

A young boy is captured mid-swing on a rope, suspended over a body of water. He is shirtless and wearing dark shorts with orange accents. The background is a blurred green landscape. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing white text.

Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord

A Commitment to New Zealand
by the Dairy Sector

Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord

The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord (the Accord) has been developed under the oversight of the Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG). DELG includes representatives from farmers, dairy companies, central government, regional councils and the Federation of Māori Authorities.

Accountable Partners

In accordance with this Accord the following parties have specific responsibilities and are accountable for delivering the commitments and monitoring and reporting as specified. They undertake to carry out those responsibilities in good faith and to the best of their abilities.



John Luxton

John Luxton
Chairman



Dairy for life

John Wilson

John Wilson
Chairman



Laurie Margrain

Laurie Margrain
Chairman



Kingi Smiler

Kingi Smiler
Chairman



Graeme Milne
Chairman



Stephen Allen

Stephen Allen
Chairman



Malcolm Bailey

Malcolm Bailey
Chairman

Supporting Partners

Supporting Partners make commitments to the outcomes of this Accord in support of the Accountable Partners.



Bill McLeod

Bill McLeod
Chairman



Bill McLeod

Bill McLeod
Chairman



David Graham

David Graham
Chairman



Willy Leferink

Willy Leferink
Chairman



John Donkers

John Donkers
Chairman



Hilton Collier

Hilton Collier
President

Friends of the Accord

Friends of the Accord are supportive of the purpose of this Accord and commit to contribute to its success in the spirit of collaboration.

- Westland Milk Products
- Regional/Unitary Councils: Northland Regional Council; Auckland Council; Waikato Regional Council; Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Hawke's Bay Regional Council; Gisborne District Council; Taranaki Regional Council; Horizons Regional Council; Greater Wellington Regional Council; Environment Canterbury; West Coast Regional Council; Marlborough District Council; Tasman District Council; Otago Regional Council; Environment Southland
- The Federation of Māori Authorities
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry for the Environment

Purpose, Vision & Approach

The purpose of this Accord is to:

Enhance the overall performance of dairy farming as it affects freshwater by:

- Committing to good management practices expected of all dairy farmers in New Zealand
- Recording pledges by the dairy sector, with the support of others, to assist and encourage dairy farmers to adopt those good management practices and to monitor and report progress.

...And in so doing ensure the dairy sector contributes responsibly to realising the vision for New Zealand's waterways.

Vision

Underpinning the Accord is a common desire of the signatories to recognise, protect and, where opportunities exist, enhance the many benefits and experiences New Zealanders enjoy in freshwater. These include fishing, swimming, recreating, gathering mahinga kai and provision of habitat for aquatic species as well as the ability to use water for social, cultural and economic betterment. The Accord refers to these as freshwater values and interests.

These values and interests have shaped the high-level goal or "vision" to which this Accord contributes:

Our waterways continue to provide for the full range of values and interests enjoyed by New Zealanders.

Approach

The vision will be promoted by managing land and water use to contribute to achieving the water quality desired by New Zealanders and profitable, competitive and sustainable agriculture. For the dairy sector this will be delivered by a commitment to:

- build a culture of continuous improvement in on-farm performance relating to natural resource use
- develop partnerships with Māori agribusiness and an understanding of how the principle of kaitiakitanga/guardianship can be reflected in practice
- develop partnerships with other stakeholders including communities and community groups, researchers and other relevant government and non-government agencies to promote and support the ethic of stewardship and build effective management tools and technologies

- reduce the impact of existing dairy farms in catchments where desired values have been significantly compromised by dairying
- ensure new dairying implements good practice in environmental management from the time of conversion.

Subject to five yearly reviews, progress against this vision will be measured by the extent to which the individual commitments specified in this Accord are delivered.

