

Appendix H20: Requirements of Farm Environment Plans (FEPs)

- 1.0 A FEP shall be prepared for:
 - a) a property or farm enterprise; or
 - b) for a property as part of a collective such as a community irrigation scheme or an Industry Certification Scheme.
- 2.0 For properties or farm enterprises greater than 5,000 ha in area, where the requirement for an FEP is triggered by Rules C6.2.9(2), C6.2.9(3) and/or C6.2.9(4), the FEP may, at the landowner's option, be limited to either:
 - a) the property or properties as defined by the certificate(s) of title for the area within which intensively farmed stock, commercial vegetable growing or cropping activities are occurring; or
 - b) the farm enterprise.
- 3.0 The FEP must identify the relevant environmental issues for each land use activity within the area covered by the FEP and the methods that will be used to manage each activity to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects. Except where clause 2.0 applies, the FEP must cover the whole property or farm enterprise but only needs to provide sufficient detail in terms of the issues relevant to the effect(s) that is managed by the rules(s) triggering the FEP; and
- 4.0 Shall be prepared using a Gisborne District Council template or based on an industry prepared template that has been approved by the Council in its capacity as Consent Authority.
- 5.0 The FEP shall contain as a minimum:
 - 5.1 Property or farm enterprise details:
 - a) Physical address;
 - b) Owner(s), manager and name of a contact person;
 - c) Farm name(s) and legal description(s) of the land;
 - d) Farm Enterprises and size of operation (hectares);
 - e) Existing farm management policy, including stock types and classes, numbers wintered, feed supplement inputs, fertiliser input and winter management;
 - f) Annual and permanent crops grown;
 - 5.2 A map(s) or aerial photograph of the area that is subject of the FEP at a scale that clearly shows:
 - a) The boundaries of the area that is the subject of the FEP;
 - b) The boundaries of the following main land management units;

- Irrigated areas
 - Flat to easy rolling land
 - Rolling to medium steep land
 - Steep land
 - Cropping
 - Effluent irrigation area
 - Run-off
- c) The location of permanent and intermittently flowing rivers, streams, lakes, drains, ponds, dams and wetlands;
- d) The location of riparian vegetation and fences (permanent and temporary) adjacent to water bodies;
- e) The locations on all waterways where stock access or stock crossing occurs i.e. bridges and culvert crossings;
- f) The location of any areas within or adjoining the property that are identified in the District Plan as "Protection Management Areas".

5.3 Nutrient Budget for the area that is the subject of the FEP

- a) A basic nutrient budget for nitrogen and phosphorus which indicates how nitrogen and phosphorus are coming onto the farm, where they are going and the levels that may be lost by leaching or run-off; except for
- b) Dairy Farms, properties that operate feedlots and properties that collect effluent, the nutrient budgets shall be prepared by a suitably qualified person, using the OVERSEER™ nutrient budget model, or equivalent model approved by the Consent Authority.

5.4 A list of all Gisborne District Council resource consents held for the property or farm enterprise.

5.5 For the following objectives, the FEP shall provide an assessment of the adverse environmental effects and risks associated with the farming activities and how the identified effects and risks will be managed:

- a) Nutrient management: to maximise nutrient use efficiency while minimising nutrient losses to water in order to contribute to maintaining and enhancing water quality e.g. phosphorus loss, nitrogen leaching and weed control.
- b) Irrigation management: to operate irrigation systems efficiently and ensuring that the actual use of water is monitored and is efficient.

- c) Soils management: to maintain or improve the physical and biological condition of soils in order to ensure the sustainability of the soil resource and minimise the movement of sediment, phosphorus and other contaminants into waterways in order to contribute to maintaining and enhancing water quality e.g. drainage, erosion control, sediment ponds and soil compaction prevention.
- d) Collected animal effluent management: to manage the risks associated with the operation of effluent systems in order to maintain and enhance water quality and to ensure effluent systems are compliant with Gisborne District Council standards at all times.
- e) Livestock management: To manage wetlands and water bodies to maintain and enhance water quality, so that stock are excluded from water, to avoid damage to the bed and margins of a water body, and to avoid the direct input of nutrients, sediment and microbial pathogens.
- f) Offal pits: To manage the number and locations of pits to minimise risks to health and water quality.
- g) Field drains: to assess potential contamination through field tiles and to manage activities and discharges to contribute to maintaining or improving the quality of degraded waterbodies, and to contribute to maintaining or improving other waterbodies.

5.6 For each of the objectives listed in section 5.5, the FEP shall include:

- a) detail appropriate with the scale of the environmental effects and risks;
- b) a description of the good management practices proposed to be undertaken together with defined measurable actions and/or targets in the FEP (as relevant) and the timeframes for implementation/achievement;
- c) the records required to be kept for measuring performance and achievement of the actions and/or targets in the FEP.

6.0 The FEP shall contain a schedule of actions that will be undertaken to contribute to freshwater objectives, limits or targets being met in a waterbody that is currently degraded (as defined in the Freshwater Plan).

7.0 The FEP shall be certified as meeting all of these requirements of the Consent Authority to ensure that key issues have been identified, and that appropriate actions are planned to address those issues.

8.0 Achievements shall be recorded yearly, and changes in freshwater quality, soil condition, and natural biodiversity (if relevant) are to be monitored every five years.

9.0 The FEP and all associated records shall be reviewed by the Consent Authority every five years.