



When the cows come home

applying for your dairy shed effluent resource consents

Dairy Shed Effluent Resource Consents

The information contained within this booklet will assist you in ensuring the quick and efficient processing of your resource consent application.

Resource Consents for the discharge and storage of dairy shed effluent are important legal documents that enable you to carry out your work and meet environmental requirements at the same time.

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SECTION ONE

Obtaining your resource consent: the Process

Obtaining your resource consent: the Process

1. After you have checked that all required information has been provided, the application form and all other necessary information can be submitted to Environment Canterbury.

2. When submitting your application you can either post to Customer Services at Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch or you can opt to meet with an Investigating Officer who will assist you, free of charge, to check the details of your application and ensure it meets initial criteria.

3. Once submitted, the application is formally receipted by a Consent Operations Officer. If your application has not had a pre-assessment with an Investigating Officer, the Operations Officer will check that you have applied for the right consents and have paid the correct deposit. Provided all initial criteria has been met, you will receive an acknowledgement letter at this point, confirming your application has been passed to an Investigating Officer for processing.

4. During the initial processing of your application, you may receive a phone call or letter from the Investigating Officer if they require further information from you. You should note that processing of your application will go on hold until the required information is provided. The Investigating Officer will provide a report for Environment Canterbury Decision Makers about your application detailing any effects on the environment.

5. The Investigating Officer will send you some 'proposed conditions'. Please read these carefully and make sure you understand them. These are the likely conditions that will be placed on your Resource Consent and you must be able to comply with them at all times. If you do not understand the conditions, please contact the Investigating Officer to discuss them further. Once you are happy with the conditions, sign in the space provided and return them to the Investigating Officer.

6. Your application, management plan, signed conditions and the Investigating Officer's report is given to the 'Decision Maker' for final decision and sign-off.

7. A letter will be posted to you advising whether your application has been granted or declined; if your application has been granted, you will receive a Resource Consent detailing the conditions you are required to meet.

SECTION TWO

Associated Notes

The Associated Notes provide a description of the Resource Consents you may need, including copies of the rules controlling dairy shed effluent spreading and storage.

SECTION THREE

Example Resource Consent Conditions

These examples contain some of the more commonly used conditions attached to dairy effluent consents. If your Resource Consent application is granted, you will have to comply with most – if not all – of these conditions. There may also be additional conditions which are particular to your farm.

Example Conditions: Discharge of dairy shed effluent to land

1. Contaminants discharged shall be:
 - dairy shed effluent diluted with wash down water, and associated odour (“the Diluted Discharge”); and
 - solid dairy effluent (“the Solid Discharge”)

derived from milking cows at a dairy shed.

2. The dairy shed shall be located on the land parcel with the legal description *[your property's legal description]*, at or about map reference NZMS 260 *[your map reference]*, as shown on Plan CRC *[your plan number]*.

3. The discharge shall only be onto the area identified on Plan CRC *[your plan number]* (“the Discharge Area”)

Diluted discharge (these conditions refer to the liquid part of the effluent)

4. The discharge shall only be via a spray irrigation system.

5. a) If the irrigation system used to distribute the discharge is also used to distribute water, a backflow preventer manufactured in accordance with AS 2845.1 (1998) or an equivalent standard, shall be installed within the pump outlet plumbing or within the mainline, to prevent the backflow of water or contaminants into the bore.
b) Any backflow preventer, referred to in condition 5a, shall be tested to the standard set out in AS 2845.3 (1993) or an equivalent standard within one month of its installation and annually thereafter by a suitably qualified person. A test report shall be provided to the Canterbury Regional Council, attention RMA Compliance and Enforcement Manager within two weeks of each inspection.

6. The discharge application depth, including any irrigation water applied with the discharge or within 24 hours before or after discharging:
 - a) shall not exceed *[your application depth]* millimetres per day; and
 - b) shall not result in any runoff beyond the property boundary.

7. The discharge application depth, including any irrigation water applied with the discharge, shall not result in effluent ponding on the land surface as a consequence of the exercise of this consent.

Diluted Discharge and Solid discharge (these conditions refer to both the liquid and solid parts of the discharge)

8. The discharge shall not exceed a rate of:
 - a) 200 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare per year onto any part of the discharge area; and
 - b) 100 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare within any consecutive three month period.
9. a) There shall be no discharge within 20 metres of any bore, soakhole, surface water body or artificial watercourse.
b) There shall be no discharge such that the discharge is likely to run-off and enter groundwater, any surface water body or any artificial watercourse.
c) There shall be no discharge into surface water as a consequence of the exercise of this consent.

