

South East Dairy Effluent Guidelines 2005

Friday, 10 June 2005

Dear South East Dairyfarmer

The SE Dairy Effluent Guidelines 2005.

This is your copy of the 2005 Edition of the Dairy Effluent Guidelines for the South East of South Australia. These Guidelines show the way ahead for management of dairy shed effluent in this region.

The guidelines have been updated from the first edition of 1995 by a committee which included dairy farmers, dairy companies, Department of Primary Industries and Resources, the South East Catchment Water Management Board, and the Environment Protection Authority. They include updated information on changes to State legislation, as well as effluent management systems and technologies which improve the ease of management and reduce the environmental impact of dairy effluent.

The points below summarise the implementation timetable for the new guidelines. Note that you must already comply with any mandatory conditions described in the Environment Protection Act, Water Quality Policy and Dairy Code of Practice – these are not covered by any phase in period.

1. Technical assistance to decide what changes, if any, are needed to your effluent management system will be funded by the SE Dairy Effluent Project until the end of June 2007, subject to ongoing funding. The technical service which is being offered includes the design and specifications of the effluent management system, and the plan or timetable for completion of the necessary work. The technical service can be accessed by contacting Rural Solutions SA at Mt Gambier 08 8735 1304, or Clare 08 8842 6272.
2. Existing dairies have until 2015 to have all upgrade works completed and comply with the winter effluent management provisions of these guidelines, with all dairies required to be fully compliant with the existing mandatory requirements of the Environment Protection Act (1993), the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy (2003), and the Code of Practice for Dairy Shed Effluent (2003) now. These obligations are covered in the new SE Dairy Effluent Guidelines. Failure to comply with the winter effluent management provisions outlined in the guidelines by 2015, or the existing regulations and codes may result in action by the EPA.
3. The new guidelines apply immediately to all new dairies or major upgrades which require planning approval from the local council.

Trevor Clark

Chairman

On behalf of the SE Dairy Effluent Project Steering Committee

