

Nitrogen leaching loss rate (NLLR)

March 2020

What is an NLLR?

A nitrogen leaching loss rate (NLLR) is a modelled calculation of nitrogen leached in one year from a farm.

For farms requiring an NLLR, the farming year used to base the NLLR on can be any one of the years between 2015/2016 to 2019/2020, OR the most recent farming year.

For commercial vegetable growing operations the NLLR will be based on the highest modelled annual nitrogen leaching loss value during a single year for any year between 2006 and 2016.

NLLR can be established using Overseer® or an approved alternative model.

Who will need to have an NLLR?

Farms other than drystock that wish to operate under permitted activity rule 3.11.4.3 will need to submit an NLLR to us when plan change 1 becomes operative.

Those that do not qualify for, or choose not to meet rule 3.11.4.3, require resource consent and need to submit an NLLR alongside the consent application. This includes existing commercial vegetable production.

Drystock farms in the Whangamarino subcatchments must also submit an NLLR alongside their application for resource consent.

How do I get an NLLR?

All NLLRs must be determined by a certified farm nutrient advisor (CFNA). The CFNA will represent your farm system in the Overseer® (or other) model in order to determine the NLLR figure. The CFNA will need you to provide them with farm records and evidence from the chosen reference year to support the farm system being modelled.

What is a CFNA?

CFNAs are individuals with experience and qualifications in nutrient management who are certified by us to calculate an NLLR for plan change 1. We have developed a certification programme so landowners can have confidence in the advice being provided. The contact information for CFNAs can be found on our website: waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers.



What records do I need to provide?

To support your NLLR, you will need to provide the CFNA with records that corroborate what was occurring on the land during the reference year. The types of records required include:

- stock type and numbers
- milk supply receipts
- supplementary feed
- fertiliser records
- water use records for irrigation
- crops grown/harvested
- soil test data.

How will the NLLR be used?

The main purpose of the NLLR is to determine whether your farm is considered to be low, moderate or high for nitrogen (N) loss as defined by Schedule B, table 1.

- Low N leaching dairy farms are able to operate under permitted activity 3.11.4.3.
- Moderate N leaching dairy farms need to apply for a controlled activity consent (rule 3.11.4.4).
- High N leaching dairy farms need to apply for a discretionary activity consent (rule 3.11.4.7).


For farms that need consent, plan change 1 also requires farmers to reduce nitrogen loss as much as practicable. The exact method for demonstrating that is not specified in plan change 1.



Have more questions?

You can find the decisions version of the proposed rules on our website. We also have a team of trained staff who can answer your questions.

Call us on

 **0800 800 401**


Or send an email to

 **healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz**



Important

This information has been provided based on Waikato Regional Council's interpretation of the decisions version of the proposed plan change to be notified in April 2020. Please take the time to read the decisions version and seek your own advice, too. Also note that the proposed plan is subject to possible change by the Environment Court through the appeals process.

 0800 800 401

 waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers

 healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz



Healthy Rivers
PLAN FOR CHANGE

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