



Clean rivers and Tasmanian dairy farms

Tasmanian dairy farmers have a strong history of working to protect the environment. We want to proudly show that Tasmania is the dairy region with the best water quality in the world.

Every dairy farmer should be happy to fish, swim and drink the water downstream from their farm.

“We spend so much time here – the children have grown up playing in the river, fishing, swimming, picnics. It is also the water that drives our business.”

Rosie Davenport.



Atkins and Howe families fishing on the Mersey River



Rosie and Bailey Davenport on the Ringarooma River

Tips for Clean Rivers

Keep single N application rates at 50 kg/ha or below (100 kg urea/ha). 50+ years of N fertiliser research on pasture has shown that this is where the cost benefit plateaus – more than this and \$ are wasted. Applying 0.5-1.0 kg N/ha per day grazing rotation is likely to be the most profitable and keeps N out of waterways and minimises nitrous oxide greenhouse gas emissions.

> fertsmart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au
> dairytas.com.au/nrm/nutrients

“Fertsmart is the future - improve your fertiliser efficiency by utilising soil and effluent testing and the 4 R’s (right product, rate, time and place), to have a more profitable, efficient and sustainable farm.”

Seona Findlay Fert\$mart agronomist.



Seona Findlay, Fert\$mart Agronomist

The Tasmanian Effluent Code

(Compliance audited by Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority) states effluent must remain within farm boundaries, there must be an appropriately designed and managed effluent system and effluent must be distributed around the farm in an environmentally sound manner (rule of thumb is minimum 10% of farm area).



Effluent storage for 900 cow herd at end of calving. Liquids through pivots and solids composted with woodchips from calving pad and spread on worked paddocks. ‘Janefield’ Meander.

Enjoy your river this summer!



Sophie Lawrence on the Meander

Fertilise right

- ✓ Product
- ✓ Rate
- ✓ Time
- ✓ Place



Meander River fenced off on ‘Beaufield’

Keep cows out of creeks and maintain a good buffer to waterways

This is the single most important thing dairy farmers do to protect water quality.

Keep it clean



Bill Chilvers on the South Esk

Effluent is a Fert\$mart nutrient – too valuable to lo\$e

Have a great effluent system and recycle nutrients.

See back for contractor details.



Soil moisture monitoring is used on ‘Oakdene’

Irrigate Smart

Over irrigating increases power bills, leaches nutrients, causes runoff and complicates management. Good irrigation management produces more pasture per unit of fertiliser and reduces nitrogen losses.



Atkins children and friends enjoy life on Lobster Creek

Water quality science

- > Allowing cows in creeks puts pathogens and nutrients in the waterway and stirs up sediment. Young stock are more likely than adult animals to spread *E.coli* and *Cryptosporidium*, which are human pathogens. Stock management is easier if animals are drinking from water troughs and using dedicated stock crossings.
- > Nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and sediment are the main impacts on environmental water quality. Excess nutrient and sediment in waterways can cause algal blooms and reduce dissolved oxygen levels (impacting fish and aquatic life). This is called eutrophication



VanBrecht family fishing on the Ringarooma



Contractors with slurry tankers

Troy Harper

0427 532 326

North East, Northern Midlands & Meander Valley.

Andrew Wylie

0418 140 678

Statewide.

Phillip Wilson

0427 871 032

Woolnorth to Launceston.



Contractors with muck spreaders

Kris Davis

0428 561 386

Marrawah to Burnie.

Michael Nichols

0409 451 430

Woolnorth to Deloraine.

Andrew Wylie

0418 140 678

Statewide.

NCDEA Accredited effluent system designers in Tasmania

Current at October 2014, in alphabetical order:

David Armstrong

0408 131 796

AK Consulting, based in central North

Robin Badcock

0418 133 737

Based in central North

Sandra Bennett

0428 105 178

Serve-Ag, based in North East

James Curran

0407 622 483

Macquarie Franklin, based in central North

Laurie Hooper

0418 560 417

AgriTech, based in North West

Scott Livingston

0438 951 021

AK Consulting, based in central North

Peter Poke

0427 522 291

Peter Poke Design, based in Circular Head
Accredited building designer

Steven Smith

0418 594 521

AgriTech, based in North West