10. There shall be no discharge onto frozen ground or snow-covered ground.
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11. The discharge shall be managed to ensure that aerosols, spray-drift and odour arising from the application of the discharge onto land are contained within the boundary of the Discharge Area.
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12. Any contaminant contained within any associated distribution or treatment system, shall not cause an odour which results in offensive or objectionable effects on the environment beyond the boundary of the Discharge Area.
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13. a) The consent holder shall manage their operation in accordance with the Management Plan to ensure the conditions of this consent are complied with at all times.
b) Prior to any change in the activity authorised by this consent occurring, the Management Plan shall be updated and shall be supplied to the Canterbury Regional Council, attention: RMA Compliance and Enforcement Manager.
(c) A copy of the Management Plan shall be given to all persons undertaking activities authorised by this consent.
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14. A copy of this resource consent shall be positioned in a prominent place in the dairy shed at all times.
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15. The Canterbury Regional Council may, once per year, on any of the last five working days of March, June or November, serve notice of its intention to review the conditions of this consent for the purposes of:
a) Dealing with any adverse effect on the environment which may arise from the exercise of this consent and which it is appropriate to deal with at a later stage; or
b) Requiring the adoption of the best practicable option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment.
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16. The lapsing date for the purposes of section 125 shall be *[eg 30 June 2013]*.

Example Conditions: Land use consent to store dairy shed effluent

1. Contaminants stored shall be only dairy shed effluent diluted with dairy shed wash-down water ("Effluent").

2. Contaminants shall only be stored in the storage facility on the land parcel with the legal description *[your property's legal description here]* ("the Storage Land") as shown on Plan CRC *[your plan no.]*.

3. a) The storage facility shall have a volume capacity of at least *[your storage capacity]* cubic metres.
b) There shall be sufficient storage capacity to store the maximum volume of Effluent produced over a period of *[number of days storage]* days on the Storage Land.

4. a) The storage facility shall be sealed and maintained at all times in accordance with the Management Plan referred to in condition 5, to prevent leakage of Effluent onto or into the land where it may enter water.
b) All associated yards, tanks, pipes, sumps and channels shall be sealed and maintained at all times with appropriate material such a concrete to prevent leakage of Effluent onto or into the land where it may enter water.

5. a) The consent holder shall manage their operation in accordance with the Management Plan to ensure the conditions of this consent are complied with at all times.
b) Prior to any change in the activity authorised by this consent occurring, the Management Plan shall be updated and shall be supplied to the Canterbury Regional Council, attention: RMA Compliance and Enforcement Manager.
c) A copy of the Management Plan shall be given to all persons undertaking activities authorised by this consent.

6. a) There shall be no storage within 20 metres of any bore, surface water body or artificial watercourse.
b) There shall be no storage such that the Effluent is likely to run-off and enter any surface water body or any artificial watercourse.

7. Any Effluent contained within any associated storage, distribution or treatment system, shall not cause an odour which results in offensive or objectionable effects on the environment beyond the boundary of the Storage Land.

8. The Canterbury Regional Council may, once per year, on any of the last five working days of March, June or November, serve notice of its intention to review the conditions of this consent for the purposes of:
a) dealing with any adverse effect on the environment which may arise from the exercise of this consent and which it is appropriate to deal with at a later stage; or
b) requiring the adoption of the best practicable option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment.

9. The lapsing date for the purposes of section 125 shall be *[eg 30 June 2013]*.

SECTION FOUR

Management Plan Notes

The Management Plan notes are a guide to help you prepare a dairy effluent management plan, which is required as part of your Resource Consent application. The management plan should be written in a way that is easy for all farm workers to understand and follow.

SECTION FIVE

Application Form

The information you provide in the application form is what the Investigating Officer uses to determine whether your consent should be granted or not. Please be as thorough and precise as possible when answering the questions. We require specific information regarding your dairy farm, and the methods of effluent disposal you are proposing to use. We strongly advise you to:

Submit your application early to avoid any delays;

Provide as much information as possible, as any requests for further information will result in increased processing times and cost of your application.

Please detach the application form along perforated line.



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