



## ALIL Farm Activity Variation Application (FAVA) process and template

Any land use change resulting in an increased nutrient loss now needs the prior approval of the ALIL scheme board. The following document specifies the information that must be provided for any proposed land use change to be considered by the Board.

Examples of a farm activity variation are:

- Change in land use (e.g. sheep and beef to dairy support)
- Any new or increased area of winter grazing of cattle
- Any increase in irrigated area
- Any increase in stocking rate
- Any other intensification of current system (e.g. system 3 dairy to system 4)

To apply for a variation you must:

1. Complete the attached Farm System Information Template (Appendix A).
2. Complete the approved Farm Environment Plan (FEP) template with one of our staff.
3. Undertake a scheme FEP audit and achieve an overall 'A or B' grade for the year immediately after approval.

Note 1. If an FEP has been completed and is up-to-date then much of the current farm system information may already be on record. Please ask.

4. Provide OVERSEER™ analysis of the *proposed* scenario, including and ensuring:
  - a. Nutrient budgets are prepared using the latest version of OVERSEER™ nutrient budget model and the relevant Best Practice Data Inputs Standards.
  - b. Land management units are identified and explained.
  - c. Overseer analysis is provided to ALIL in Xml format.
  - d. The Overseer analysis aligns with all the parameters presented in the Farm System Information Template (Appendix A).
5. Provide OVERSEER™ analysis of the *current* scenario, including and ensuring:
  - a. Nutrient budgets are prepared using the latest version of OVERSEER™ nutrient budget model and the relevant Best Practice Data Inputs Standards.
  - b. Land management units are identified and explained.
  - c. OVERSEER™ analysis is provided to ALIL in Xml format.
  - d. The OVERSEER™ analysis aligns with all the parameters presented in the Farm System Information Template (Appendix A).

Note 2. If your OVERSEER™ nutrient budget has been collated in the latest version over OVERSEER™, is less than a year old and represents the current farm practices it can be used for the current scenario in this application.

6. A map(s) of the property at a scale that clearly show:
  - a. The boundaries of the property – current and proposed if different
  - b. The boundaries of the farming activities – current and proposed if different
  - c. The location of permanent or intermittent rivers, streams, lakes, drains, ponds or wetlands.
  - d. The location of riparian vegetation and fences adjacent to water bodies.

- e. The location of storage facilities, offal or refuse disposal pits, feeding or stock holding areas, effluent area, raceways, tracks and crossings.
  - f. The location of any areas within or adjoining the property that are identified in a District Plan as “significant indigenous biodiversity”.
  - g. The boundaries of the main land management units on the property.
  - h. Soil type/s used in the OVERSEER™ analysis
7. If the proposed changes relate to part of a property and/or part of an existing FEP, then a description (including maps) of what is changing and where is required. If for example the proposal is to change a farming activity and/or irrigation type on (say) half a block, then supporting maps showing which areas are involved is required. These areas should align with the LMU’s in the current and/or revised ALIL FEP and need to be traceable through the supporting nutrient budgets.
8. If the proposed changes relate to part of a property which is classified as New Irrigation Area and/or other land which falls outside the current terms of ALIL’s discharge consent, this need to be illustrated on a map if possible, and/or described in the application.
9. If changing irrigation types and/or management is an important part of the application then this information needs to be presented along with justification for the annual average irrigation depths used in the analysis.

## Appendix 1: ALIL Farm System Information Template

Property Name	
Property Owner	
Contact number/s	
Email	
Applicant name, if different from current property owner	
Contact number/s	
Email	
Date of application	

General description of overall scenario and proposed change:


Description of existing farm system/s:


Description of proposed farm system (noting significant changes such as irrigation type & mgmt.):


**Nutrient losses:**

Please provide OVERSEER xml files for review.

	Existing	Proposed
Average N loss (kg/ha)		
Total N loss (kg)		
Modelled Irrigation across irrigable area (mm)		
Area (ha)		

**Proposed stocking rates (typical scenario):**

Major stock types / classes	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter

**Proposed Fodder Cropping / Cropping systems (typical):**

Area of Crop / Fodder	Crop type and expected yield/s (kgDM/ha)	Proposed use of Fodder crop	Crop rotation (typical rotation, particularly noting any periods of fallow following Fodder crops).

