

EC Number:
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On the way to getting your land use consent to farm? Nice one!

Are you one of the 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 properties.

We have identified your farm as being 10 hectares or larger, and all or part of it being within the Phosphorus and Sediment Risk Area. Within this area, the impact of runoff into nearby waterways makes your farm one of our highest priorities to obtain consent.

Your land use consent will help you demonstrate that you are measuring and managing the loss of contaminants to waterways, and reducing the impact of your activities on surface water quality.

Across your area, 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.

What help is available?

Applying for your land use consent? There are three easy ways to get help:

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

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 haven't yet started, 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. It's all about addressing water quality in the Selwyn area, and collectively improving 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

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

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

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. See www.canterburywater.farm for auditing information.

Create your Farm Environment Plan

Use an approved template to create your FEP. See www.canterburywater.farm for templates and industry contact details.

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.

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Need a hand? No worries!

Help is at hand

We know the land use consent to farm is a fairly new requirement for landowners, 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

Local drop-in sessions

There is a lot to figure out – Consents, Farm Environment Plans, Nutrient Budgets and Audits. For help, drop in and have a chat with Environment Canterbury staff about getting your land use consent to farm.

**The third Tuesday of every month –
Leeston Library, 19 Messines St, 1 – 4pm.**

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 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 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.

How much will my consent application cost?

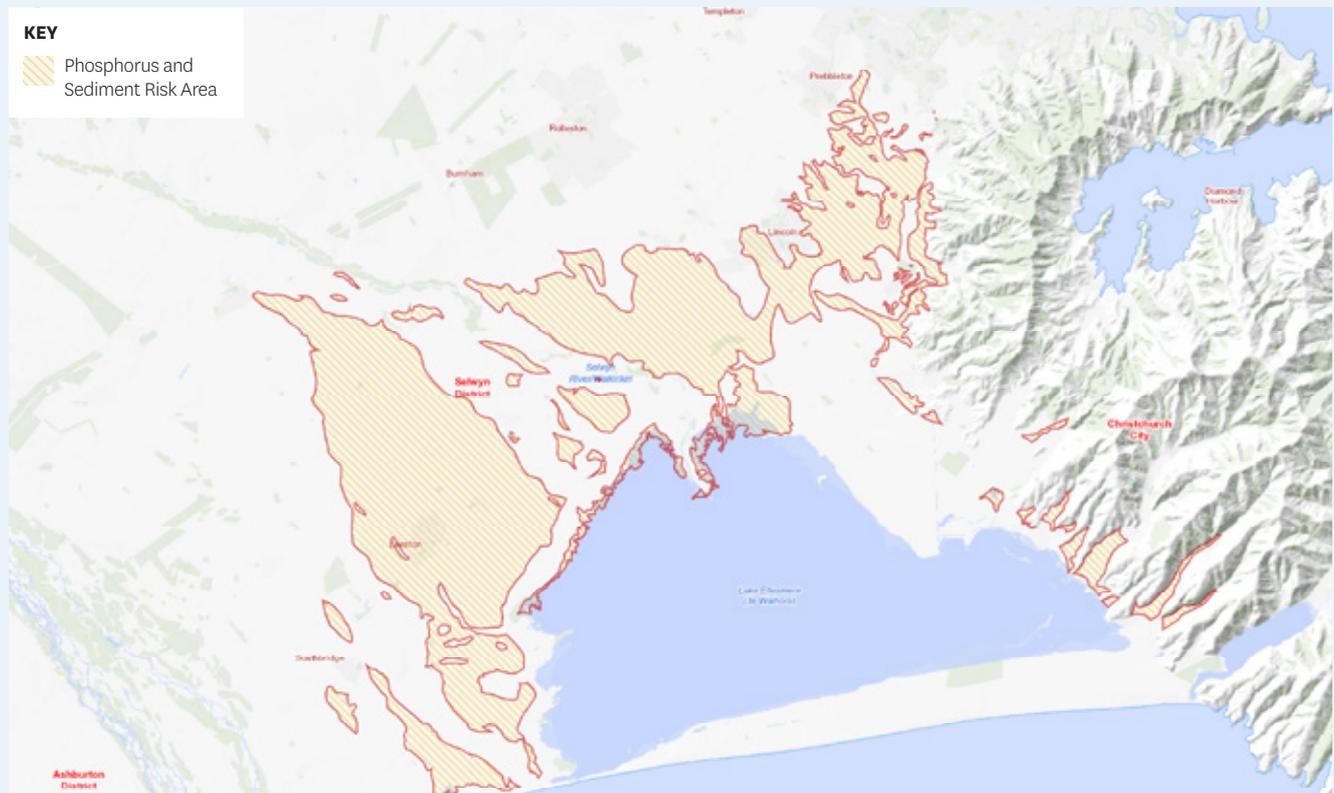
Most applications start at \$1725 including GST. An increase in costs may occur if the application is complex or bundled with another application.

Will Environment Canterbury be undertaking enforcement action?

This letter is a formal request for you 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.

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 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