How the Accord contributes

This Accord is an expression of the dairy sector's commitment to industry self-improvement. It also recognises that the dairy sector's actions and expectations do not exist in isolation of other parties. Success in achieving the vision and delivering better water quality depends upon a range of parties working with a common understanding of the issues and challenges and pursuing shared vision and aligned actions. In this way the Accord is an expression of collective responsibility across the dairy sector and a wider range of stakeholders.

Sustainable dairying – lifting the game

DairyNZ has joined with other dairy industry organisations including Federated Farmers, the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand and the Dairy Women's Network to produce a new refreshed strategy for sustainable dairy farming, *Making Dairy Farming Work for Everyone*.

Dairy farming needs to be seen to work for all New Zealanders. The strategy is therefore centred around dairy farming being both competitive and responsible. This means being competitive in a local and global sense – and responsible today and tomorrow.

This Accord contributes to that wider aspiration and in particular to the strategy's objective of environmental stewardship and wise use of natural resources. It takes a vital step by positioning the sector to cope with a future that will focus on managing water within limits, recognising that expectations of performance will evolve over time.

Visit www.dairynz.co.nz/strategyrefresh for more information.

Background

The importance of New Zealand's freshwater is undeniable. Recent years have seen a heightened call for action as our rivers, lakes and wetlands have been subject to new pressures and competing demands. The 2003 Dairying and Clean Stream Accord (DCSA) was one of the first major industry efforts to extend beyond regulatory bottomlines, engage with other stakeholders and take responsibility for doing better.

Since that first DCSA the focus on water has sharpened further. The Government issued the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management, many regional councils have issued new regional plans and co-governance in different forms has emerged. The Land and Water Forum was also established to foster collaboration between multiple stakeholders and build a durable way forward in tackling land and water challenges and opportunities.

This Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord builds on, and effectively succeeds, the successful DCSA that ran from 2003 until 2012. It seeks a further step change in the management of risks to waterways posed by dairying. In doing so it recognises the costs that accrue where freshwater values and interests are compromised. There are benefits in maintaining healthy waterways both for the dairy sector and its reputation as a high quality, sustainable food producer, and for all current and future New Zealanders.

How this Accord works

This document includes expectations and commitments.

- **Expectations** are what the signatories to this document expect over the medium to long term. They are in the nature of goals that set a direction of travel in addressing water issues as we move ahead. Expectations are not, however, enforceable performance measures as they are seldom within the direct control of any one Accountable Partner.
- **Commitments** are those measures (e.g. programmes or other initiatives and associated resourcing commitments) that parties pledge to the realisation of expectations. Commitments are distinguished according to whether they are made by DairyNZ (on behalf of the sector as a whole), by dairy companies (on behalf of their supplier farmers) or by Supporting Partners.

The Accord also clearly sets out what monitoring and reporting is to occur, by whom and according to what timeframe. Although fixed timeframes are set, the nature of the issues means that the commitment to maintain and enhance water needs to be for the long term. Timeframes and commitments will require refreshing over time.

Words followed by an asterisk (*) are defined in the Glossary at the end of this document.

Local partnerships and initiatives

This Accord cannot deal in detail with all the circumstances, issues and opportunities that exist in the many varied catchments throughout New Zealand. It also doesn't seek to capture the full range of sector responses to its environmental sustainability challenges. Individual dairy companies and DairyNZ have their own sustainability strategies and programmes that target water issues and which will be critical to the implementation of this Accord.

Further, some responses and solutions need to be addressed at the catchment scale. The opportunity for local partnerships focused on specific issues and challenges remains a likely and necessary way forward in some places. This may also mean that other land uses and industries will need to be involved if public expectations for water are to be met in full. The dairy sector is already involved in catchment scale programmes and that effort will continue.

Relationship to Resource Management Act (1991)

This Accord cannot, and does not purport to, substitute for the control of land and water by government agencies and regional councils under the Resource Management Act 1991, the associated National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management (NPSFM) or current or future national environmental standards. As noted earlier, this Accord is emerging at a time when regional councils are fundamentally overhauling the management of water in response to the NPSFM.

