This compliance checklist is a self-audit for farmers to assess their current performance against Otago Regional Council (ORC) rules. We recommend you follow up any crosses or question marks as soon as possible, as non-compliance can lead to enforcement action. This checklist is for your own information and you do not have to share it with any organisation.

If you need assistance or are worried about a compliance risk, please contact one of the organisations listed at the back. If an adverse event occurs which may compromise your compliance with the rules, communication with the council is essential.

- You must meet all permitted activity rules throughout the year
- Always aim for good practice rather than just achieving compliance
- Make sure all staff on your farm know the rules, are fully trained in the operation and maintenance of the effluent system, and know what to do and who to contact if the system breaks down.
- For full details of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago visit www.orc.govt.nz.
# Otago Effluent checklist

## 1. Storage ponds

Building a storage pond is a permitted activity, which does not require a resource consent, as long as you comply with all of the following conditions.

- Pond odours are minimised to prevent them being noxious, dangerous, offensive, or objectionable at or beyond the boundary of the property.
- The effluent storage or treatment pond is more than 150m from the boundary.
- The effluent pond is appropriately sized to practice differed irrigation and not apply effluent to saturated soils.
- The ponds are sealed and there is no leakage. For more information, refer to [Farm Dairy Effluent (FDE) systems – a farmer’s guide to building a new effluent storage pond](#) or [IPENZ PN21 - Farm Dairy Effluent Pond Construction and Design](#).

**Good practice tips:**

- Use the Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator to calculate the appropriate size of your storage to contain effluent when soil conditions are not suitable to apply to land.
- Install soil probes on your land to get farm-specific soil moisture information.
- Divert stormwater from the yard when it is clean (during the non-milking period). Ensure roof water is captured and diverted from your effluent pond throughout the year for other use (rather than filling up your pond).
- Look for cracks in walls, dark green patches around pond, boggy patches, or a self-emptying/filling pond.

## 2. Effluent application

Effluent application to land is a permitted activity, as long as you comply with the following conditions.

- Land application of effluent does not occur within:
  - 150m from any residential dwelling on a neighbouring property or from a building used for employment purposes on a neighbouring property; and
  - 20m from a formed public road; and
  - 150m from any public amenity area or place of public assembly.

- Effluent does not produce odours that are noxious, dangerous, offensive, or objectionable at or beyond the boundary of the property.
- Outdoor stockpiles of material like waste animal bedding and manure must be more than 150m from the farm boundary.

**The following rules are prohibited activities under the Otago Water Plan if the following conditions are not achieved**

- Effluent application, including solids, silage leachate, or compost does not enter:
  - any lake, river, or regionally significant wetland including their bed, or a drain or water race that goes to them or coastal waters.
  - any bore, soakhole, or effluent pond which is not sealed.
  - land within 50 metres of any of any lake, river, or regionally significant wetland, bore or soakhole.
  - saturated land, or other land if it results in ponding.
  - land, if it results in an overland flow to a lake, river, regionally significant wetland, or coastal waters, or to a drain or water race that goes to them.
2. Effluent application (continued)

Good practice tips:

- Delay effluent application when soils are saturated. It should only be applied when there is soil water deficit (i.e. the soil is dry enough to absorb the effluent).
- Install a fail-safe device on your effluent irrigator in case of a system failure.
- Use your nutrient budget to establish the required effluent area to maintain the optimum nitrogen and potassium nutrient inputs.
- Check effluent applications to avoid any ponding of effluent.
- Record the effluent irrigator runs, date and paddock to ensure you are distributing nutrients evenly over your effluent area.
- Look at your nutrient budget for your effluent area to see the how many kg N/ha are being applied from effluent. It is good practice to apply less than 150kg N/ha/year from effluent.
- Test your effluent irrigator and measure the application depth regularly.
- Ensure there is an up to date effluent management plan that sets out procedures, responsibilities and responses. The plan should include a risk map that shows lower risk, higher risk, and no application zones.
- Ensure all staff are trained in effluent management, soils, and nutrient requirements.
- Have a machinery maintenance schedule for the effluent system.

