

FERTILISER AND LIME RESEARCH CENTRE 26th Annual Workshop

**Setting limits for nutrient loss: Implications of
policy implementation for science, resource
requirements and capacity building**

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CURRENT FRAMEWORK

- Operative plan (NRRP) requires Overseer calculations for:
 - Dairying if > 30 SU/ha
 - Arable if > 4 hectares
- If leaching exceeds 8 g/m^3 , must implement best practice to minimise
- If leaching exceeds 16 g/m^3 , require consent

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

- Three approaches depending on:
 - Existing
 - Change of land use
 - Sub-regional limit-setting processes
- Overall approach – set limits based on what leaves root zone > enters water
- Focus on effects, leave land management to the experts

EXISTING LAND USE

- Region-wide and catchment limits
- Region-wide limits based on “good practice”
- “Good practice” articulated by industry
- Limits set at bottom of root zone - vs inputs
- Limit estimated using Overseer
- Region-wide limits start from 2017, unless overtaken by catchment limits

CHANGE OF LAND USE

- Applies from date of plan notification – 13th August 2012
- Change defined:
 - Dryland to irrigation; or
 - Increase N leaching > 10%
- Base years = 2011/12 and 2012/13
- Estimated using Overseer

SUB-REGIONAL LIMIT SETTING

- Canterbury unique – special Act
- Region divided into 10 zones
- Each zone has an appointed committee
- Empowered to recommend limits based on catchment values
- Take into account environmental, cultural, social and economic impacts