The Upper Waikato Sustainable Milk Project is the largest environmental good-practice catchment initiative ever undertaken by the dairy industry.

The Upper Waikato Sustainable Milk Project

A Steering Group, involving local farmer representatives, has been established to guide this project. Members of the group have been drawn from DairyNZ, Fonterra, Open Country, Miraka, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust, Awhina Group, Federated Farmers, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, Raukawa Charitable Trust, New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management (NZIPIM) and Waikato Regional Council.

If you would like to discuss the project, or if you would like a consultant to get in touch with you, please contact:

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adrian.brocksopp@dairynz.co.nz

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You can find out more about this project from the DairyNZ website on [www.dairynz.co.nz/sustainablemilk](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/sustainablemilk) or by contacting DairyNZ on 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969). A number of agricultural consulting companies have been contracted to deliver one-on-one advice and are listed on the website.

**DairyNZ**  
Corner Ruakura and Morrinsville Roads  
Private Bag 3221  
Hamilton 3240  
0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)  
dairynz.co.nz

The Waikato River Authority does not necessarily endorse or support the content of this publication in any way.
The project aims to reduce the nutrient and sediment loads in the upper Karapiro catchment of the Waikato River, as well as improve water use efficiency.

It will support farmers to accelerate the adoption of on-farm good environmental practice. It will also demonstrate farmers’ commitment to environmental management to the wider community.

Involvement in this project is voluntary but is strongly recommended. Farmers who take part will have access to the best professional advice available at no charge. They will be one step ahead in terms of environment practice and much better placed to meet changing regulations.

There are nearly 700 dairy farms in the catchment from Huka Falls to Karapiro Dam. Over time, the collective actions of all farmers will make a real difference to the health of the Waikato River.

How does the project work?

The project is being managed by DairyNZ and is strongly supported by the wider industry, including Fonterra, Open Country and Miraka dairy companies.

It has been co-funded by DairyNZ, central government and by the Waikato River Authority. The Authority supports projects to help clean up the Waikato River and has invested $685,000 over three years in this project. The remainder of the $2.2m in funding comes from DairyNZ levy funds and the Primary Growth Partnership.

The Upper Waikato Sustainable Milk Project allows for one-on-one advice and support to be delivered to the door of every farmer in the catchment. There is no charge for this advice and support; it is free to every participating farmer. Farmers can choose their own consultant from a range of different contracted companies.

The advice, delivered by professional farm consultants will allow a tailored DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plan to be developed for your farm. The actions in your Plan will contribute to agreed catchment-scale environmental targets established for the project.

DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plans

A DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plan is a brief, farm-specific action plan which outlines the steps to be taken, to contribute towards catchment-scale environmental targets. In this case, plans will contribute to catchment targets set for the Upper Waikato catchment.

DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plans are tailored to individual farms through discussion between the farmer and consultants. Only those actions farmers agree to will be included in the plan.

DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plans targets four key areas:

- nutrient management
- waterway management
- land management
- water use efficiency.

A DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plan will help farmers prioritise actions to get the best results – for individual farms and for the Upper Waikato catchment and the Waikato River.

DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plans have been designed to complement other on-farm planning tools and builds on your milk company supply commitments. Having a DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plan will make on-farm environmental management much easier.