



February 2023 Newsletter | Freshwater farm plan certifier and auditor programme

Dear contact,

Welcome to the first issue of this newsletter for 2024. From today, the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations come into effect for two new regions, Otago and West Coast, and we are pleased to be accepting applications for certifiers and auditors in these regions on our website, www.farmplancertifiers.nz.

In this issue we have some [tips](#) to help you prepare for your application, [reminders](#) about training and [updates](#) from the regional councils.

Preparing for your application

Before you get started, there are a few useful steps you can take to ensure a smooth application process.

1. Visit our website to find out more about the role you're applying for:
 - o [FW FP Certifiers](#)
 - o [FW FP Auditors](#)
2. If you're applying for a certifier role, our [competency self-assessment tool](#) is a useful way to determine your eligibility for a successful application.
3. Be prepared to explain how you meet the competencies for certifiers or auditors, as set out in the Resource Management (Freshwater Farm Plans) Regulations.
 - o [Competencies of certifiers](#)
 - o [Competencies of auditors](#)
4. Contact your referees and make sure they will be available.
5. Be prepared to pay your application online by credit/debit card. See the website for information about [FW FP Certifier and Auditor Appointment Programme Fees](#)
6. When you're ready to apply, complete the online application form:
 - o [FW FP Certifier Application Form](#)
 - o [FW FP Auditor Application Form](#)

National Training FAQs

Once your application has been accepted, the next step is national training.

How does the National Training work?

National training is an online course, consisting of nine compulsory modules and one optional communication module. Modules are to be completed in order and once one is finished you will complete an assessment and can then progress to the next module.

Each module assessment consists of a series of questions. The module contains the information you need to answer the assessment questions, so it is important to read all the information in the module carefully before beginning the assessment.

The pass rate required is 100% for each module and you have three attempts per module to achieve this. If after the third attempt you do not pass you will register a module fail. Your account is then locked and you need to email us to request it is unlocked to continue the training.

Can I fail National Training?

You can collect two module fails as you complete the training but if you get a third module fail your application will be declined. It is crucial to maintain a high level of performance throughout the course to avoid this outcome.

How long do I have to complete National Training?

You have 28 days to complete it once assigned to you.

What do I do if I have trouble while completing National Training?

Please get in touch with us - email farmplancertifiers@asurequality.com

Regional training

Regional training is managed by the regional council of the area in which you are applying. Once you have finished national training, information on the regional training process will be made available by the council. If you are applying in more than one region you'll need to complete training in each region.

For certifier applicants, regional training may include a combination of online training modules and face-to-face learning, such as workshops or on-farm sessions. Read more about [regional training for certifiers](#).

Auditor applicants should ensure they can demonstrate an understanding of the [competencies for auditors](#). There is no practical assessment for auditors.

Regional councils are working hard to develop their training programmes so if you have any questions about the timing or process for your regional training, please contact the council.

Waikato Regional Council

Email: pie@waikatoregion.govt.nz

Environment Southland

Email: farmplans@es.govt.nz

Otago Regional Council

Email: farmplans@orc.govt.nz

West Coast Regional Council

Email: info@wrc.govt.nz

Updates from new regions

West Coast

Applications for certifiers and auditors are now being accepted for the West Coast region. Farm Plans are being rolled out across the West Coast beginning with the Hokitika Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) area in February 2024, with other catchment areas following in 2025. Regional training is in development.

Otago

Applications for certifiers and auditors are now being accepted for the Otago region. Find out more about the freshwater farm plan process and sign up for the ORC Freshwater Farm Plan newsletter on the [Otago Regional Council website](#).

Otago regional training for certifiers begins this month and includes the following online modules:

- [Otago context](#)
- [Intensive Winter Grazing \(IWG\)](#)
- [Dairy effluent](#)
- [Otago science](#)
- [Waterways and wetlands](#)

After completing the online modules, there will be an in-person component which you will need to attend. This first session will be run in March 2024. Regional training will then be run every quarter with other in-person days in June, September and November. You can register your interest in the March training session by emailing farmpplans@orc.govt.nz

Manawatu / Whanganui (Horizons Regional Council)

The Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations will come into effect for Manawatu / Whanganui on 1 April 2024. We'll have more information in the next issue of this newsletter.

Useful links

Waikato Regional Council has published a useful [Freshwater Farm Plan support page](#), including:

- [a recording of a webinar hosted by Waikato Regional Council, whereASUREQuality's Trish Rankin and Greg Reid explained how to become a FW FP Certifier or Auditor.](#)
- [a guide to developing Farm Maps](#)
- [a guide to writing a Freshwater Farm Plan](#)

How to contact us

ASUREQuality is responsible for the freshwater farm plan certifier and auditor appointment programme. You can contact us about this on farmpplancertifiers@asurequality.com.

For questions about the Resource Management (Freshwater Farm Plans) Regulations 2023, please contact the Ministry for the Environment – freshwaterfarmplans@mfe.govt.nz.



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