Facilitating sustainable development in the Canterbury region
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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).

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

Who are we working with?

Find out more about Good Management Practices and Audits at canterburywater.farm

› 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
     - 23 farms
     - Consents granted or in-process: 87%
     - Permitted activity - no consent required: 13%

2. **From May 2017**
   - Farms with >50ha of irrigation
     - 99% permitted, consented or on-track
     - 1086 farms
     - Consents granted or in-process: 46%
     - On-track - contact made: 26%
     - Contact not made: 0%
     - Permitted activity - no consent required: 28%

3. **From November 2017**
   - South Coastal Canterbury Streams
     - 36% permitted, consented or on-track
     - 320 farms
     - Consent granted or in-process: 3%
     - On-track - contact made: 8%
     - Contact not made: 64%
     - Permitted activity - no consent required: 25%

4. **From April 2018**
   - Hinds & Selwyn/Te Waihora < 50ha Irrigation
     - 25% permitted, consented or on-track
     - 451 farms
     - Consent granted or in-process: 2%
     - On-track - contact made: 12%
     - Contact not made: 75%
     - Permitted activity - no consent required: 10%

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