



Farming to limits and Farm Environment Plan audits

SEPTEMBER 2018

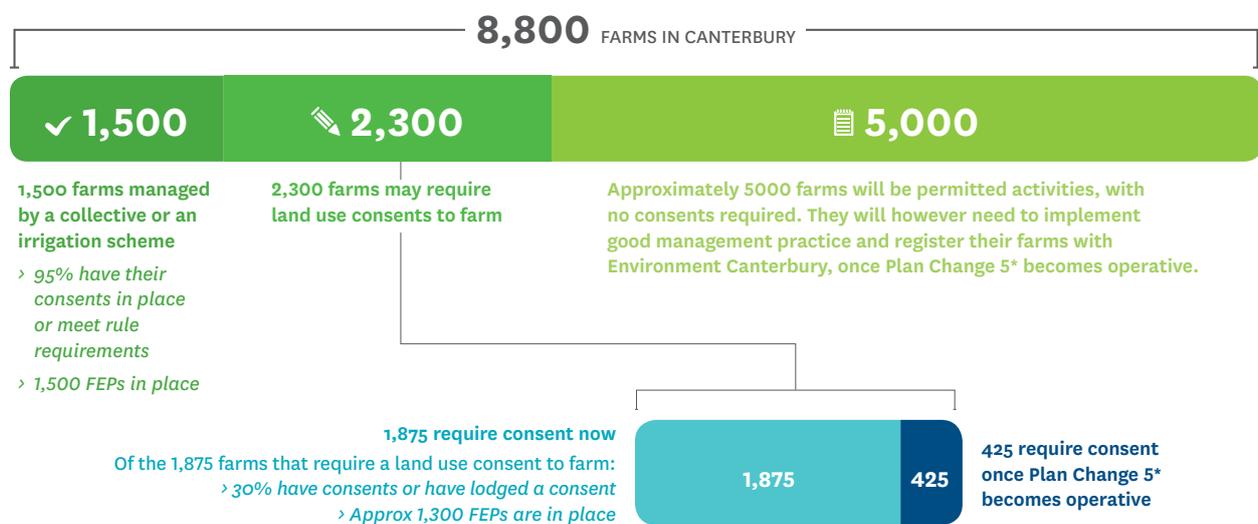
Protecting the environment is the top priority

The work to protect and improve Canterbury’s rural environment has several parts:

- Set the necessary **nutrient limits** across Canterbury via planning rules
- Promote **Good Management Practices (GMP)** for farmers
- Require **land-use consent to farm** and **independent audit**
- Ensure effective and targeted **consent compliance monitoring**, and
- Respond quickly to as many **incident reports** as possible.

We want to deal with environmental risks before they turn into incidents and cause damage - let's have a fence at the top of the cliff. This is happening through land-use consents to farm and strict nutrient limits, and the Good Management Practices Programme of continuous improvement on farm, managed through the completion of Farm Environment Plans (FEPs).

Who are we working with?



*Plan Change 5 is the Nutrient Management and Waitaki Plan Change to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

> See inside for our Farming land-use consent progress.

< See the back page for Farm Environment Plan audit information.

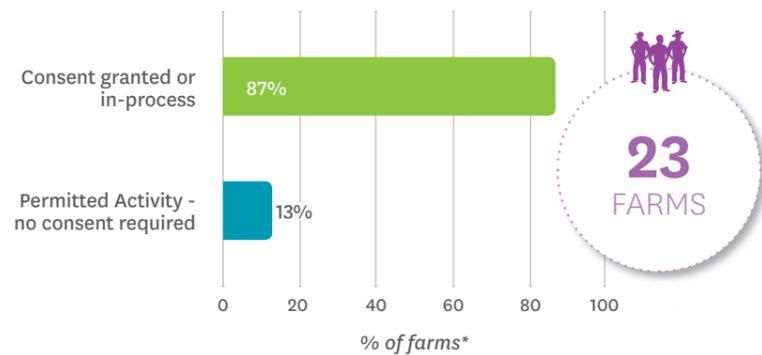
Farming Land-use Consent Progress Measures

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The 1875 farms that require land use consent now are being reached through a rolling program designed to advise farmers of their requirements and assist them to take appropriate actions. The work being done with these 1875 farms is outlined below. Work with the remaining 425 farms will commence once Plan Change 5 is operative.

