

EC Number:  
Agribase Number:

**On the way to getting your land use consent to farm? Nice one!**  
Are you one of the nearly 900 farmers who have already made a start?



**3 April 2018**

## Dear Landowner

Last year we wrote to let you know about the 2017 land use consent requirements for Selwyn farmers. You may be aware that your farm sits within the River 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 waterways that drain into Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

### Land use consents – do you need one?

Check out the map on the back. You will require a consent if your farm:

- Is in, or overlaps, the Phosphorus and Sediment Risk Area and /or
- Has nitrogen losses of greater than 15kg/hectare/year.

### Consent applications were due in 2017. If you need a land use consent, 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.

### Additional requirements

Because your farm is in the River Area, you will also have additional on-going responsibilities to ensure your farming practices protect mahinga kai\* and manage waterways and drains. If you require a land use consent, you will need to demonstrate how you plan to address these requirements, as part of or alongside your Farm Environment Plan once your consent has been obtained.

### There's plenty of free help available

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. 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.

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

Yours sincerely

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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 the land use consent to farm is a fairly new requirement for farmers, so we're here to help. You can find the information you need by checking out our website or giving us a call.

**0800 324 636**

**[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**

For information specific to your farm, visit:  
[www.canterburywater.farm](http://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](http://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](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**

## Pre-application meeting

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

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For information specific to your farm, visit:

**[www.canterburywater.farm](http://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.

## 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](http://www.canterburywater.farm) or OVERSEER®, and determine whether you need a land use consent to farm.

## Will Environment Canterbury be undertaking enforcement action?

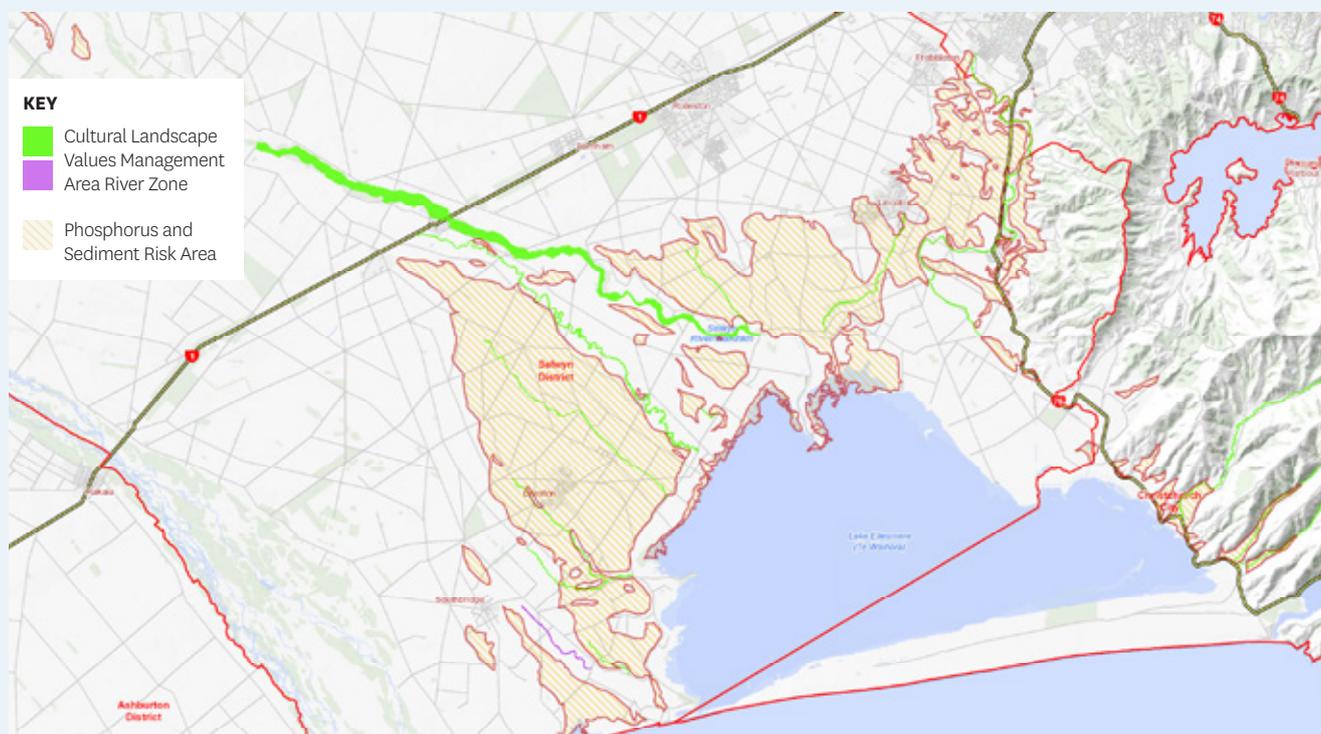
This letter is a formal request to apply for your land use consent to farm. If you do need consent, you must apply as soon as possible. Enforcement action will be taken if consent is required and not sought.

## 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](http://www.canterburywater.farm)

0800 324 636