

MANAGING OUR ENVIRONMENT



ONE PLAN – Nutrient Management

February 2013

Purpose of the Rules

To improve water quality

- Applies to 9 target catchments for existing intensive farming activities
- Applies to conversions to an intensive use anywhere in the region
- A intensive use is: dairy, irrigated sheep and beef, commercial vegetable growing and cropping.

The Rules

- For **existing** intensive farming –
 - 13-1 = controlled activity. An existing activity must be able to comply with the cumulative N leaching maximums at **year 1, 5, 10 and 20** specified in Table 13.2, and where it cannot;
 - 13-1A = restricted discretionary activity. Existing intensive farming activities that cannot meet the standards of Rule

- **all new** intensive farming

- 13-1B = controlled activity, provided standards can be met. Also relies on the activity being able to comply with the year 20 cumulative N leaching maximum specified in Table 13.2. The step-down period allowed by rule 13-1 does not apply to new activities.
- 13-1C = restricted discretionary activity. New intensive farming activities that cannot meet the standards of 13-1B will fall under 13-1C as a restricted discretionary activity.

Table 13.2

Period (from the year that the rule becomes operative)	LUC* I	LUC* II	LUC* III	LUC* IV	LUC* V	LUC* VI	LUC* VII	LUC* VIII
<u>Year 1</u>	30	27	24	18	16	15	8	2
<u>Year 5</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Year 10</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Year 20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>

- The N leaching maximums specified in Table 13.2 come into force in different years depending on the catchment the existing intensive farm falls into.

Step by step application of the 13-1 Rules and Table 13.2

- **Step 1:** Develop a nutrient management plan (NMP) which contains LUC and soil maps at paddock scale and a nutrient budget (amongst other things)
- **Step 2:** Compare current N loss against allowable N loss
- **Step 3:** Where the current N loss is greater than the allowable N loss under Table 13.2, mitigation options will be identified as part of the NMP.

- **Step 4:** Where the mitigation identified in step 3 shows that the allowable N loss limits at year 20 can be achieved, a controlled activity will be granted for a maximum term of 20 years (term will vary slightly depending on the common catchment expiry date).
- **Step 5:** Where the mitigation identified in step 3 shows that the allowable N loss limits cannot be met, a restricted discretionary consent will be required.

In this situation, the council and farmer will discuss progressing toward the allowable N loss targets considering timeframes and N loss reductions e.g. by year xx the total N loss will not exceed xx N/ha/yr.

Each application will be assessed on its merits against a specified list of criteria

Implications - Science

- Monitoring with established water quality networks
 - Currently about 160 permanent sites
- Adapting and refining existing models to meet new challenges and educating users
- Opportunities for new knowledge and solutions:
 - Nitrogen leaching mitigation practices
 - Nitrogen flow mapping – root zone to river

Implications – resource requirements

- **External**

- Farmers budgeting for nutrient management plans and implementation of mitigation options.
- Rural professional organisations (fertiliser companies, Dairy NZ, consultants etc) up-skilling in nutrient management
- Research institutions e.g. CRI, Universities with an emphasis on nutrient management.

- **Internal**

- Staff resources to assist farmers prior to consent being received, reviewing NMPs, and compliance once consent has been granted.

Implications – capacity building

- Will need nutrient management plan providers who have a high level of competence in developing mitigation options.
- Education for farmers and industry providers plus developing training and support initiatives to nutrient management providers.
- Soil mappers.