

SUSTAINABLE DAIRYING –

# WATER ACCORD

A commitment to New Zealand  
by the dairy sector

## THREE YEARS ON...

*Progress summary for the 2015/16 season*







## *The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord*

*Launched in 2013, the Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord is a set of national good management practice benchmarks aimed at lifting environmental performance on dairy farms.*

*This third annual progress report aims to set out what the Accord has achieved in its third year of operation for the dairy season June 2015 to May 2016.*

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This Accord involves many industry participants including DairyNZ, most of New Zealand's dairy companies, and supporting partners. It has commitments and targets for these five key areas:

- riparian management
- nutrient management
- effluent management
- water use management
- conversions.

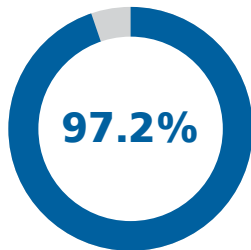
The purpose of the Accord is to enhance the overall performance of dairy farming as it affects freshwater by:

- committing to good management practices expected of all dairy farmers in New Zealand and
- 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.

# Summary and highlights

**THREE  
YEARS ON**

## WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED SO FAR...



### of waterways have dairy cattle excluded.

Dairy companies have reported stock exclusion from 26,197 km of measured Accord waterways.

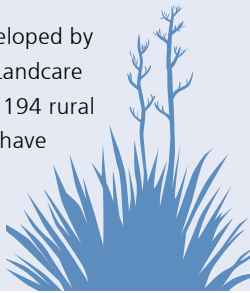


**99.4%**

of 44,386 regular stock crossing points on dairy farms now have bridges or culverts to protect local water quality.

### A new Riparian Planner tool

has been developed by DairyNZ and Landcare Research and 194 rural professionals have been trained to use it.



**13 riparian guides**

have been produced by DairyNZ, in partnership with regional councils, to assist with practical advice.

**Over 10 million dollars**



has been spent on environmental stewardship and farmer support programmes covering research, development, and farmer extension.

**5,701 dairy farms have installed water meters**

This is well on track for the 85% industry target by 2020 and a significant increase from 30% reported last season.



**9,517 nutrient budgets were processed and nitrogen information provided to farmers.**



This represents 83% of the industry and is a significant gain from the 56% reported in the first year of the Accord.

**5.2%**



Significant non-compliance for dairy effluent has dropped to 5.2% of farms assessed (lowest on record).

DairyNZ published several regional Land Management Guides which assist farmers in reducing phosphorus loss.



**133 RURAL PROFESSIONALS** are now Certified Nutrient Management Advisors (accumulating total).



## WE'RE STILL PROGRESSING WITH...



### **Achieving 100% on several targets**

(e.g. stock exclusion and crossings) is still the goal with many of the targets close to being achieved.

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### **Getting riparian plans completed in all farms with an Accord waterway**

Getting riparian plans completed in all farms with an Accord waterway remains the next hurdle for the dairy companies to implement to reach desired targets. The release of the 'Riparian Planner' tool will assist greatly with this target.

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### **Collecting nutrient management data and performance benchmarking**

The collection of nutrient management information is still one of the Accord's biggest obstacles, due to the level of information required and the individual processing through OVERSEER® to produce a reliable N loss estimate for each farm. Achieved 83% so far.

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## COMMITMENT TO GETTING IT RIGHT

Engagement by farmers and the rural professional community that works alongside them to meet Accord requirements is very high, as evidenced by the commitment to training, assessment, and implementation on farm.





# 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.



Barry Harris  
Acting Chair



Dairy for life

John Wilson  
Chairman



Laurie Matgrain  
Chairman



Kingi Smiler  
Chairman



Graeme Milne  
Chairman



Stephen Allen  
Chairman



Malcolm Bailey  
Chairman



Roger Usmar  
General Manager

## Supporting Partners

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



## 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

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*Dairynz* 

