

**Appendix 4**  
**Schedule 7**  
**Part A – Farm Environment Plans**

A Farm Environment Plan can be based on either of:

1. Industry prepared Farm Environment Plan templates and guidance material that:
  - a. Include the following minimum components:
    - i. The matters set out in 1, 2, ~~3~~ and ~~7 and 8~~ 3 of Part B below;
    - ii. Contains a methodology that will enable development of a plan that will identify environmental effects and risks specific to the property, addresses those effects and risks and has a high likelihood of appropriately avoiding, remedying or mitigating those effects;
    - iii. Performance measures that are capable of being audited ~~as set out in Part C below;~~ and
  - b. Has been approved as meeting the criteria in (a) and being acceptable to the Canterbury Regional Council by the Chief Executive of the Canterbury Regional Council.

OR

2. The material set out in Part B below.

**Part B – Farm Environment Plan Default**

The plan requirements will apply to:

- a. a plan prepared for an individual property; or
- b. a plan prepared for an individual property which is part of a collective of properties, including an irrigation scheme, an Industry Certification Scheme, or catchment club.

The plan shall contain as a minimum:

1. Property details
  - (a) Physical address

- (b) Description of the ownership and name of a contact person
  - (c) Legal description of the land and farm identifier
2. A map(s) or aerial photograph at a scale that clearly shows:
- (a) The boundaries of the property
  - (b) The boundaries of the main land management units on the property.
  - (c) The location of permanent or intermittent rivers, streams, lakes, drains, ponds or wetlands.
  - (d) The location of riparian vegetation and fences adjacent to water bodies.
  - (e) The location on all waterways where stock access or crossing occurs.
  - (f) The location of any areas within or adjoining the property that are identified in a District Plan as “significant indigenous biodiversity”.
3. The full text of any resource consents held for the property and the conditions of the consents.
4. An assessment of the environmental effects and risks associated with the farming activities on the property and how the identified effects and risks will be managed, including irrigation, application of nutrients, effluent application, stock exclusion from waterways, offal pits and farm rubbish pits.
5. A description of how each of the following will, where relevant, be met.
- (a) Nutrient management: To maximise nutrient use efficiency while minimising nutrient losses to water.
  - (b) Irrigation management: To operate irrigation systems efficiently and ensuring that the actual use of water is monitored and is efficient.
  - (c) Soil management: To maintain or improve the physical and biological condition of soils in order to minimise the movement of sediment, phosphorus and other contaminants to waterways.
  - (d) Collected animal effluent management: To manage the risks associated with the operation of effluent systems to ensure effluent systems are compliant 365 days of the year.
  - (e) Livestock management: To manage wetlands and water bodies so that stock are excluded as far as practicable from water, to avoid damage to the bed and margins of a water body, and to avoid the direct input of nutrients, sediment, and microbial pathogens.
  - (f) Offal pits and rubbish pits: To manage the number and location of pits to minimise risks to health and water quality.

6. The plan shall include for each issue in 5 above:
  - (a) detail commensurate with the scale of the environmental effects and risks;
  - (b) defined measurable targets that clearly set a pathway and timeframe for achievement, and set out defined and auditable “pass/fail” criteria;
  - (c) a description of the good management practices together with actions required;
  - (d) the records required to be kept for measuring performance and achievement of the target.
7. Nutrient budgets are prepared by a suitably qualified person who has both a Certificate of Completion in Sustainable Nutrient Management in New Zealand Agriculture and a Certificate of Completion in Advanced Sustainable Nutrient Management from Massey University using a nutrient budget model, (such as OVERSEER™), for each of the identified land management units and the overall farm.
8. The Full Parameter Report from OVERSEER™ must be included with the Farm Environment Plan

### **Part C – Farm Environment Plan Audit Requirements**

The Farm Environment Plan must be audited by a Farm Environment Plan Auditor who is independent of the farm being audited (is not a professional adviser for the property) and has not been involved in the preparation of the Farm Environment Plan, either personally or as an employee or contractor of the industry group, supplier or consultancy that has prepared the Farm Environment Plan.

The Audit framework will give a grade of A, B or C for the Farm Environment Plan itself, and a grade of A, B or C for performance against the Farm Environment Plan actions.

The Farm Environment Plan will be assessed against the following minimum criteria:

1. Whether the Plan is technically sound and feasible
2. Does the Plan identify and address the principal environmental effects and risks?
3. Does the Plan enable all statutory obligations, including resource consents, to be met?

4. Is the detail in the Plan, actions and timeframes for achievement commensurate with the scale of the environmental effects and risks?

The farming activity occurring on the property will be audited against the following minimum criteria:

1. Compliance with all relevant statutory requirements;

2. An assessment of the performance against the targets, good practices and timeframes in the Farm Environment Plan;

3. An assessment of the robustness of the nutrient budget/s;

4. An assessment of the efficiency of water use (if irrigated).

Farm Environment Plans shall be audited annually and the audit results provided to the CRC no later than 31 December for the previous 1 July to 31 June year, or such other annual period nominated. Once a farm environment plan review and audit period is nominated, each successive audit may be no more than 12 months apart.

A grade of "A" for the Farm Environment Plan itself and "B" for performance against the Farm Environment Plan actions is considered an "A-B" grade in terms of Rules 5.39-5.51.

Any audit result that does not result in an "A-B" grade may be submitted with a revision of the farm environment plan, a list of corrective actions and a follow-up audit that shows an "A-B" grade within 6 months of the original audit without penalty under Rules 5.39 to 5.51.

### **Part C D - Farming Information**

Whenever one of Rules 5.39-5.51 requires information to be submitted, the following information is to be provided either in writing or via the Canterbury Regional Council's website :

1 The site area to which the farming activity relates;

2 A map or aerial photograph marked to identify the different blocks within the farm and the area in hectares of each;

3 Identification of any wetlands, watercourses, drains and swales on or adjacent to the property;

4 Monthly stocking rates (numbers, types and classes) including breakdown by stock class;

5 Annual yield of arable or horticultural produce;

6 A description of the farm management practices used on each block including:

- (a) Ground cover – pasture, crops, fodder crops, non-grazed areas (including forestry, riparian and tree areas);
- (b) Stock management – lambing/calving/fawning dates and percentages, any purchases and sales and associated dates, types and age of stock;
- (c) Fertiliser application – types and quantities per hectare for each identified block;
- (d) Quantities and type of introduced or exported feed;

7 Farm animal effluent, pig farm effluent, feed pad and stand-off pad effluent management including:

- (a) Area of land used for effluent application;
- (b) Annual nitrogen loading rate and nitrogen load rate per application;
- (c) Instantaneous application rate;

8 Irrigation – areas, rates, monthly volumes and system type.

The information is to collated for the period 1 July to 31 June in the following year and be provided annually, no later than the 31st of October.