

Applying for a Farm System Change

A Farm System Change (FSC) application requiring AIC approval is required when there is:

- A change in dairy cow wintering practice either on-farm or off-farm.
- An increase in milking cow numbers by **more than 5%**.
- Conversion to winter milking.
- An increase of cattle numbers by **more than 10%**.
- Any 'new' irrigation area (dryland conversion to irrigated).
- Any change in irrigation infrastructure covering more than 25% of the farm area as authorised by the Water Supply Agreement.
- Any increase in Intensive Winter Grazing above the reference period area.
- The addition of a feed pad, stand-off pad or cow housing.
- Any other farm system change that could increase nitrogen loss by more than 5kg N/ha.

Farm System Changes must comply with the National Environment Standards for Freshwater 2020.

How to submit a FSC Application

To make an application, visit www.amuriirrigation.co.nz/resources and scroll down to the Farm System Change section. Click the 'Apply Now' button to open the online form.

Applications should be made prior to the first Friday of every month, to be considered at the monthly Board Meeting. Applicants may be invited to present their application to the Board.

On-Farm Improvements and Irrigation Changes

A FSC application is no longer required when a shareholder changes irrigation infrastructure to a more efficient system and no 'new' irrigation area is created, so long as this does not exceed 25% of the farm area, e.g., change from moveable sprinklers to fixed grid. 'New' irrigation is any area not irrigated before September 2020.

AIC should be notified of all irrigation changes using the online form. AIC will keep a register of changes to track efficiencies for environmental outcomes.

Unauthorised Farm System Changes

If a FSC application is not approved before the change takes place, the shareholder will need apply for the FSC retrospectively and may be required to meet with the Board. All costs associated with the application will be met by the shareholder. If there is no available allocation to account for the unauthorised FSC or the Board does not approve the change then the activity will be required to cease and any reinstatement costs to make 'good' the development will be met by the shareholder.

Requirements of a FSC Application

- Your last Farm Environment Plan (FEP) Audit must have recorded an A or B audit grade.
- Share the following documents on Overseer with AIC:
 1. Actual Overseer nutrient budget for the last full season detailing the existing system and the N loss for that system.
 2. Predictive Overseer nutrient budget modelling the proposed system.
- Complete the online application form outlining:
 1. Details of the property identifying the shareholder;
 2. A description of the proposed system and mitigations to be applied (technology, infrastructure and farm management);
 3. A description of the impacts of the proposed system in terms of N loss to water and any mitigations that have been included in the model to minimise N losses;
 4. The intended irrigation supply company to undertake the work; and
 5. A timeline for the completion of the development.
- Upload supporting documentation, i.e., location map, diagrams, design plans and reports.

All Overseer nutrient budgets and modelling data will be checked for robustness. Any deviations from Overseer Best Practice Data Input Standards or Industry protocols that are not identified in the application could result in the application being rejected.

Farm Ownership/Change of Ownership

FSC applications must be made by the farm owner and AIC shareholder. If a farm is being sold, the application must be made by the existing owner using a FSC proposal and Overseer nutrient budget modelling prepared by the new owner(s) to ensure the FSC meets the new owner's expectations and requirements.

We're Here to Help

Please follow the prescribed Nutrient Policy and Farm System Change process to protect the compliance of our consent and the farm systems operated by all shareholders. If you have any questions or would like some assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.



Esther Gorton, Environmental Advisor
027 415 1923, esther@amuriirrigation.co.nz