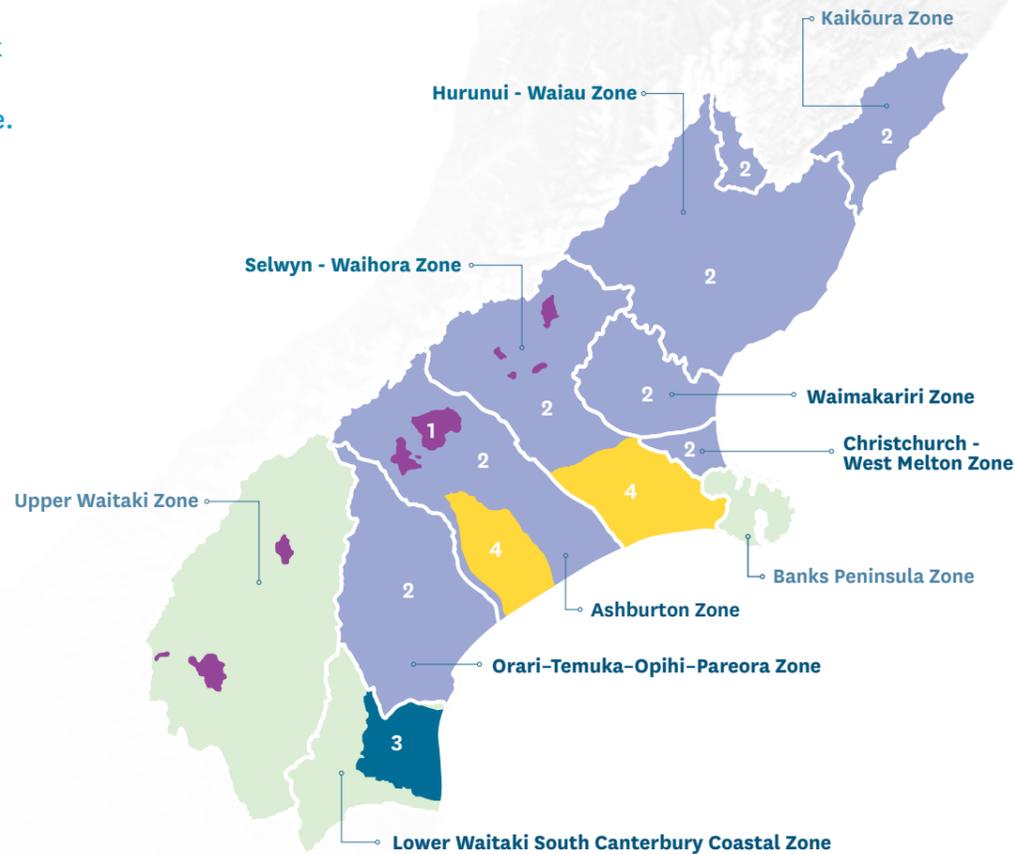
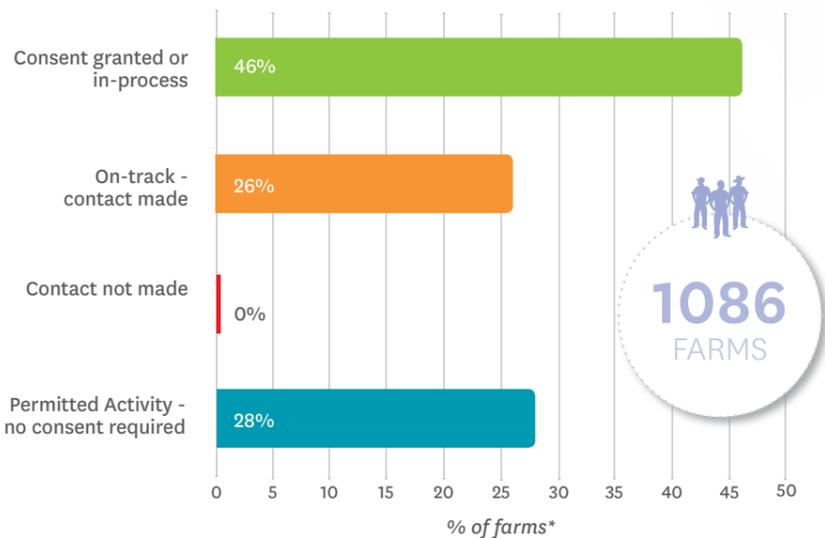
1 FROM JAN 2017 Sensitive lakes

✓ 100% permitted or consented



2 FROM MAY 2017 Farms with >50ha of irrigation

✓ 99% permitted, consented or on-track



- 1 Sensitive Lakes
- 2 Farms with >50ha of irrigation
- 3 South Coastal Canterbury Streams
- 4 Hinds & Selwyn/Te Waihora < 50ha Irrigation