The commitments made in this Accord, while attempting to reflect expectations of good practice dairying, may not as a result of the application of the NPSFM, be regarded by regional councils as an adequate response to some, or all, dairying and environment issues faced in all or parts of their regions. Accordingly, regional councils must reserve the right to exercise their statutory functions, duties and rights as they consider appropriate in the regional context.

Regional programmes

Although regional councils are friends of this Accord, where they have policies, rules or voluntary targets or programmes in place those must have priority. Nothing in this Accord is to be read as derogating from those existing rules or programmes. Where such a situation exists, or is likely to exist in the future, regional councils may work with the accountable and supporting partners to produce a *regional programme of action*. This programme will align the Accord targets with those expected at the regional or sub-regional level ensuring that all parties have clear expectations.

Overview of Key Commitments

Nature of Commitment	
DairyNZ	Design and promote tools and resources that build capacity throughout the dairy sector to enable full and timely completion of the commitments made in this Accord.
Dairy Companies	Design and implement programmes to encourage and support supplier farms to make changes necessary to meet the targets specified in this Accord.
DCANZ	Act as secretariat for the administration of this Accord including the collation of data for reporting to the Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG).
Fertiliser Association of New Zealand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballance Agri-Nutrients • Ravensdown Co-operative 	<p>Continue, in partnership with the dairy sector and, where applicable, other Supporting Partners, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support farmers in good nutrient management practice • gather robust and comprehensive data on nutrient use and nutrient use management practices on dairy farms • invest in the continuous improvement of nutrient modelling tools. <p>Continue to invest in research into the optimal nutrient uptake by pasture and minimisation of nutrient loss from the farm system.</p>
Federated Farmers	<p>Continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a strong farmer voice and leadership across the whole agricultural sector on workable, practical and equitable responses to water issues • support and promote the value and importance of this Accord through its membership and in public forums. <p>Provide “eyes and ears” feedback to DELG on implementation issues and work constructively and respectfully within the framework and processes established under the Accord to raise and resolve any such issues.</p>
Irrigation NZ	Continue to build capacity in the irrigation sector to define and deliver good management practice in water use.
New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management	Promote the expectations and commitments made under this Accord to its members and ensure that continuing professional development of its membership has due regard to this Accord.
Regional Councils	Engage with the dairy sector in the development and implementation of regional programmes of action to identify specific opportunities for co-coordinated and mutually beneficial action targeted at shared goals.
Federation of Māori Authorities	<p>Continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide voice and leadership for Māori agribusiness as major contributors to Aotearoa New Zealand’s primary industries • work collaboratively and develop innovation to increase land utilisation, productivity and performance within resilient business models and sustainable practices • seek durable solutions to the harvest, access, use and quality of water as an enabler of sustainable economic prosperity for Aotearoa New Zealand • have a long term focus on sustainable economic prosperity through the best use of resources and assets to create wealth and well-being • develop further partnerships between Māori agribusiness and the dairy sector • participate in the Dairy Environment Leadership Group.
Government agencies (to the extent that commitments fall within individual agencies’ functions and responsibilities)	<p>Continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise sustainable dairy farming as critical to New Zealand’s economic well-being and a legitimate and valued land use • support research that will provide the dairy sector with the tools and knowledge to enable a reduction in the freshwater footprint of dairying • support policy research and innovation aimed at identifying the optimal approaches to managing the impacts of dairying by securing wise use of resources and socially durable resource management decisions • work with the sector to explore and unlock the potential for dairy growth and enhanced water management through, for example, irrigation schemes.

Riparian Management

Expectations

- Dairy farms will exclude dairy cattle from significant waterways and significant wetlands.
- Riparian planting will occur where it would provide a water quality benefit.
- The crossing of waterways by dairy cows will not result in degradation of those waterways.