**Declaration**

*I declare the information I have provided is true, correct and complete.*

*Signed*

*Date*

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*Name(s)*

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## **Appendix 2: ALIL Policy (4.0 of Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited, Nutrient Allocation Policy).**

Since June 2014, any ALIL shareholders proposing to intensify their land use and increase their nitrogen (N) losses above current rate have been required to seek prior ALIL Board approval. This is because ALIL has a constrained limit N load a part of its discharge consent. Within these constraints, ALIL has the ability to reallocate nutrient loads between shareholders. This reallocation, enables some shareholders to intensify land use to a degree so long as corresponding nutrient loss reductions are made by ALIL, overall. ALIL shareholders are permitted to change or intensify land use on the following basis:

- Approval of a land use change resulting in an increase in OVERSEER™ N losses will be considered as applications are received, but such approval lapses if substantial steps have not been taken towards completing the land use change within one year of the application being approved by the ALIL Board.
- An approved land use change does not confer any rights for future land use in addition to the rights of other ALIL shareholders undertaking that same land use.
- Following the expiry of the current nutrient consent all ALIL shareholders will be required to comply with the nutrient limitations set under the relevant ECan Plan or the replacement ALIL consent. This may well require individual land uses to meet Good Management Practice based limits. Good management practices will likely be determined by Environment Canterbury and will be advised in due course.

A one year lapse period for all approved increases in N losses encourages approved land use changes to be undertaken immediately or requires the ALIL to approve an extension to the lapse period. This is intended to prevent ALIL shareholders requesting approval to intensify and locking up the N loss resource for an indefinite period. Under The Environment Canterbury Land & Water Plan land use intensification in an over allocated (red) nutrient management zones is a prohibited activity. In an orange nutrient allocation zone, land use intensification would require a consent. Working within the terms of ALIL's discharge consent gives the ability to reallocate N losses between properties, this is a significant benefit, but this consent expires in May 2019. The nutrient load allowed for in any current land use consent is based on past land uses and irrigation types and practices. It is expected that the replacement land use consent will likewise be based on the sum of land uses and irrigation types during the 2009-2013 period. Some definition of Good Management Practice (GMP) may be applied to these baseline losses to ensure some measure of equality and then some further reductions may be required to ensure that the desired water quality targets are met. Anyone applying for a land use change needs to be aware that reductions may be required under the terms of any replacement land use consent.

Applications for an increase in N losses will be considered by the ALIL Board on the following basis:

1. The Board will consider requests with regard to the following matters:
  - 1.1 The increase in N as a result of the proposed land use change above the losses from the current farm system;
  - 1.2 The N loss for the proposed land use as against the losses that would be expected given the implementation of good management practices.
  - 1.3 The N loss of the current land use assuming the implementation of good management practices.
  - 1.4 N losses by other ALIL shareholders undertaking the same land use; and
  - 1.5 Any other matters the Board considers relevant.
2. Applications for an increase of N must be accompanied by the following:
  - 2.1 The information included in the attached Farm System Information Template
3. The Board may not approve requests where the total N loss (including the proposed N loss) is likely to exceed the total N loss or otherwise breach ALIL's resource consents in respect of the use of water and discharge of nutrients and/or the Water Supply Agreement between RDRML and ALIL.
4. The Board reserves the right to:
  - 4.1 seek further information in relation to any request;
  - 4.2 update this policy;
  - 4.3 grant requests subject to conditions; and
  - 4.4 Refuse a request for an allocation of N for whatever reason, in particular where the Board determines that the policy or proposed allocation is not in the best interest of ALIL. In such circumstances, the Board shall provide reasons for its decision.
5. OVERSEER™ Xml files and other supporting documentation reviewed by scheme staff and RDRML.

Please see the Industry Agreed Good Management Practice booklet (this will be provided by the scheme or follow this link):

[http://files.ecan.govt.nz/public/pc5/MGM\\_Technical\\_Reports/Industry\\_Agreed\\_Good\\_Management\\_Practices\\_MGM\\_2015.pdf](http://files.ecan.govt.nz/public/pc5/MGM_Technical_Reports/Industry_Agreed_Good_Management_Practices_MGM_2015.pdf)