Tukituki Catchment

Consents guidance table 5.9.1D

The Tukituki Catchment Plan (PC6) was made operative in 2015. It introduced new ways to manage production land use activities. This means that production land use (farming) needs to operate in accordance with conditions and limits, and if it doesn't a resource consent is required.

Production land use consent classes are based on a farm's (or farming enterprise's) individual nitrogen loss in relation to a nitrogen loss table in the plan (Table 5.9.1D).

The table was created in 2012 using an older version of Overseer (v 5.4.3), and since then over a dozen updates have happened.

The Procedural Guideline developed under the plan confirms that the most up to date version of Overseer (currently version 6.3.3) will be used to determine nitrogen loss and compare production land use activities against the limits in Table 5.1.9D.

LUC class	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Rate (kgN/ha/year)	30.1	27.1	24.8	20.7	20	17	11.6	3

Figure 1 Table 5.1.9D (HBRRMP Plan Change 6)

Determining whether a consent application is needed and the activity status

Table 5.9.1D is used in the Tukituki plan to set out the Rule and therefore the activity status each farm or farm enterprise falls under, as follows:

- On or under the LUC leaching limit: permitted activity (outside of DIN sub catchment, and no stock exclusion consent requirements) (Rule TT1)
- Up to 30% over LUC leaching limit: restricted discretionary consent (and/or in a DIN exceeding catchment or no/ incomplete stock exclusion) (Rule TT2)
- More than 30% over LUC leaching limit: non-complying activity consent (Rule TT2A)

The operative plan including Table 5.9.1D must be used when determining consent activity status.

Processing consent applications

If a resource consent is required because of the activity status noted above, each application will be looked at on its individual merits and with reference to the applicable Rule(s) as well as the relevant objectives and policies in the plan.

When making a decision on an application for consent, the Council must have regard to the extent to which the Table 5.9.1D limits in the plan are exceeded, and the extent to which the activity causes or contributes to exceedances of the water quality targets in a sub-catchment [1].

As context for that assessment, the Council processing officer may consider the estimated percentage change table above to make a comparison between the modelled leaching rate for the farm or farm enterprise under the latest version of Overseer and what that rate would have been under version 5.4.3.

For this context, the Council have determined an estimated percentage change between the two version of Overseer, as shown in the table below:

This approach is intended to provide context to the reasons for the exceedance of the limit and can be considered when

	LUC I	LUC II	LUC III	LUC IV	LUC V	LUC VI	LUC VII	LUC VIII
Original (v 5.4.3) kgN/ha/ year	30.1	27.1	24.8	20.7	20	17	11.6	3
Revised kgN/ha/ yr	50.9	45.3	41.7	33.8	31.3	27	16.4	4.5
Change	69.0%	67.0%	68.3%	63.3%	56.3%	58.7%	41.3%	50.0%

Figure 2 Overseer recalibration estimated percentage change

making a decision on the application and the scale and timing of leaching rate reductions over time. Other actions will continue to be required, including implementing the FEMP, good management practices and excluding stock from water ways.

DIN exceeding sub catchments

Landowners that require consent regardless of their own leaching rates because they are in a DIN exceeding sub catchment will be considered as part of the whole group of activities in the sub catchment. The effects of their activity will be considered as part of the sub catchment's DIN exceedance.

To ensure improvements in water quality over time, many farms will be expected to reduce their nutrient loss impacts, including nitrogen leaching, regardless of what consent activity class they are in and where they sit relative to the adjusted LUC limits.

Applications will be assessed for their contribution to water quality issues in the catchment, their proposed actions to reduce and mitigate effects, and whether more actions are required to ensure the farm is doing enough to address the nitrogen levels in the affected stream.

In the first round the assessment will be on what can be done on the farm within its farming system to reduce its nitrogen leaching.

Monitoring of each farm and of all the actions taken across the sub catchment may lead to a review of consents to require further changes in time.

Provision should be made to enable this review and the duration of consents should be considered depending on the degree of improvements that are anticipated.

Individual LUC Exceedances

A landowner outside of a DIN exceeding sub catchment will require consent for individual leaching if they are above their individual LUC allocation, based off Table 5.9.1D.

Applications will be considered on their merits, and the Council processing officer may consider the recalibrated estimated percentage change table as noted above.

Farms that sit within the adjusted levels noted in that table are less likely to have to make significant reductions to nitrogen leaching losses, although potential reductions in nitrogen leaching will be considered.

Other actions will continue to be required, including implementing the FEMP, good management practices and excluding stock from water ways.

Overseer Versions

The latest version of Overseer FM must be used when applying for consent.

Further guidance on consenting is available on our website search #tukituki

[1] POL TT6