

Healthy Rivers Farm Environment Plans (Schedule 1)

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Farm Environment Plans (Schedule 1)

FEPs accepted as being key to practice change and improved water quality

Miraka – PA status for properties/enterprises that operate within a CIS and have a FEP approved/certified by a CFEP

I focus initially on one key aspect:

1. Effectiveness: FEP content – the most effective practices and mitigations

FEP content – effective practice & mitigations

FEPs **effective** in so far as they

- a) Address the specific issues and risks from the sub-c, farm system and biophysical context
- b) Identify most appropriate combination, priority and order of uptake to make meaningful reduction in short time period

Tailoring and flexibility is a strength. Not ‘too much choice to farmers’, but practices and mitigations that are relevant and effective given the biophysical factors

Spatial variation in geology, soil parent material, slope, aspect, rainfall, temperature and vegetation → range of soil types, erosion potential and leaching potentials → different contaminant issues and different solutions

Flexibility for CFEP to determine the most appropriate practices and actions is key to effectiveness. CFEPs (expertise) not consent officers – PA status for farms with FEP prepared by CFEPs and within a CIS

FEP effectiveness under PA

PA – rigour:

- Preparation of FEP using process in Schedule 1
- Certification of FEP by CFEP
- Within a CIS (oversight and auditing)
- Review and audit
- Clear triggers for consent pathway (Ms Hardy)

Triggers for consent

- No NRP or ongoing annual N loss status
- A FEP cannot be obtained or certified or the farmer is unwilling or unable to take the actions required to comply with the FEP.
- The monitoring and review demonstrate that the FEP standards and/or actions cannot be met.
- The sector scheme loses its certification and hence all farms require new FEPs.
- The Certified FEP loses their certification and hence all farms require new FEPs.
- The Council at any time considered the permitted activity status cannot be met and consent is required.

Schedules and walk-through

- Schedule 1 - Parts A-C – JA
- Schedule 1 – Parts D-E - KH
- Schedule 1A
- Walk-through

PA for enterprises within CIS, with CFEP-certified FEP (objectives and principles) – Schedule 1

- Support objectives and principles approach – gives certified expert scope to address matters of significance and directs them toward that (cf prescriptive lists of standards and actions – may not be relevant)
- Schedule 1– amendments to provide context for the content of an FEP, and to increase the rigour (CFEP certification of FEP, 12-month implementation actions, review processes)

PA for enterprises within CIS, with CFEP-certified FEP (standards) – Schedule 1A

- Schedule 1A – also has amendments to provide context for the content of an FEP, and to increase the rigour (CFEP certification of FEP, 12-month implementation actions, review processes)
- 1A – erosion control plans must be part of FEP. Not ok to have it as a separate plan with WRC. Important contaminants.
- 1A – discretion exercised re which items on list to include – CFEP not consent officer
- Expert conferencing to get balance.