Dairy companies will:

Implement measures to exclude dairy cattle from waterways* and drains* greater than one metre in width and deeper than 30 cm and significant wetlands* on dairy farms* according to the following phase-in timetable.

For waterways and drains

- 90% exclusion of the length present on dairy farms by 31 May 2014; and
- 100% of the length present on dairy farms¹ by 31 May 2017.

For significant wetlands

- 100% exclusion of all wetlands identified by a regional council as at 31 May 2012 by 31 May 2014; and
- 100% exclusion of any additional regionally significant wetlands present on dairy farms within three years of them being identified by the regional council.

Encourage dairy farmers to

- exclude dairy cattle from all wetlands; and
- apply the stock exclusion commitment to third party grazing land as if it were their own land.

Implement measures to ensure 100% of regular stock crossing points* are either bridged or culverted by 31 May 2018.

Introduce measures to achieve progressive planting of the length of waterways* within or bounding dairy farms from which there is stock exclusion* where planting will contribute to water quality enhancement according to the following phase-in schedule:

- 50% of dairy farms with waterways will have a riparian management plan* by 31 May 2016 and all of these farms will have completed
 - half of their riparian management plan commitments by 31 May 2020
 - full implementation of their riparian management plan by 31 May 2030
- 100% of all dairy farms with waterways will have a riparian management plan* by 31 May 2020.

Promote and facilitate (including through partnerships with other organisations) riparian planting to enhance ecosystem health (on-going).

DairyNZ will:

Systematically prepare (in partnership with regional councils) regionally tailored riparian management guidelines² to promote stream health and water quality according to the following timetable.

Guidelines completed for³:

- Three regions completed by 31 May 2014
- Nine regions by 31 May 2015
- All regions by 31 May 2016.

¹Stock exclusion from streams smaller than one metre in width and 30cm in depth may be negotiated as part of regional programmes of action where necessary to maintain or enhance particular freshwater values and interests in specific localities.

²The preparation of guidelines will be prioritised according to the presence of priority catchments determined by the state of/risk to water quality and by the introduction of limits on contaminant loads from diffuse discharges.

³Such guidelines will include recommended setback/planting width, planting density and plant species and well as the recommended means by which the extent of planting should be monitored.

*See Glossary for definitions on page 14.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- Length of stock excluded waterway/area of significant wetland and the length of any dispensations* (reported annually).
- The percentage of regular stock crossings that have bridges or culverts and any dispensations* (reported annually).
- Extent of riparian margin planted on-farm and through industry/community partnerships (e.g off-farm planting) (reported biennially)

DairyNZ will report:

- Progress on the development of riparian management guidelines (reported biennially).

Nutrient Management

Expectation

- Dairy farmers will manage Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) loss from dairy farming systems, acknowledge the need to manage within nutrient loss limits and pursue continuous improvement in nutrient use efficiency.

Dairy companies will:

Collect data from all dairy farmers (using agreed protocols and consistent data collection systems*) and model N loss and N conversion efficiency from those farms according to the following phase-in timetable:

- 85% of dairy farms by 31 May 2014
- 100% of dairy farms by 31 May 2015.

Provide N loss and N conversion efficiency performance information back to dairy farmers along with performance benchmarking, according to the following phase-in timetable:

- 85% of dairy farms by 30 November 2014
- 100% of dairy farms by 30 November 2015.

In catchments recorded in an operative regional plan as being fully allocated in nutrient assimilative capacity terms, either:

- reduce, as appropriate, the average per hectare N and/or P loss (with N modelled using Overseer®); and/or
- engage in catchment programmes that seek to improve water quality outcomes in receiving waters using specified on-farm and/or catchment scale good management practices.

