



## March 2024 Newsletter | Freshwater farm plan certifier and auditor programme

Dear contact,

Welcome to the March issue of our newsletter. Freshwater farm plans have been rolled out across four regions now, with a fifth, Manawatū – Whanganui (Horizons Regional Council), set to join the system from 1 April.

The Government has signalled their intention to improve freshwater farm plans to ensure they are cost effective and pragmatic for farmers. We will communicate any updates there may be to the certifier and auditor appointment process as we receive this direction. In the meantime, we continue to accept applications to the appointment programme, and to assist those currently progressing through national and regional training programmes. We are confident that the training provides a sound base of knowledge about farm systems, policy, regulation and cultural competencies for future certifiers and auditors working in the freshwater farm planning system.

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### RESOURCES

#### Regional Councils

Regional councils are working hard to develop helpful resources specific to their area. Have a look at the council website in the area where you are applying. Some have newsletters you can sign up for and other helpful support.

- [Freshwater Farm Plans | Waikato Regional Council](#)
- [Freshwater Farm Plans - Environment Southland](#)
- [Freshwater Farm Plans | Otago Regional Council](#)
- [Freshwater Farm Plans- The West Coast Regional Council](#)
- [Freshwater Farm Plans - Horizons Regional Council](#)

#### New Zealand Association of Resource Management

The NZARM promotes the practice of resource management in New Zealand, with particular emphasis on land and water resource management. They offer excellent resources on their website: [NZARM | The New Zealand Association of Resource Management](#).

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### EVENT

#### Te Tiriti Workshop – Lincoln 8 May 2024

One of the required competencies for both certifiers and auditors of freshwater farm plans is an understanding of Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). The [New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management](#) is holding a workshop designed to give participants a sweeping introduction to the Treaty of Waitangi, including how it underpins government policy settings and the Māori economy with specific reference to primary industries. It is designed for those with little to no previous understanding and progresses

throughout the workshop to consolidate and build upon existing knowledge for those who may have some experience in the area.

More information and register here: [NZIPIM](#)

### Meet the AsureQuality team

We have a dedicated team looking after the freshwater farm plan certifier and auditor appointment process. The team is responsible for working with Ministry for the Environment to deliver the appointment programme, supporting Regional Councils as the system is rolled out in each area, and ensuring a smooth application process for certifiers and auditors joining the programme.



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