

Environmental

Analysis and Planning

Supporting the
sustainability of your farm



**“We're here to help
you realise your
farming vision.”**





Farming in a changing environmental landscape

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**“Regulatory
environmental
and compliance
issues affect many
New Zealand
farmers.”**

Getting to grips with rules and regulations

These days, regulatory bodies want compliance with often complex rules. The worry for farmers is the potential for significant limitations on farming operations and the value of your farm.

In some regions, the rules, or the way in which they are applied, is constantly changing. Staying abreast of these changes and how they may or may not impact your farming operation, is the job of Ravensdown Environmental.

How could changes affect my plans for the future?

As regulation takes hold, you may not have full operational freedom.

In many regions council rules place an N-Loss and P-Loss cap on farms, so the type, scale and intensity of any farming operation can be affected.

This could impact on property values, so getting sound environmental advice for business is critical.

A common question is: what if I want to sell my farm in a few years, or maybe buy some

land and make a change to the farm system? The ability to operate and/or make a change to my farm system, whether it's established or proposed is now often affected by the N and P limitations of the property. Real estate agents, buyers and sellers often complete environmental investigations including nutrient management assessments as part of their due diligence, so they know how regulations may impact farm potential in the future.

Council rules can affect your current farm too and in some regions, farmers will need a resource consent from council just to continue farming. The application for resource consent typically requires an assessment of the N and P losses that occurred from your farm in the past as well as a prediction of the potential losses into the future.

How do you know what you can do with your farm? Our team can test multiple farm system scenarios within the model to establish which farm system may be optimal for the land. This gives you the certainty you need to make the required changes.

The results can be significant because the work could increase the value of your farm for sale or provide the certainty you need to make a solid long-term investment.



REGULATION HAS INFLUENCED SOME FARM VALUES BY UP TO 20%*

*Hodges and Mills, NZIPIIM Conference, 2015

Where do I start?

With so many different environmental regulations and requirements, it can be hard to figure out the best solution for your farming needs.

The experienced team at Ravensdown Environmental have a strong and reliable network of collaborators. With our experience and this network at your disposal, you can access a range of environmental services tailored to suit your needs. These include the following, but please get in touch if you can't see what you need there.

- Nutrient Budgeting with OVERSEER® (all assessed by Certified Nutrient Management Advisors)
- Farm Environment Plans (FEP; FEMP; SMP)
- Resource Consent Applications
- Environmental Risk Assessment
- Water Quality Monitoring and Laboratory Testing (including for N and P, at shareholders request)
- Water Quantity Footprinting
- Wastewater and Effluent Testing and application modelling
- GIS Mapping
- Compliance Management

Because we work for Ravensdown, we can leverage the other services and skills Ravensdown has available and utilise them for your environmental work. This includes the use of our IT systems such as Smart Maps, our Research and Development expertise (OVERSEER® and soil scientists) as well as ARL, your soil, plant, feed and water testing laboratory (IANZ Accredited).

ARL 
analytical research laboratories

Who can I trust to help?

Because we work for your co-operative, we have your interests at heart. We pride ourselves on helping you align your goals and future aspirations for the farm within the environmental rules and regulations framework - so you have peace of mind for today, tomorrow and the future.



How much does it cost?

Our consultants' service is charged at an hourly rate and invoiced along with your other Ravensdown products and services in the same way.

optimiser™
**OUR SIX-STEP
OPTIMISER™
PROCESS**

1 DISCUSSION

We talk through your goals face-to-face and scope out the work.

2 DETAILED ANALYSIS
We examine the current farm system and identify environmental risks and opportunities for your farm. This happens through the early stages of Farm Environment Planning and/or completion of OVERSEER® nutrient budget scenarios which 'test' options to mitigate risks and maximise opportunities. We look for solutions that meet or exceed your goals within the bounds of regulatory and environmental limitations.

3 OPTION ASSESSMENT

We run through the pros and cons of each option and advise you in line with your goals and objectives.

4 DETAILED ANALYSIS

We present the agreed plan so it can be used as an on-farm management tool. This can take many forms and have many labels including Farm Environment Plan, Farm Environmental Management Plan or, for Dairy farmers, Sustainable Milk Plan. This is then used in the process of obtaining resource consent or demonstrating compliance.

5 REGULATOR INTERACTION

We can work with you in engaging with your regulator. We can facilitate or lead these interactions and negotiations if required, or take more of a back seat and support you as and when you require.

6 KEEP CONNECTED

The development of the plan is the first step on a longer journey. We can stay with you through the journey, continuing to re-visit the plan as and when you want to evolve or change the way you farm.

A licence to farm for the next 25 years

Rata Dairies and Chris Tidey, Ravensdown Farm Environmental Consultant

A Rangitikei farming family are able to look to the future with certainty, having secured a 25-year controlled land use consent.

The Bull family own three dairy farms, straddling two catchments, which they wanted to ensure were compliant for the next 25 years. Ali McLean says the process was made simple by bringing in Chris Tidey, Ravensdown Environmental Consultant, who did the work for them.

"I was very impressed with him. All we had to do was give him the background work and he did the rest. He's quite passionate about what he does which helps."

Chris said the Bulls were very clear that they wanted the security of the Controlled Land Use Consent.

"I enjoyed working with them because they were really good at keeping detailed records and they knew what they wanted. Being able to deliver that to them was really satisfying."

The farm had to be modelled over two different catchments, with half the farm inside the Coastal Rangitikei catchment (targeted catchment) and the other half within the Lower Rangitikei catchment (non-targeted catchment).

Chris modelled two different scenarios, the status quo and their target scenario, the latter

which would future proof their farms and enable them to plan ahead.

Ali says Chris knew the right people and what they required which was a huge part of the process.

"Having someone like Chris to sit down and explain the process to you and why it's there really helps."

Chris said the challenge was to go from a milking scenario of 900 cows milking two thirds in spring and one third in autumn to an even split over the year.

"Moving a third of the herd into summer milking meant there was an extra 400 cows on farm during the winter period. To mitigate the effect included changing the timing of the N applications that would have pushed some of their nitrogen fertiliser applications back to early autumn and changing their effluent application to a lower rate (less than 10mm) by purchasing a new irrigator."

Fortunately the proposed target scenario was within the boundaries of the controlled activity consent and the consent was granted.

"There was a lot of back and forth with the council requiring additional information for the consents, with the whole process taking about four months rather than the usual two," Chris added.

Ali says dealing with government agencies and compliance processes is part of farming now, which is made a lot simpler by having Ravensdown Environmental Consultants to help them through it.

Now at the end of the process, Chris says he's really pleased he was able to help get the Bulls the consent they wanted.

"They were absolutely chuffed - I was really happy when it worked out."

**“Having someone
explain the
process to you
and why it's there
really helps.”**

-Ali McLean



We are national

Where are we located?

While we are mainly based in the regions shaded in green, we can provide you with help wherever you are located. As a truly national company, Ravensdown have a presence from Northland to Southland. So, if you have a need, contact us and we'll come to help.



Here to help

To talk to your region's environmental consultant phone us on 0800 100 123 or email environmental@ravensdown.co.nz

If you are interested in joining the growing environmental team, email careers@ravensdown.co.nz

Further info

ravensdown.co.nz

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