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On the way to getting your land use consent to farm? Nice one!
Are you one of the nearly 400 farmers who have already made a start?



Dear Landowner

Recently we wrote to let you know about the 2017 land use consent requirements for Selwyn farmers.

We have identified your farm as one of those in Selwyn irrigating more than 50 hectares of land. This makes you one of our highest priorities to obtain consent. Across all of Selwyn, nearly 400 farmers have already made a start, so thank you if you are one of these.

If not, we want to make sure you know what you need to do, and how to access all of the available help to get there.

What are the new requirements?

By July 2017, you will need to have applied for a land use consent to farm if your farm is over 10 hectares and:

- Your farm's nitrogen losses exceed 15 kilograms/hectare/year, and/or
- Any part of your property is within the Cultural or Phosphorus and Sediment Area.

You can establish whether your nitrogen losses exceed 15kg/ha/year by using OVERSEER® or the new NCheck tool at www.canterburywater.farm. Here, you can also use the map tool to find out whether your property is within the Cultural or Phosphorus and Sediment Area.

What help is available?

Environment Canterbury and your industry body are working together to make sure you have all the support you need. There are a number of information sessions you can choose from, as well as scheduled sessions with a consent planner, and plenty of online resources.

Starting this August, our compliance follow up will focus on farms irrigating more than 50 hectares, so what you do now is important.

You'll find all of the information you need to make a start overleaf, whether you are yet to start your Farm Environment Plan, preparing your nutrient budget, or ready to lodge your Land Use Consent to Farm application.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michaela Rees".

Michaela Rees

Selwyn Waihora Zone Manager, Environment Canterbury
0800 324 636

* Farms supplied by Central Plains Water will not need to obtain a separate land use consent.



Need a hand? No worries!

Help is at hand

We know there is a lot to figure out, and July is just around the corner, so we're here to help. You can find the information you need by checking out our website or giving us a call.

www.canterburywater.farm

0800 324 636

Do I need consent?

If you need help to determine whether you need a farming activity consent, simply give us a call and we can help.

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 first Wednesday of every month –
Darfield Vet Clinic, South Tce, 1 – 4pm

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

Industry support

Get support and advice for preparing your Farm Environment Plan, creating your nutrient budget and meeting Good Management Practice. For all the details, check out our events page at **www.canterburywater.farm**, or your industry body's website. A variety of independent consultants also offer additional advice and support.

Contact details can be found on the website.

Pre-application meeting

Get prepared before lodging your consent, in a free one-hour pre-application meeting with a consent planner. Contact us on **0800 324 636** to make an appointment.

Central Plains Water

Are you, or will you be, supplied with water by CPW? Give them a call to find out, because you won't need to obtain a land use consent if your farm is managed under the CPW consent.

For information specific to your farm, visit **www.canterburywater.farm**

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www.canterburywater.farm

The five steps to getting the thumbs up.

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

1 Prepare your Nutrient Budget

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

If you have greater losses, you will need to prepare a nitrogen baseline, using OVERSEER® or an approved alternative.

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.

See www.canterburywater.farm for information.

2 Create your Farm Environment Plan

Use an approved template to create your FEP.

See www.canterburywater.farm for templates and industry contact details.

3 Apply for your Resource Consent to farm

Apply before July 2017 if you need a consent to farm.

See www.canterburywater.farm for information.

4 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.

5 Plan for further nitrogen loss reductions

Start thinking about how you will make further improvements beyond GMP by 2022, if your losses are over 15kg/ha/year.

You will need to apply for a land use consent to farm* if your farm is over 10ha, and:

- Your nitrogen losses exceed 15 kg/ha/yr, and/or;
- Any part of your property is within the Cultural or Phosphorus and Sediment Area

* Farms supplied with Central Plains Water will not need to obtain a separate land use consent.