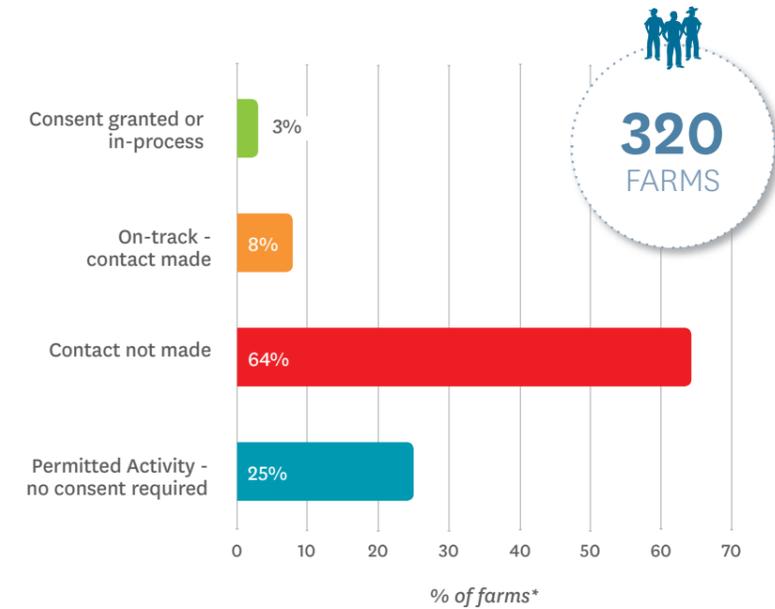
The four categories reported on for each area are:

- ✓ CONSENT GRANTED OR IN-PROCESS**
The land manager has applied for and been granted a land-use consent to farm, or the application is being processed.
- 🎯 ON-TRACK - CONTACT MADE**
The land manager has been contacted and is taking the steps required to get a land use consent to farm (e.g. waiting for a consultant to help with modelling their nitrogen losses).
- 📞 CONTACT NOT MADE**
We have attempted to make contact (by letter or phone-call) but the land manager has not yet responded. We keep trying until we do get a response.
- 👍 PERMITTED ACTIVITY - NO CONSENT REQUIRED**
A land-use consent to farm is not required, but farming activity is still covered by the conditions in the relevant plan.

*Graphs exclude properties determined not to be target farms

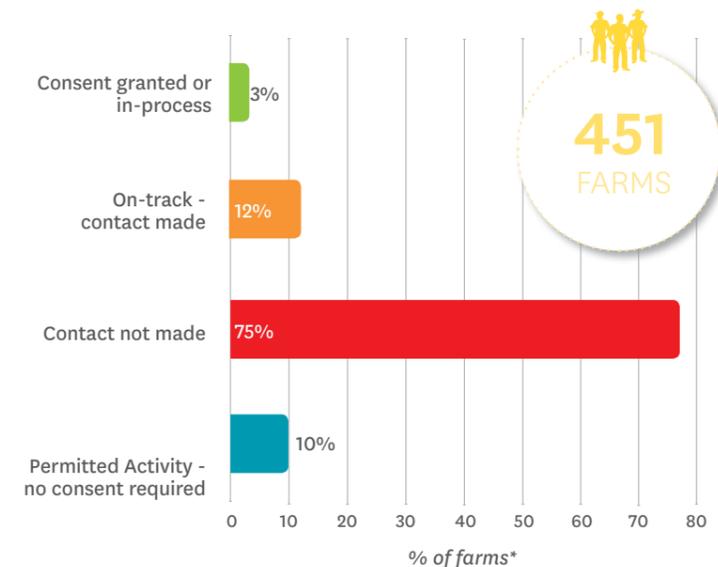
3 FROM NOVEMBER 2017 South Coastal Canterbury Streams

📊 36% permitted, consented or on-track



4 FROM APRIL 2018 Hinds & Selwyn/Te Waihora < 50ha of irrigation

📊 25% permitted, consented or on-track



Farm Environment Plan (FEP) Audits

Audits demonstrate a farm's progress towards meeting good management practices and water quality limits.

Consented farms require regular audits at intervals of between six months and three years (or four years for collectives and irrigation schemes) depending on their previous grades. Non-compliant farms are audited more frequently.

A and B grades are compliant, while C and D grades are not. Repeated instances of a C or D grade result in enforcement action.

Reflecting the consent process, most of the audits currently being completed are of irrigation scheme consents, rather than individual farms.

Farm Environment Plan Audit Grades as at November 2017



Individual farms



Collectives or irrigation schemes



Total FEP audit grades



What areas do Good Management Practices address?

-  Farm planning and records
-  Cultivation and soil structure
-  Irrigation and water use
-  Ground cover
-  Animal feed
-  Intensive grazing
-  Sediment, phosphorus, and faecal bacteria
-  Farm effluent and wastewater
-  Nutrient management