: Cultivation and Soil Structure

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: 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, nutrients 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 in 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) a description of the good management practices together with actions required
 - (d) 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.

Sub-region Additions

7. Selwyn Te Waihora – Additional Requirements

Within the Selwyn Te Waihora sub-region the following additional requirements for farm environment plans apply:

1. Include a map(s) or aerial photograph at a scale that clearly shows the location of any known mahinga kai, wāhi tapu or wāhi taonga within any property or farming enterprise located in the Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area.
2. Include a description of how the following objective will be met:
Nutrient management: To maximise nutrient use efficiency while minimising nutrient losses to water by:
 - (a) minimising the loss of phosphorus and sediment within the Phosphorus Sediment Risk Area as shown in the planning maps; and
 - (b) achieving good management practice in respect of nutrient losses; and
 - (c) managing the discharge from drains within the Lake area of the Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area; and
 - (d) further reducing the nitrogen loss calculation from 2022 where a property or farming enterprise's nitrogen loss calculation is greater than 15 kg of nitrogen per hectare per annum.

8. **Hinds – Additional Requirements**

Within the Hinds/Hekeao Plains Area include a description of how the following objectives will be met:

Nutrient Management:

- (a) To maximise the nutrient use efficiency while minimising nutrient losses to water.
- (b) Achieve from 2017 the loss rates that could reasonably be expected from implementing good management practices.
- (c) In the Upper and Lower Hinds/Hekeao Plains Area further reduce the nitrogen loss rate in accordance with Policies 13.4.13 and 13.4.15.

9. **Waitaki – Additional Requirements**

Within the Waitaki, Part A of Schedule 7 includes the following:

Note: A Farm Environment Plan developed under this schedule may also contain information about the management of any other environmental effect and can be used to assist in demonstrating compliance with other regulatory requirements in any other Regional Plan or the District Plan.

Within the Waitaki, Part B includes the following:

Management Area: Mahinga kai

Objective:

To protect mahinga kai values.

Target:

Mahinga kai values of surface waterbodies on the property are recognised by achieving other objectives and targets in the Farm Environment Plan, and in addition by:

- (a) maintaining existing indigenous vegetation in accordance with relevant regional council and district council vegetation clearance rules or any granted resource consent;

- (b) identifying opportunities to undertake additional plantings of indigenous vegetation, and carrying out and managing any additional plantings in accordance with regional council guidelines for riparian planting;
- (c) undertaking farming activities in a manner that minimises adverse effects on existing indigenous vegetation and on any additional plantings of indigenous riparian vegetation; and
- (d) managing pest plants in accordance with regional council rules.

Management Area: In-stream Biodiversity Values

Objective:

To protect and enhance in-stream biodiversity values.

Targets:

- (1) On the map or aerial photograph of waterbodies required under Part A of this Schedule, specify the location of any spring heads, wetlands and spring-fed streams on the property or within the farming enterprise to recognise their high instream biodiversity values.
- (2) Prioritise achievement of the targets for Management Area: Waterbody Management for any spring heads, wetlands and spring-fed streams so as to protect and enhance the instream biodiversity values.

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 against the objectives, targets, good practices and timeframes 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.