

Canterbury Land & Water Regional Plan

Nutrient Management Rules – Summary

February 2014

How the rules apply to farms:

- Small farms (less than 5ha), or farms leaching less than 10kg/ha (outside a Lake Zone – see below), are a *permitted land use*
- Farms operating in an irrigation scheme or under a principal water supplier are a permitted land use *provided* their scheme or supplier holds a resource consent that meets the Land & Water Regional Plan rules
- Farms that aren't authorised by either of the above rules must be assessed against the coloured zone rules (see below and over the page) to determine whether their land use is permitted or requires a resource consent
- All farms larger than 5ha must establish a *nitrogen baseline*. The baseline is the average nitrogen loss below the root zone from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013
- All farms requiring a resource consent must prepare a *farm environment plan* as part of their consent application. If such a plan is not prepared the activity has a *non-complying* status, and these consents are granted in exceptional circumstances only.



Lake zones

The Lake Zone catchments are sensitive to nutrient enrichment, so increases in nitrogen leaching must be avoided.

- *Prohibited activity* - any increase in nitrogen leaching against the nitrogen baseline
- *Permitted activity* if the farm is smaller than 5ha
- *Resource consent and farm environment plan required* if leaching is more than 10kg/ha/yr.

Red zones – water quality outcomes not met

There is no capacity for the zone to absorb more nitrogen.

- *Prohibited activity* - any increase in nitrogen leaching above the nitrogen baseline
- *Permitted activity* until January 2017 provided information about the farm is kept, or OVERSEER® budgets are recorded
- *Resource consent required* after January 2017 if leaching is more than 20kg/ha/yr. A farm environment plan must be provided at the time the resource consent application is lodged; otherwise the activity becomes non-complying.

Orange zones – at risk

There is some capacity to absorb more nutrients; water quality outcomes are at risk, unless some controls are imposed.

- **Permitted activity:**
 - Farms leaching less than 20kg/ha/yr are permitted if farm information is recorded
 - Farms leaching more than 20kg/ha/yr are permitted until 2016, provided the property is smaller than 50ha and any increase in nitrogen leaching is limited to 5kg/ha/yr.
- **Resource consent required** after 2016 if the farm leaches more than 20kg/ha/yr, and:
 - the farm is larger than 50ha, or
 - nitrogen leaching from the property increases above the baseline.

Green/Light Blue zones – meet water quality outcomes/unclassified

There is capacity for the zone to absorb additional nutrients.

- **Permitted activity:**
 - Farms leaching less than 20kg/ha/yr
 - Farms leaching more than 20kg/ha/yr, provided:
 - the property is smaller than 50ha, or
 - increases in leaching are less than 5kg/ha/yr.
- **Resource consent required** if farms cannot comply with the above.

Nutrient allocation zones