Manage P loss risk associated with sediment discharge, run off and overland flows by:

- Meeting the stock exclusion and riparian management commitments (by dates specified in Section 5 of this Accord)
- Ensuring that 100% of races and regular stock crossing points* over all waterways have bridges or culverts (by dates specified in the Riparian Management section of this Accord)
- Promoting good practice in the on-farm management of tracks, races and winter cropping (on-going)

- Promoting good practice in effluent management and meeting the effluent management commitments (by dates specified in the Effluent Management section of this Accord).

DairyNZ will:

By 31 May 2013 develop an audited nitrogen management system that will enable dairy companies to model nitrogen loss on supplier dairy farms in a robust manner according to agreed protocols and consistent data collection systems.

Assist dairy companies to present meaningful information to their suppliers by collating information from multiple companies for benchmarking purposes.

Enhance the ability to make cost effective changes in farm systems that reduce nutrient loss by:

- Supporting relevant research
- Ensuring quality nutrient management advice is available
- Ensure proven cost effective solutions are available to farmers too (on-going).

By 31 May 2013 DairyNZ will (in partnership with the fertiliser industry) develop and promote a nutrient management adviser and certification programme aimed at improving the quality and availability of specialist nutrient management advice.

Supporting Partners:

Fertiliser companies and the **New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management** will:

- provide nutrient budgeting/management planning services to dairy farmers as part of the commercial relationship between customers and fertiliser supply.

Fertiliser companies will:

- partner with dairy companies to collect nutrient use/management information from dairy farmers
- ensure 10% of Fertiliser Association of New Zealand member company nutrient management advisers are certified by 31 May 2013 and 50% by 31 May 2014.

*See Glossary for definitions on page 14.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- Progress with implementation of the data collection programme
- The average N loss per hectare (by region and/or catchment) as modelled using Overseer (initially for 2013/2014 with a progress update every three years using a five-year rolling average once data is available).
- Actions and resources devoted to the promotion of good practice in nutrient management (reported every three years).

DairyNZ will report:

- Actions and resources devoted to research and the development of nutrient management tool development and promotion.
- Progress with the development and implementation of a nutrient management adviser and certification programme including the numbers of people trained and certified as nutrient management advisers (reported annually).

Effluent Management

Expectations

- Dairy farms will comply with regional council effluent management rules and/or resource consent conditions.
- Effluent systems installed on dairy farms will be fit for purpose and able to achieve 365-day compliance with applicable rules.

Dairy companies will:

Arrange for the assessment of supplier dairy farms on a three yearly basis to review compliance (or ability to comply) with regulatory requirements (resource consents and regional plan rules). For farms identified as being at risk of non-compliance, a farm specific management plan shall be put in place to ensure 365-day compliance. An annual assessment will be undertaken until such time as the management plan is fully implemented and non-compliance risk is remedied.

This three yearly assessment programme is to be delivered according to the following timetable:

- 85% of farms are being assessed by 31 May 2013
- 100% of farms are being assessed by 31 May 2014.

By 31 May 2014 introduce programmes to reduce reliance on discharges to water from two-pond Farm Dairy Effluent (FDE) treatment systems in areas where land application would result in improved water quality outcomes.

DairyNZ will:

Build excellence in the design, construction and maintenance of effluent (including sludges and slurries) management infrastructure by developing and/or promoting:

- Industry design and construction code of practice and standards (by 31 November 2012 with promotion on-going)
- A training and accreditation scheme for effluent industry (by 31 November 2012 with promotion on-going)
- Pond construction training /design guidance (by 31 November 2012 with promotion on-going)
- A FDE system warrant of fitness scheme available as a tool for farmers (by 31 May 2014).

Build excellence in the operation of FDE systems by:

- Ensuring there is high quality training available for those operating FDE systems.
- Promoting as a matter of good practice that people new to the industry have participated in FDE training (such as that currently offered by the Primary Industry Training Organisation) before having responsibility for operating FDE systems.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- The size and nature of the programme to provide three yearly farm dairy effluent assessment and any significant change to that programme (one off reporting in 2013 with further updates as required).

