

## Where do I start?

### 1 Check

Check whether you need a freshwater farm plan. Check the final submission date for your area.



### 2 Select

Select your preferred pathway.



Develop one through an industry programme.

Engage a certifier, advisor or consultant to develop one for you.

Update your existing farm plan to meet the freshwater farm plan certification requirements.

Create your own farm plan that meets the freshwater farm plan certification requirements.

### 3 Develop

Get your freshwater farm plan developed.



### 4 Submit

Ensure your farm plan is submitted to a certifier from our approved list before the final submission date for your area.



# Freshwater farm plans

As part of the Government's freshwater reforms, many farmers and growers will need to create a freshwater farm plan. The regulations behind the plans are taking effect region by region. The Horizons Region is due to start 1 April 2024 with a phased approach.



### Where can I find out more?

Horizons has more information at [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz), including links to key information from the likes of the Ministry for the Environment – just scroll down the homepage until you see Freshwater Farm Plans.

You can also email [FreshwaterFarmPlans@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:FreshwaterFarmPlans@horizons.govt.nz) or call freephone **0508 800 800** and ask for Rural Advice.



## About freshwater farm plans

Freshwater farm plans are a way to identify, manage and reduce the impact of farming on freshwater. Each plan will be slightly different depending on the property, catchment and local environment. This approach recognises the differences between farming operations and between catchments.

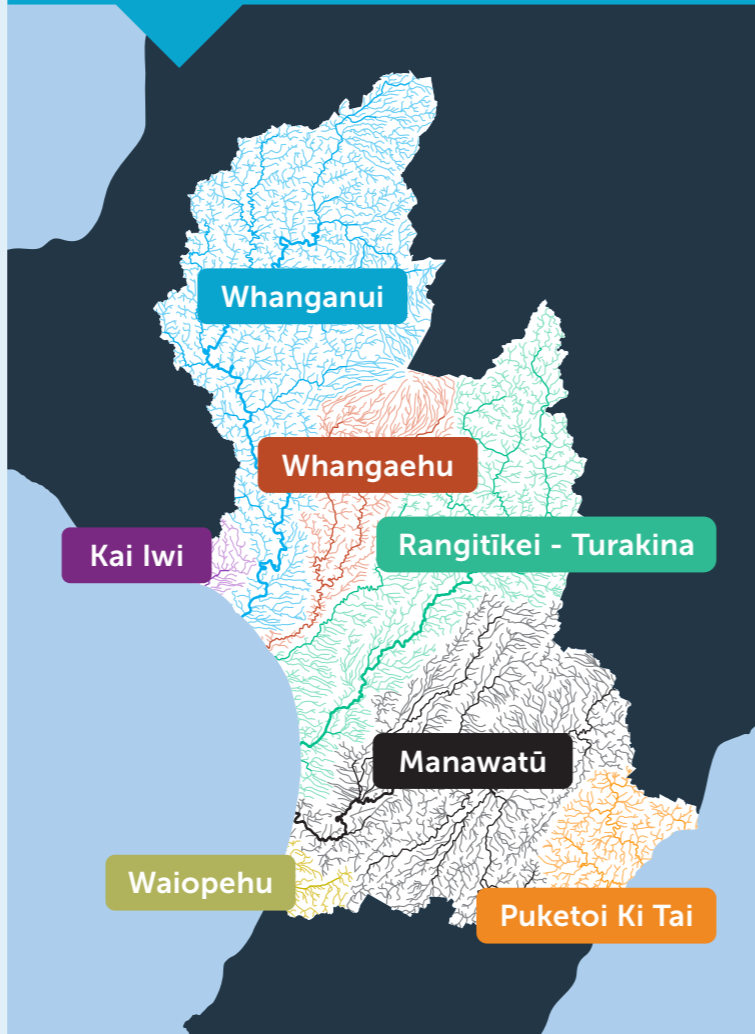
The plans bring together many of the existing planning requirements for a farm into one place. They will also allow for better recognition of the work done on farms to improve freshwater.

The regulations behind the plans are taking effect region by region. Horizons is due to start 1 April 2024 with a phased approach.

## Where are you at with your freshwater farm plan?

Farmers in our region have made great strides over the years to improve freshwater and revive wetlands. New government regulations requiring a freshwater farm plan will help farmers and growers to build on the work they are already doing to improve the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems.

## Horizons freshwater management catchments



## Who needs a freshwater farm plan?

Any farmer or grower with:

- 20 hectares or more in arable or pastoral use.
- 5 hectares or more in horticultural use.
- 20 hectares or more of combined use.

## How do I get one?

Anyone can develop a freshwater farm plan but there are four general pathways:

1. Develop a plan through an industry programme.
2. Engage an advisor, consultant or rural professional to help.
3. Start with your existing farm environment plan or other farm plan (for example, Whole Farm Plan formulated as part of SLUI) and adapt it to meet the requirements of freshwater farm plans.
4. Develop your own plan from scratch.

Each plan will need to be certified, with farmers and growers having 18 months from regulations applying in their area to submit plans to a certifier. Plans must then be audited within 12 months of certification. Horizons will provide the contact details of certifiers when they are available, but no later than 1 July 2024.

## How much will it cost?

This will depend on a range of things, including the size of your farm, if you use a consultant, and if you already have a farm plan in place (e.g. a Whole Farm Plan as part of SLUI).

No matter how a plan is put together, the farmer/grower will need to pay for the certifier and an auditor at their standard professional rates.

## What does a freshwater farm plan require?

The freshwater farm plan process requires farmers and growers to identify on-farm risks to freshwater and to determine actions to manage those risks based on the:

- environmental health, cultural and community values of the local catchment (catchment context);
- farm's landscape features and natural environment; and
- land use activities.

The plans will need to include the following:

- Maps, including maps of soils, landforms and freshwater bodies;
- Risk assessments of effects of farming on freshwater;
- Actions to reduce risks that you agree to complete; and
- Property and enterprise information from your records.

## What are some of the benefits?

- Provides a record of past, present and future on-farm environmental actions.
- May eliminate the need for some resource consents (e.g. Intensive Winter Grazing, Stockholding Areas, etc).
- A one-stop place for a list of your resource consents.
- Makes your farm part of a wider network/effort in improving water quality across the region for future generations.

	Catchment	Commencement date	Plans submitted by
1	Rangitikei - Turakina	1 April 2024	1 October 2025
2	Kai Iwi Waiopēhu	1 August 2024	1 February 2026
3	Manawatū	1 February 2025	1 August 2026
4	Whanganui Whangaehu	1 August 2025	1 February 2027
5	Puketoi Ki Tai	1 December 2025	1 June 2027

