

Draft proposals for what the freshwater farm plan regulations would require all plans to contain

Additional information that could be contained in supporting guidance

Property and business details

<p>Farm business name, address and geospatial location of the farm business</p>	<p>Map showing farm boundary (including leased land); reference to title and land parcels; and relevant digital farm business identifiers, such as NZBN, Fonterra supply number.</p> <p>Run-off blocks on land not owned by the business (and being managed by a different farm operator) will need to be part of a separate freshwater farm plan prepared by the applicable farm operator. However, the main freshwater farm plan will need to reference any such arrangements.</p>
<p>Name and contact details of the farm operator</p>	<p>Farm operator means the person with ultimate responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the farm. This is the person responsible for preparing the freshwater farm plan, submitting the plan to a certifier for certification; ensuring the farm operates in compliance with the plan; and arranging for audit of the plan (see section 217E of Part 9A of the RMA).</p>
<p>Name and contact details of the owner(s) of the land covered by the freshwater farm plan (where different from the farm operator).</p>	<p>Landowner likely to change less frequently than the farm operator, especially for leased land.</p>
<p>Total farm area (ha), effective farm area (ha), irrigated farm area (ha)</p>	<p>Effective area is the operational areas of the farm (excludes houses, raceways, etc.)</p>
<p>References to existing resource consents</p>	<p>Consent number and the nature of the consent. Farm planner can include reference to conditions from the consent in the freshwater farm plan where relevant.</p>
	<p>Guidance needs to encourage the risk assessment process and identification of mitigation actions to identify applicable national requirements in the Freshwater NES and stock exclusion regulations (eg, intensive winter grazing of forage crops; wetlands; fish passage, fertiliser reporting) and any applicable regional council rules.</p>
<p>Nature of the farming activities undertaken</p>	
<p>Identification of the predominant farming activities (eg, dairy, sheep, beef, deer, cropping, arable, horticulture, other). Provide for primary land use and if applicable secondary land use.</p>	<p>This will help reporting of numbers of certified freshwater farm plans in a given catchment or region by sector.</p>
	<p>Guidance Freshwater farm plan should include a high-level summary of the farming operation. Information on stock class and numbers, irrigation (how much, type, water source), support blocks, effluent management, crop area and types, climate data, soils and topography. These things can be dynamic, so the summary needs to be a high-level overview.</p>

Farm information and maps

Map(s) of the farm (including owned and leased paddocks that are managed as a single economic unit) that clearly show the following natural and man-made features.

Natural environment:

- waterways, lakes, wetlands and riparian areas
- significant indigenous freshwater biodiversity and habitat
- mahinga kai sites
- any covenants
- farmed (grazed and cropped) areas including:
 - soil type
 - land slope
 - land management units
 - critical source areas.

Built environment:

- property boundary (land parcels and any designations)
- feed pads, yards and other stock holding infrastructure
- accessways (roads, gateways and underpasses)
- river crossings (culverts, bridges and stream crossings)
- stock water system (bores, dams)
- point source discharges (rubbish dumps, offal pits and silage pits)
- drainage system (tiles, drains, sumps and pumps)
- erosion control assets (detention dams, debris dams, drop structures, flumes)
- irrigation system (intakes, bores, dams and irrigation areas)
- effluent system (sumps, storage, pump shed and effluent areas)
- drinking water protection zones.

The items to be mapped will provide both a geospatial representation of the farm and form part of the risk assessment process.

A single economic unit is not intended to mean that land must be contiguous but would likely need to be in the same catchment (or sub-catchment) so that the catchment context for the freshwater farm plan is appropriate.

Land management unit is intended to mean a homogeneous block of land that responds in a similar way under similar management.

Significant biodiversity means areas identified as such in regional plan or catchment context document.

Any mahinga kai gathering areas would need to be identified with tangata whenua and the wider community.

Critical source areas (CSAs) are hydrological (or physical) features in the landscape where water flow naturally accumulates and where there is a connection to water.

Guidance would also note risks associated with CSAs increase with slope, length of slope, soil factors (heavy vs light soils), intensity of land use and activity type and moisture.

Guidance would also distinguish CSAs from what could be termed as hotspots (eg, stock camps, stream crossings, yards and stock holding areas, silage pits, etc).

Maps could identify flat land, easy rolling country, and steeper hill country (eg, as used in land management units).

Guidance could also include other matters that could be included such as paddock layout; hazardous substance storage and mixing areas; and flood protection areas like stop banks.

Risk/impact assessment information

Any relevant information gathered through the risk/impact assessment process.

Information for actions to avoid, remedy or mitigate risks/impacts

Any relevant information on the chosen actions to avoid, remedy or mitigate identified risks/impacts

Administrative info

Dates of certification (and re-certification) of freshwater farm plan and names of certifier(s)

Note details and timeframes for this to come from work on certification, auditing and compliance, monitoring and enforcement.

Date(s) of audit of freshwater farm plan; name and contact details of auditor

As above.