DairyNZ will monitor and report:

- The number of people who have completed effluent system designer training certification and the number of companies with accreditation for effluent design services (reported biennially).
- Actions and resources promoting the use of certified people in FDE management (reported every three years commencing 2013).
- The number of people who have completed the Primary Industry Training Organisation effluent management course or other relevant courses established in accordance with DairyNZ's commitment to building excellence in the operation of FDE operating systems (reported biennially).
- The rate of compliance (based on regional council reported significant non compliance* and, to the extent possible, on type of compliance failure) with regional councils' effluent rules and resource consent conditions.

Water Use Management

Expectations

- Dairy sheds will use no more water for wash down and milk cooling than that necessary to produce hygienic and safe milk.
- Irrigation systems will be designed and operated to minimise the amount of water needed to meet production objectives.

Dairy companies will:

By 31 May 2014:

- Introduce programmes to assist dairy farmers to meet national and local regulation controlling water takes
- Commit to requiring 85% of all dairy farms (including all significant water users) to install water meters by 2020.

DairyNZ will:

Promote water use efficiency in the farm dairy and in the reticulation of stock drinking water, through in particular promotion of the existing Smart Water Use programme (on-going).

Promote the installation and use of water meters to measure water use in the farm dairy (on-going).

By May 31 2015 institute on-farm trials to better understand the volumes of water being used for shed wash down and milk cooling for a range of shed types and under different seasonal and geographical conditions.

Work with, and support, Irrigation NZ on the Irrigation

Good Management Practice programme as detailed below and promote that programme through extension channels (on-going).

Supporting Partners:

Irrigation NZ will develop and promote a capacity building and good practice assurance programme.

This programme will build excellence in the design, installation and commissioning of irrigation infrastructure by developing and promoting:

- Design Code of Practice and standards and design audit procedure
- A training and accreditation scheme for irrigation design companies
- A training scheme for irrigation installers
- A training and accreditation scheme for evaluators
- A irrigation system commissioning report by a certified evaluator for all new and replacement irrigation systems certifying that installation is in accordance with design.

It will also build excellence in the operation of irrigation systems by ensuring:

- Irrigation system operator training
- Annual calibration of irrigation systems and a five yearly audit by a certified evaluator
- Online resources to enable irrigators to easily determine and benchmark their system performance
- An 80% beneficial use performance benchmark.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- The number of dairy farms that have water meters installed (reported annually from 2014/15).
- Programmes and resources devoted to encouraging compliance with national and local regulation (reported annually from 2014/15).

DairyNZ will monitor and report:

- The results of the water use trials.
- The number of people who have completed irrigation system designer, evaluator and operator training (reported biennially).
- The number of companies with accreditation for irrigation system design services and who hold a National Certificate in Irrigation Evaluation (reported biennially).

Conversions

Expectations

- New dairy farms establish and operate using good practice at the outset to minimise potential negative consequences on water values and interests.
- New dairy conversions will comply with all relevant regional plan rules and/or hold all necessary resource consents.

Dairy companies will:

From 31 May 2013, ensure that new dairy farm conversions* comply with the following standards before milk collection commences:

- Dairy farms must have systems in place to manage all sources of effluent to ensure compliance with relevant regulatory obligations 365 days a year.
- All animal races are to have bridges or culverts when crossing all waterways* and drains*.
- Animals are to be excluded from waterways* and drains* that are at any point within the boundary of the dairy farm* wider than one metre and deeper than 30cm.
- Dairy farms must have a nutrient management plan* in place.
- All required regulatory consents have been sought (including consents for water take and use/irrigation).
- From 31 May 2015 ensure that all new dairy farm conversions* have a riparian management plan* in place before milk collection commences.

DairyNZ will:

Work with rural professionals to ensure the expectations of new dairy farms are understood by those advising on conversions* and factored into the advice given in conversion decision-making process (on-going).

