

EC Number:
Agribase Number:

Specific rules for farms in Selwyn's lake area: Do you know what you need to do?



3 April 2018

Dear Landowner

You may be aware that your farm sits within the lake area of the Cultural Landscape Values Management Area, which is a special feature of the Selwyn Te Waihora catchment.

This land status recognises the cultural significance of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. As well as improving water quality in Selwyn, the requirements for farming here recognise the cultural and ecological sensitivities of the area.

What do you need to do?

As your property sits within this lake area, you will need a land use consent if your farm is 10 hectares or larger. As part of or alongside your Farm Environment Plan, you will be asked to ensure you have farming practices in place to protect mahinga kai* and manage waterways and drains.

Consents applications were due in 2017. If your farm is 10 hectares or larger, you now need to have:

1. Completed your Farm Environment Plan
2. Calculated your nitrogen losses (details over page)
3. Submitted your consent application form.

There's plenty of free help available

Environment Canterbury provides plenty of assistance to help farmers understand what mahinga kai is, and the requirements for land use consents. We have a dedicated Cultural Land Management Advisor in the Selwyn catchment, and you'll find plenty of other avenues for help outlined over the page too.

What you do matters. You may have already made a start – if that's the case, please give us a call or email us to let us know we don't need to follow up with you. If you are yet to start this process, it's time to get underway, as our compliance visits will focus on land use consents as a priority.

Our advice is free, and it can save you time and money later. We're running local shed talks and drop-in sessions, or you can schedule a session with a consent planner to discuss your farm's consent application.

Thank you for taking the time to do this. Collectively, we can improve the health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Chris House", written in a cursive style.

Chris House

Selwyn Waihora Zone Manager, Environment Canterbury
0800 324 636

*Mahinga kai is the customary gathering of food and natural material, as well as places where those resources are gathered. It is central to Ngāi Tahu's culture and identity. More information is enclosed.

The five steps to getting the thumbs up.

Need a consent to farm? Then let's get started.

Calculate your nitrogen losses

If your nitrogen losses are less than 15 kg/ha/year you need to demonstrate this when you lodge your consent. You can use the free NCheck tool at www.canterburywater.farm or OVERSEER®.

If you have greater losses, you will need to prepare a nitrogen baseline.

We know there may be a delay for some nutrient budgets to be completed, so let us know when you are on the waitlist to get yours done.

Apply for your Resource Consent to farm

See www.canterburywater.farm for consent application forms.

Have your Farm Environment Plan audited

An audit of your FEP is required within one year of gaining your consent, to demonstrate you are operating at Good Management Practice, and managing impacts on mahinga kai.

Create your Farm Environment Plan

Use an approved template to create your FEP.

Gather the help you need

Find all the information you need by visiting one of our shed forums or drop in sessions, checking out our website, or giving us a call.



See www.canterburywater.farm for FEP templates, NCheck, consent application forms, auditing information, industry contact details, and more information.



Need a hand? No worries!

Help is at hand

We know there's a lot to figure out, so we're here to help.

Mananui Ramsden, our Cultural Land Management Advisor, can help you to identify mahinga kai values and risks on your farm, and discuss practices to manage them. Customer Services can also help.

Give us a call, or check out our website.

0800 324 636

www.canterburywater.farm

Shed forums

Find out about the significance of mahinga kai, and see some examples of how others in Selwyn are managing mahinga kai on their property.

The first shed talk will be held at Richard and Jill Simpson's Five Springs Farm:

Address: Marshalls Road, Springston

When: May 1st from 10am to 12:30pm

For further Shed Talks, check canterburywater.farm

Drop-in sessions

Our Selwyn-Waihora Zone Team hosts monthly drop-in days to provide advice and support in relation to resource use and Good Management Practices.

Sessions are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 1-4pm, at the Leeston Library, 19 Messines St, Leeston.

Dates and locations are updated on our website.

Industry support

Industry organisations offer plenty of support and advice for preparing your Farm Environment Plan, calculating your nitrogen losses, and meeting Good Management Practice.

A variety of independent consultants also offer additional advice and support.

Contact details can be found at

www.canterburywater.farm

Pre-application meeting

Get prepared before lodging your consent, in a free one-hour pre-application meeting with a consent planner.

For information specific to your farm, visit:

www.canterburywater.farm

Got a question?

We may have it covered here. If not, check out the website or give us a call.

What is a FEP and how does it help me?

Creating your Farm Environment Plan (FEP) will help you recognise on-farm environmental risks and set out a programme to manage those risks. Your FEP is unique to your property and will reflect the local climate and soils, the type of farming operation, and your goals and aspirations as the land user.

Your FEP will record your progress towards Good Management Practice, and demonstrate you're doing the right thing environmentally. You will need your FEP when you apply for your land use consent. An independent certified auditor will then audit the implementation of your FEP once your consent is in place.

Will Environment Canterbury be undertaking enforcement action?

This letter is a formal request to apply for your land use consent to farm. If you do need consent, you must apply as soon as possible. Enforcement action will be taken if consent is required and not sought.

I don't know what my nitrogen losses are?

If you don't know your nitrogen losses, use the free NCheck tool at www.canterburywater.farm or OVERSEER®.

How much will my consent application cost?

Most applications start at \$1725 including GST. An increase in costs may occur if the application is complex or bundled with another application.

Will I need to employ a consultant?

This is your choice. Many farmers are able to write their own FEP, possibly with industry body assistance, while calculating your nitrogen loss rates may require the assistance of a consultant. The consent application has been developed to make it as simple as possible to complete yourself.



For information specific to your farm, visit:

www.canterburywater.farm
0800 324 636