

EC Number:
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Not sure if you need a land use consent to farm? It's time to look into it.



3 April 2018

Dear Landowner

Are you aware of the new requirements under the Land and Water Regional Plan to manage the effects of farming on water quality? Landowners now have a responsibility to operate within water quality limits, which is all about improving results in your local area.

We're writing to the 162 properties in the Hinds catchment that are five hectares or more, as many of these now require a land use consent to farm.

Why are consents now required?

Farming to Good Management Practice is now part of good business.

The agricultural industry is a key part of the Ashburton Zone, and it is important to our thriving community. However, our water resources are showing signs of stress. Community and Environment Canterbury's monitoring shows that the Hinds river and other waterways in the catchment have particularly high nitrate concentrations when compared to the rest of Canterbury.

Your community, led by your local Zone Committee, is addressing these issues, while also sustaining a healthy economy and community. Already, across the Hinds catchment, more than 92% of farms with more than 50 hectares of irrigated land have already acted. Now, our focus is working with farmers on the remaining properties. Collectively, we can achieve better environmental outcomes in this area.

Do you need a land use consent to farm?

In the Hinds/Hekeao Area, you will need consent if your property is five hectares or more and your nitrogen loss calculation exceeds 15 kg/hectare/year.

Those with nitrogen losses of less than this won't need a consent. We can help you figure out if this applies to you.

What do you need to do?

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 haven't already, it's time to get underway, as our compliance visits will focus on land use consents as a priority.

We highly recommend you come to a drop-in session to find out whether you require consent. Our advice is free and it can save you time and money later.

- Pop into a drop-in session (details over the page)
- Go online to www.canterburywater.farm
- Call us on 0800 324 636

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janine Holland".

Janine Holland
Zone Manager
0800 324 636

Ready to apply?

The five steps to getting the thumbs up.

Implement Good Management Practices on your farm

The Primary Industry Sector has a set of agreed GMPs that can be used to improve water quality. Take a look at www.canterburywater.farm/gmp for help relating to your own operations.

Prepare your nitrogen baseline

All farms requiring a land use consent to farm need to prepare a nitrogen baseline. If you need consent, contact your nutrient advisor for help, as you'll need to provide your baseline as part of your Farm Environment Plan (FEP). We know there may be a delay for these to be completed, so let us know when you are on the waitlist to get yours done.

Create your Farm Environment Plan

All farmers requiring a consent to farm will need to prepare a FEP. Approved templates and industry help available at www.canterburywater.farm.

Apply for your land use consent to farm

Ready to apply for a resource consent? We offer a free one hour pre-application consultation to help you prepare.

See www.canterburywater.farm for information.

Determine whether you need a land use consent to farm

In the Hinds /Hekeao Area, consent is required if your current nitrogen losses are greater than 15 kilograms per hectare per year. To determine your nitrogen losses, use the free NCheck tool at www.canterburywater.farm, or OVERSEER®.

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All the relevant forms, and links for help, can be found at www.canterburywater.farm, a website designed to help you.



Need a hand? No worries!

Help is at hand

We know the land use consent to farm is a reasonably new requirement, 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

For information specific to your property, visit:
www.canterburywater.farm

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

Local drop-in sessions

Environment Canterbury regularly hosts drop-in sessions to provide advice and support as you work towards gaining your land use consent to farm.

**Environment Canterbury,
4 McNally Street, Ashburton.**

Thurs 26th April 1-3pm, 4-6pm & 7-9pm

Wed 2nd May 1-3pm, 4-6pm & 7-9pm

Details can be found on the events page at
www.canterburywater.farm

Pre-application meeting

Get prepared before lodging your consent, in a free one-hour pre-application meeting with an Environment Canterbury 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 www.canterburywater.farm or give us a call.

I don't know what my nitrogen losses are?

If you don't know your nitrogen losses, come and talk to us at a drop-in session because if your losses are less than the limit, you will not need a consent.

Alternatively, you can use the free NCheck tool or OVERSEER® at www.canterburywater.farm to determine whether you need a land use consent to farm.

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.

Why do I need a nitrogen baseline?

A FEP ensures you are implementing Good Management Practices on your farm, while a nitrogen baseline ensures you are farming to your nitrogen limits. Your nitrogen baseline accounts for your previous nitrogen losses. Think of the limit as a measure of your environmental footprint which your business can operate within. The nitrogen budgets and the FEP will help you identify areas where improvement can be made and therefore provide valuable business planning tools.

Will Environment Canterbury be undertaking enforcement action?

This letter is a formal request for you to work out whether you need a 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.

What if I am waiting to get my nitrogen baseline completed?

We acknowledge that there is a delay getting baselines completed. If this is the case please call 0800 324 636 to let us know that you're on the waitlist and the likely date it will be completed.

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 landowners are able to write their own FEP, possibly with industry body assistance, while your nitrogen baseline will need to be done by a nutrient management advisor. 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