

GUIDELINES FOR A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Part A: Property details

This section identifies the property and the people responsible for the Nutrient Management Plan and shall include:

- A compilation of all relevant contact details;
- A statement regarding the holding areas – total, effective (i.e. in production or fallow in preparation for production; exclude non-productive areas such as pathways, buildings) and irrigated (if any);
- A statement on the irrigation type(s);
- A description on the enterprise types (Horticulture, Arable, Viticulture, Dairy, Swine, etc.);
- A statement of purpose of the plan.

Part B: Plan objectives, land management units and environmental risk

The Objectives of the Nutrient Management plan shall include to:

- Comply with all legal requirements related to nutrient management activities.
- Take all practicable steps to maintain or enhance the quality of the property's water resources.
- Take all practicable steps to ensure that there is an adequate supply of soil nutrients to meet plant needs.
- To take all practicable steps to contain nutrients within the property boundaries.
- Take all practicable steps to minimise the risk of nutrient contamination of any areas of significant vegetation and/or wildlife habitat.
- Undertake a nutrient budget.

If one chooses to reject or omit any of these, a justification shall be attached (e.g. a farm map showing that there are no areas of significant vegetation or wildlife habitat).

Property Management Objectives

The section on Property Management Objectives shall:

- Indicate any further objectives the farmer or land manager may choose to establish – e.g. objectives about achieving particular nutrient level targets or objectives about farm practices such as soil testing.
- Identify the ‘Land Management Units’ (LMU’s) for the holding, i.e. areas of the holding that are under similar management and that will respond to management in similar ways. One should consider such elements as soil types, slope, management activities (e.g. dryland or irrigated, significantly different crop types, areas receiving slurry) and differences in historical management.

If all of the farm is managed similarly and responds to that management in similar ways, only one LMU is needed.

- Contain a brief note distinguishing each LMU in the table and note the area it covers.
- Indicate such LMUs on a farm map attached to the NMP.
- Contain a list of farm nutrient management activities and their possible environmental consequences – e.g. nitrogen fertiliser use might lead to contamination of surface or ground water. For each of these, there shall be estimated the likelihood of adverse environmental effects and the consequences of such events.
- Consider the inherent risk caused by an activity, without discounting risks on the basis that good management will overcome it.
- Note any activities that have medium or higher likelihood of adverse environmental effects and/or medium or higher consequences in the table of environmental risks, and identify the LMU’s on which these will occur.
- Include comments about the risks identified (e.g. regional concerns about farm activities).

- Identify the main nutrient management activities that will be addressed in the planning.

- N

- Fertiliser

- Use ○ P

- Fertiliser

- Use ○

- Effluent

- disposal ○

- Others

One may add further objectives, however management practices should then also reflect these objectives and set out steps to achieve them.

Part C: Management guides

In the Management guides section one should:

- Describe the management planning for nitrogen fertiliser use, phosphate fertiliser use and dairy effluent application.
- Note the types of applicable fertiliser, application rates and locations where they will be spread (LMU's).
- List any possible specific requirements pertaining to one's holding or enterprise on nutrient use or activity.
- List any possible specific requirements by Local Council on nutrient use or activity. These may include conditions that must be met for the activity to be a 'permitted activity' or conditions imposed as part of any resource consent held by the farm for this nutrient management activity.
- List the 'Best Management Practices' (BMPs) the holding shall implement to reduce environmental risks from this activity.

It is not necessary to adopt all the possible BMPs for a particular risk or activity but the practices chosen need to be suitable for managing the inherent risks identified for the property.

- For each BMP included, note how the farmer or land manager will check that they are implemented (e.g. runoff control noted on a farm map).

Performing self-assessment

The farmer or the property manager shall complete a self-assessment on a yearly basis, verifying that the management practices have achieved their objectives for that year. This shall include:

- Verifying the achievement of nutrient management activity requirements.
- Verifying the implementation of each management practice listed at the planning stage.
- Assessing the effects of the nutrient management activity overall.
- Verifying that the code specific and property objectives were achieved.
- Assessing the achievement of the objectives, whether met and/or were barely achieved, or where the farmer or land manager was not satisfied with performance.
- If the objective is not achieved or partially achieved, amendments to the management practice is required. Note the new management practice that will be used, the person responsible for ensuring these are implemented and a deadline for completion or introduction.
- Establish a completion date whenever each new management practice is adopted.
- The person responsible for the NMP (farmer or land manager) shall sign and date the selfassessment.

Farm map

The person responsible for the NMP should ensure that there is at least one map attached indicating the entire holding(s), showing the land management units or other distinctions between management areas.

Extra maps may be added (e.g. to show areas receiving particular fertiliser types, to show location of water courses or natural water sources etc).

Nutrient budgets and soil test results

The NMP shall establish nutrient budgets and contain soil test results. This section should:

- ensure that there is at least one nutrient budget attached for each land management unit. This is particularly relevant where significant environmental risks have been identified from nutrient management activities.
- The nutrient budget should use the planned nutrient inputs and the expected production outputs from the area. If several fertiliser options were considered then the nutrient budget should support the final choice.
- Soil test results are important for establishing initial soil nutrient levels for nutrient budgeting.
- Further soil tests are useful checks on trends in soil fertility over time to compare actual changes with those expected and planned.

