

EFFLUENT IRRIGATION RULES

IF **YOU** IRRIGATE EFFLUENT **YOU** MUST FOLLOW THESE RULES OR **YOU** ARE BREAKING THE LAW

If effluent irrigation does not comply with the rules, contractors, relief staff, workers, managers, sharemilkers and owners may all be liable. If you employ staff or contractors you must take all reasonable steps to ensure they meet these responsibilities or you may also be liable.

WHEN YOU IRRIGATE EFFLUENT ONTO LAND

YOU MUST NOT:

- allow any effluent to enter water (streams, drains or groundwater)
- exceed an application rate of 150 kg of nitrogen per hectare per year
- exceed an application depth of 25 millimetres per application
- irrigate in a manner that causes an objectionable odour beyond your boundary or may affect the health of others.

YOU MUST:

- have enough storage so that you don't have to irrigate onto wet soils
- manage your storage so that it never overflows
- ensure that all storage is properly sealed
- be able to provide information which shows you are complying with the rules, if requested.

Penalties

1. **A \$750 infringement notice.**
2. **\$300,000 fine for an individual and \$600,000 for a company or up to two years in prison.**

For more information

The above information is a summary of Rule 3.5.5.1 of the Proposed Waikato Regional Plan. For a full copy of the rules and information on how they apply to you, or to report illegal effluent discharges, call Waikato Regional Council's freephone 0800 800 401 or visit www.waikatoregion.govt.nz.

