

# Freshwater Farm Plans and Risks to Fresh water FAQs

## What are farm risks to fresh water?

Water quality is measured to determine the level and range of contaminants at specific sites within catchment areas. The contaminants measured indicate adverse inputs which in turn affect water purity and waterway ecology.

It is important to remember that each risk is unique to the catchment context, inherent vulnerabilities and farming/growing activities around waterways.

## How will freshwater farm plans support healthy waterways?

Farm maps identifying farm boundaries, areas of land use, waterways, landforms, slope, and winter grazing, areas of nutrient and sediment run off form the starting basis for identifying risks to fresh water. An action plan to remedy these will guide landowners towards positive sustained action. Consider the risk factors set out on the right to ensure the farm plan actions are fit for purpose, and achievable within the timeframes stipulated. Focus on the biggest risks to water quality first.

Monthly water samples across 34 waterways within Marlborough have been collected over many years. The water quality indices can then indicate excellent to poor water quality using several attributes; temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, E Coli, dissolved inorganic nitrogen and dissolved reactive phosphorus.

## How can Marlborough District Council help landowners with freshwater risks?

- provide information on the water catchment context, challenges and values within the local catchments (referred to as CCCV)
- help with information and data around the science of water quality for streams and rivers in Marlborough
- support catchment groups with advice, information about risks to water quality and support to form catchment groups
- offer advice on mitigation measures and their potential effectiveness as well as mapping waterways with catchment condition surveys

## How can farms manage risks to water?

Risks	Farming considerations
<b>Nutrients</b>	nutrient management
	nutrient storage and loading
	nutrient application
<b>Land and soil</b>	cultivation
	earthworks
	erosion control
	pasture and grazing management
<b>Intensive winter grazing</b>	site selection
	crop establishment
	grazing management
	post grazing management
<b>Waterbodies and wetlands</b>	stock exclusion
	riparian management
	drain management (channels and sub-surface)
	critical source areas
<b>Critical source areas</b>	tracks and gateways
	troughs and stock camps
	stock waterbody crossings
	yards, feed pads and barns
	silage pits and feed bunkers
	farm dumps
	offal pit
<b>Hazardous substances</b>	fuel and agrichemical storage
	agrichemical use
	agrichemical disposal
<b>Effluent</b>	storage, treatment and application infrastructure
	application management
<b>Water use</b>	take and application infrastructure
	use management
<b>Irrigation</b>	take and application infrastructure
	application management

More information is available on [Marlborough District Council website concerning freshwater farm plans](#)