By 31 May 2014 produce published material that explains the industry good practice obligations for conversions* (including regionally-specific practices) and additional recommended practices (including in particular practices in relation to wetlands). It will also make that material available to relevant organisations (including regional councils, dairy companies and rural professionals).

Supporting Partners:

Federated Farmers will promote good industry practice through membership publications and other relevant communications including providing recognition of outstanding examples of sustainable dairy conversions.

The New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management will promote continuing professional development opportunities for rural professionals that include raising awareness of industry good practice obligations for dairy conversions and how these obligations are most appropriately implemented.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- The pre-supply check procedures in place and audit results that ensure 100% compliance (reported biennially).

DairyNZ will monitor and report:

- The initiatives to engage with rural professionals and raise awareness of issues relating to dairy conversions* (reported biennially).

*See Glossary for definitions on page 14.

Governance & Administrative Matters

Oversight and review

The Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG) will continue to maintain oversight of the Accord. It will undertake a review of the adequacy and continued appropriateness of the Accord commitments every five years with the first review to commence before the end of 2017. To the extent possible, five yearly reviews will consider the contribution made to the vision as expressed in the Purpose, Vision and Approach section of this Accord.

Collective responsibility for compliance

All dairy companies agree there is a collective responsibility for ensuring compliance with this Accord and that they will act in the common interest of this Accord in the event that a supplier farm seeks to change dairy company in response to efforts by that dairy company to ensure compliance with this Accord.

Communication and collaboration

Accountable Partners will meet annually with Supporting Partners to share information regarding any issues associated with the Accord and its implementation. Such meetings will aim to strengthen the relationship between the dairy sector and supporting partners and build a sense of collaboration and trust.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will provide information to DairyNZ/DCANZ in accordance with the timeframes indicated to demonstrate compliance with the commitments made in this Accord. Dairy companies and DairyNZ will work together to ensure data is collected in a manner that allows for valid aggregation/collation and reporting at appropriate regional and/or catchment scales (noting the need to maintain individual dairy farm confidentiality).

DairyNZ/DCANZ will collate that information and report to DELG annually on progress against Accord commitments providing the information according to the frequency indicated in this Accord.

Audit

The report referred to above will be prepared in draft form and audited by an independent third party commissioned by DELG (and funded by DairyNZ/DCANZ) prior to finalisation. The audit will include:

- a review of the validity of the systems and practices used for data collection by dairy companies; and
- a check of the reliability of a sample of farm-level information (through on the ground verification of reported information).

The final report will include third party verification as to the accuracy of the reported data. A separate summary will also be prepared for farmers.

Additional Accountable Partners

If DELG considers that the aims and spirit of the Accord would be enhanced by the addition of further Accountable or Supporting Partners or Friends, it will initiate discussion with those additional parties and encourage them to commit accordingly. An up to date list of all signatories will be kept on the DairyNZ/DCANZ websites (www.dairynz.co.nz and www.dcanz.com).

The **Dairy Environment Leadership Group** (DELG) is collective of interests established to influence dairy industry sustainability priorities and monitor progress on enhancing environmental performance. It includes representatives from farmers, DairyNZ, dairy companies, government agencies, the Federation of Māori Authorities, Federated Farmers (Dairy) and regional councils. DELG has overall governance responsibilities as specified in this Accord.

The **Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand** (DCANZ) is the umbrella body of companies processing milk in New Zealand. It was established to work collectively on public policy issues of importance to dairy companies and engage in advocacy and representation with authorities in New Zealand and overseas. Its membership comprises Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd, Open Country Dairy Ltd, Westland Milk Products Ltd, Synlait Ltd, Tatua Co-Operative Dairy Ltd, Miraka Ltd and Goodman Fielder.

DairyNZ is the industry organisation representing New Zealand's dairy farmers. It is funded by farmers through a levy on milksolids. DairyNZ's purpose is to secure and enhance the profitability, sustainability and competitiveness of New Zealand dairy farming.

