

INTENSIVE FARMING RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS - OVERVIEW DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION

This guidance information pack has been developed to assist applicants and their advisors in making resource consent applications for intensive farming under the Horizons One Plan. There are several parts to this guidance information.

Part 1: This overview document

Part 2: The application forms

Part 3: Guidance for the preparation of restricted discretionary consent applications and what to include in an assessment of effects

Part 4: Template for the preparation of a Nutrient Management Plan

Part 5: Potential nutrient loss mitigation options (not modelled in Overseer)

Part 6: Background catchment information

Part 7: Statutory provisions

OVERVIEW

The One Plan sets cumulative nitrogen leaching maximums (CNLMs) in Table 14.2 based on land use capability (LUC) classes, and has a directive policy framework that directs applicants to meet those CNLMs on their farms. Exceptions to meeting the CNLMs are provided for in some limited circumstances. Modelling of the existing farm system's nitrogen losses (usually in Overseer) is recommended as a first

step to determine whether the farm currently meets the CNLMs. If the farm does not meet the CNLMs, various mitigations to reduce nitrogen loss should be modelled to attain compliance with the CNLMs and a controlled activity consenting pathway. An inability to meet the CNLMs will mean that a more difficult consenting pathway and more detailed information will be required.

APPLICATION FORMS

Part 2 of this information pack contains three individual forms consisting of a cover sheet, an activity information form and an activity assessment form.

The forms should be utilised in the following manner:

- All applicants will be required to complete Form A (Cover Sheet) and Form B (Activity Information Form).
- Applicants for controlled activities can use Form C (Activity Assessment Form) as a template for their application.
- All Restricted Discretionary activities (RDAs) should refer to the guidance material in Part 3 of this information pack and will need to prepare an assessment of environmental effects that address the matters outlined in the document.

APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Part 3 of this information pack contains a guidance document titled "A guide to preparing resource consent applications for intensive farming activities in the Horizons Region". This document provides guidance to applicants seeking consent for restricted discretionary activities whose intensive land use farming activity does not currently meet the Year 1 CNLMs.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR THE PREPARATION OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Part 4 contains a suggested template for a Nutrient Management Plan. This template is designed to provide the information required in a NMP, but also to minimise repetition from the information required in the application forms for a resource consent.

POTENTIAL NUTRIENT LOSS MITIGATIONS OPTIONS (OUTSIDE OF OVERSEER)

Part 5 contains a document titled "Mitigation measures outside of Overseer", which is a review of New Zealand literature on nutrient loss mitigations that are not well represented in Overseer or don't feature at all. The research cited in the report indicates that these mitigations can assist in the reduction of nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment and E. coli losses to ground and surface water. Some of these mitigations may be able to be used to further reduce N-losses from that modelled in Overseer on some farms. This will enable applicants that use these mitigations to reduce their N-losses closer to the cumulative nitrogen leaching maximums expressed in Table 14.2 of the One Plan.

The main mitigations described in this report include wetlands, riparian management, fertiliser management, effluent management, crop management, alternative forages and pasture species.

If any of these mitigation are to be used as part of an application the chosen mitigation(s) would need to be modelled at the farm scale.

Applicants who wish to employ mitigation measures listed in Part 5 must demonstrate the effectiveness of these measures, if implemented on their farm.

Catchment Information

Part 6 contains catchment information prepared by Horizons' Science and Innovation Team. This material outlines the information held by Horizons in relation to specific Water Management Zones. The catchment summaries provide information on the current state of water quality and other information (where available) that can be used to inform the development of an AEE.

Statutory Provisions

Part 7 of the guidance material contains relevant extracts from the RMA, NPSFM, NESDW and One Plan.

- Section 88
- 4th schedule
- S105
- S107
- Part 2
- One Plan chapter 5 and 14 provisions
- NPSFM Objective A1 and A2
- NESSHDW provisions

2016/644