3. Feed pads or stand-off pads

- There is no ponding or overland flow of effluent from any feed pad or stand-off pad on farm.
- Effluent does not produce odours that are noxious, dangerous, offensive, or objectionable at or beyond the boundary of the property.
- Outdoor stockpiles of material like waste animal bedding and manure must be more than 150m from the farm boundary.

4. Silage

- There is no groundwater seepage into the pit.
- The silage stack or pit is more than 100m from any well used for domestic purposes or drinking water for livestock.
- There is no ponding of leachate from the silage stack and the leachate from the pit does not enter any water body.
- The silage stack or pit is more than 50m from any water body.
- The silage stack or pit is more than 50m from a property boundary, excluding road boundaries.
- Odours from the silage stack or pit are not noxious, dangerous, offensive, or objectionable beyond the boundaries of the property.
### Other Compliance in Otago

#### 1. Waterways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Checkmark</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is no discharge of any contaminant from any bore, soakhole or unsealed effluent pond to water that produces a nasty odour, scum, foam, or oil or grease film that goes into a lake, river, or regionally significant wetland.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no discharge of any contaminant to water that produces a nasty odour, scum, foam, or oil or grease film in a drain or water race that goes to a lake, river or regionally significant wetland from any bore, soakhole or unsealed effluent pond.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no discharge of any contaminant to water that produces a nasty odour, scum, foam, or oil or grease film to the coast, from any bore, soakhole or unsealed effluent pond.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no discharge of sediment from disturbed land to water in any lake, river, or regionally significant wetland, if nothing has been done to control sediment runoff.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no discharge of sediment from disturbed land to any drain or water race that flows to them or to coastal waters if nothing has been done to control sediment runoff.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may require a resource consent to carry out work in a waterway. This includes any cleaning or disturbance of the riverbed. This is covered in the ‘Working in Waterways’ guide at [http://www.orc.govt.nz/](http://www.orc.govt.nz/). If there are any questions around this, please contact the ORC.

#### 2. Offal pits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The pit is at least 100m from any well used for domestic or livestock supply, and at least 50m from any river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, coast, or property boundary.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no groundwater seepage into the pit.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leachate from the pit does not enter groundwater or surface water.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only dead animal matter and perishable household wastes are disposed of in the offal pit, and the offal pit contains no hazardous waste, toxic matter, sewage, animal effluent or dead animal material from an industrial or trade premises.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runoff or odours from the offal pit are not noxious, dangerous, offensive, or objectionable beyond the boundaries of the property.</td>
<td>✔</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### 3. Landfill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>✔</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The landfill is at least 100m from any well used for domestic or livestock water supply, and at least 50m from any river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, coast, or any property boundary.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no groundwater seepage into the landfill, and leachate from the landfill does not enter groundwater or surface water.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The landfill is only used for waste from the farm, and contains no hazardous waste, toxic matter, sewage, offal, or animal effluent.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The landfill does not cause a nuisance beyond the boundaries of the property.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No burning of waste is undertaken.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you don’t meet the permitted activity conditions for the above rules you may need to apply for resource consent if the activity is not a prohibited activity.
You can check out the rules on www.orc.govt.nz or call one of ORC’s liaison specialists on 0800 474 082.

If you are not sure of any of the questions in this checklist, or need further assistance contact:

**DairyNZ**  
Sustainability team 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)

**Fonterra**  
Sustainable Dairying Team 0800 65 65 68

**Open Country Dairy**  
0508 Our Milk (0508 687 6455)

**Otago Regional Council**  
0800 474 082

**Federated Farmers**  
0800 Farming (0800 327 6464)

**Primary ITO**  
0800 80 20 80

Disclaimer: The information that appears in this checklist is intended to provide the best possible compliance guidelines for dairy farm effluent practices. However, the information is provided as a general guidance only and is not intended as a substitute for specific advice. Practices, systems, and advice may vary depending on the circumstances applicable to your situation. The information may also be subject to change at any time without notice. DairyNZ, Federated Farmers, Otago Regional Council, Fonterra, and Open Country Dairy take no responsibility whatsoever for the currency and/or accuracy of this information, its completeness or fitness for purpose.