Glossary

Agreed protocols and data collection systems

The protocols and systems agreed as part of DairyNZ's audited nitrogen management system developed in accordance with DairyNZ's commitment to nutrient management under this Accord. These may include protocols for measuring nitrogen management performance in areas where Overseer® is not a reliable tool.

Conversion

The development of a new dairy farm on land previously used for another form of pastoral farming, cropping or forestry.

Dairy farm

A property engaged in the farming of dairy cattle for milk production.

- *From 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2017* the "property" shall be limited to the milking platform (that area devoted to feeding cows on a daily basis during the milking season) but excluding any dairy grazing land (whether or not contiguous with the milking platform) that is owned by the same person or entity as the milking platform and/or farmed in association with the milking platform.
- *From 1 June 2017* the "property" shall include, in addition to the milking platform, any land regularly used for dairy grazing* (whether or not contiguous with the milking platform) that is owned or leased by the same person or entity as the milking platform and/or farmed in association with the milking platform.

This definition excludes:

- land used under a third party grazing arrangement between the owner of dairy cattle and another landowner for the purpose of temporary grazing; and
- land that is owned or leased by the same person or entity as the milking platform but which is not regularly used for dairy grazing.

Dispensation

Dispensations for individual dairy farms may be granted by dairy companies in respect of compliance with

stock exclusion and stock crossing obligations. Such dispensations will relate to exceptional situations where permanent fencing and/or bridging/culverting is impractical or cannot be feasibly achieved in the timeframes indicated in the riparian management commitment. Where such dispensations are made, dairy farms will be subject to farm-specific management plans that detail practices to mitigate effects (including use of temporary fencing) and/or timeframes by which full compliance with obligations of this Accord is to be achieved.

Drain

An artificially created channel designed to lower the water table and/or reduce surface flood risk and which has permanently flowing water but does not include any modified (e.g. straightened) natural watercourse.

Exclusion

In the context of stock, "excluded" means effectively barred from access to water and to the banks of a waterway either through a natural barrier (such as a cliff) or a permanent fence, except for any regular stream crossing point.

Land regularly used for dairy grazing

Land used each year for grazing dairy cattle throughout the off-season (i.e. that part of the year when cows are not being milked).

Nutrient management plan

A plan prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice for Nutrient Management (NZ Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association 2007) which records and takes into account all sources and nutrients in the farming system and all relevant nutrient management practices and mitigations.

Regional councils

Has the same meaning as given in Section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Regional policy statement and regional plan

Have the same meaning as given in Section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Regular stock crossing point

A point on a waterway or drain where dairy cattle cross to access the milking shed, then return following milking, more than once per month.

Riparian management plan

A plan that records, in narrative and/or map form, what riparian margin is to be planted and with what species in order to promote the water quality and/or any biodiversity or landscape objectives sought by the landowner. Riparian management plans are to be developed consistent with the riparian management guidelines developed by DairyNZ. For the avoidance of doubt, riparian management plans need not propose riparian planting on all riparian areas from which stock are excluded if there would be no significant water quality benefit from such planting.

Significant non-compliance

In the context of effluent management means those incidents of non-compliance with rules or consent conditions that result in, or present a risk of, untreated farm dairy effluent discharging to a waterway.

Significant wetland

An area which has a vegetative cover dominated by indigenous wetland plant species and which is identified as significant in an operative regional policy statement or regional plan.

Waterway

A lake, spring, river or stream (including streams that have been artificially straightened but excluding drains) that permanently contains water and any significant wetland. For the avoidance of doubt, this definition does not include ephemeral watercourses that flow during or immediately following extreme weather events.

DairyNZ

*Corner Ruakura and Morrinsville Roads
Private Bag 3221
Hamilton 3240*

0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)

*For further information:
Email info@dairynz.co.nz
dairynz.co.nz/wateraccord*

