

## Draft outline of nutrient management plan audit process

### Objective

To assess the accuracy and appropriateness of nutrient modelling inputs used by each applicant to estimate the annual quantity of nutrients leaching through to water from irrigation associated with current resource consent applications.

### Process

An important part of the audit is that the level of audit should reflect the potential effect of the activity on water quality. Ideally this would be determined on the basis of the specific receiving environment sensitivity and the proximity of the estimated 'catchment' maximum load compared to the estimated inputs from each applicant. However, all the information needed to undertake that level of analysis is not currently readily available so a simple three tier approach is proposed to be used based on the irrigation area:

1. >1000ha = detailed audit including individual site visits and discussions with applicant/consultants
2. 150 ha - 1000 ha = audit involving some representative site visits and grouped discussions with applicant/consultants (recognising new versus existing irrigation)
3. < 150 ha = desktop audit based on available information and phone discussion with applicant/consultants

It is assumed that all nutrient management plans, including Overseer inputs and output information and nutrient management modelling information that cannot adequately be modelled by Overseer (e.g., wintering dairy cows for more than six months), will be made available by approximately Friday 30 October. This will need to include the actual electronic Overseer files.

### Timetable

2 - 13 November - preparation, field visits and some drafting  
9 - 18 November - drafting report  
19 November - draft report circulated for discussion/feedback  
25 November final feedback received on draft report  
30 November - final report circulated to parties

This is a tight timetable and is dependent on both the majority of Overseer information being provided by the deadline and Overseer caucusing being arranged at the start of the field visits.

### Cost estimate

The cost estimate has been prepared on the basis of Agfirst's normal commercial charge-out rates and the above programme. This estimate has been prepared on the basis that ECan investigating officers undertake a number of basic checks to ensure that the Overseer modelling matches up with the consent application details. This is considered to be the most cost effective approach given that their charge-out rates are generally significantly less than Agfirst's.

It is possible that some field work may take less time if properties in one area undertaking similar activities have very similar model inputs.