



## Rural Advice

### NEW USE OF LAND FOR DAIRY (DAIRY CONVERSIONS) IN THE HORIZONS REGION – One Plan Rule 13-1B

Concerns about the effects intensive agriculture is having on the regions water quality, has resulted in the introduction of a new rule for land being converted to dairy farming.

This rule requires one application for all dairy farming activities on a property. The application must include a Nutrient Management Plan containing all information about the management of the dairy operation.

#### Who must apply for a New Use of Land Consent?

Properties where the land use is to be changed to dairy farming from another land use – such as sheep and beef.

- ❖ An exception is if the land had been used for dairy in the recent past **AND** has a **CURRENT** farm dairy effluent consent.

#### The Nutrient Management Plan

The Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) must show, amongst other things, that the farm is able to meet the “cumulative nitrogen leaching maximum”. The amount allowed to be leached is based on the Land Use Capability classes (LUC) of the property.

#### Land Use Capability Mapping (LUC)

The LUC is a description of land according to its long term productive ability and is based on the lands physical limitations of climate, wetness, erodibility or soil characteristics. A certain amount of nitrogen per hectare per year can be leached from each LUC class according to the following table.

**One Plan Table 13-2 Cumulative nitrogen leaching maximum by Land Use Capability Class**

LUC 1	LUC 2	LUC 3	LUC 4	LUC 5	LUC 6	LUC 7	LUC 8
30	27	24	18	16	15	8	2

Most farms will have a mixture of LUC Classes. The ‘Cumulative Nitrogen Leaching Maximum’ is calculated by: 1) Multiplying the number of hectares in each LUC Class by its corresponding value in the table. 2) Adding all values from step 1) to give total A. 3) Dividing total A by the farms total land area (not effective area).

## Who prepares a Nutrient Management Plan?

A NMP must be prepared by a person who has a Certificate of Completion in Advanced Sustainable Nutrient Management from Massey University. It is also advisable this person has proven experience in the preparation of NMP's and uses the Horizons format to assist cost effective consent processing.

## What must a Nutrient Management Plan include?

- ✓ A comprehensive farm description – e.g. location, total area, physical features.
- ✓ An Overseer® Nutrient Budget – undertaken by an accredited operator.
- ✓ A soil and LUC map of the farm.
- ✓ A calculation of the cumulative nitrogen leaching maximum for the farm, based on Table 13-2 (the table above) in the One Plan.
- ✓ A description of how the farm will be managed with an emphasis on the farming practices that contribute most to nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) and contaminant (faecal bacteria and sediment) loss and how these will be managed – this includes fertiliser use, stocking rates, fodder cropping and use of supplementary feed.
- ✓ A description of the effluent discharge system and how it will be managed. All dairy effluent facilities must be sealed so that they leak no more than  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  m/s (0.09mm/day).
- ✓ Identify all waterways and wetlands on the farm and in particular, which are yet to have dairy stock excluded and which stock crossings are yet to be bridged or culverted.
- ✓ How fertiliser application is to be managed.
- ✓ Identify what water takes are required, their type (surface water or groundwater), location, and quantity of water needed. Note: Some catchments are either over allocated or fully allocated. DO NOT assume water is available.

The infrastructure on the farm is expected to conform to current 'best practice' standard and the farm must be managed according to the farm's Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

### Please Note:

It is strongly recommended that those contemplating converting land to dairy discuss the implications with Horizons Rural Advisory Team prior to making final decisions to convert.

The above information is a summary highlighting the important aspects of a conversion to dairy. As such many of the points, while correct in the general sense, will most likely need more detailed explanation with particular implications for your farm.

**Please contact Horizons Regional Council for more information about conversions to dairy farming in the Horizons Region.**

**Valid from 1 September 2011**