



Media Release

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OVERSEER 6.2's new irrigation module now live through the new OVERSEER website

OVERSEER 6.2 went live last night after a month-long OVERSEER road show that attracted hundreds of farmers and farm advisers willing to learn how to use the new irrigation module.

Full technical notes and the updated Data Input Standards have been released with OVERSEER 6.2 through a brand new website and OVERSEER's General Manager Dr Caroline Read says users have everything they need to get up to speed.

"We've been working with IrrigationNZ since the start of the year to forewarn irrigators that OVERSEER 6.2 would be launched this month. Regional councils in popular irrigation areas have also been getting the message out. Farmers and growers can now work with their advisers to make sure their OVERSEER data is in line with what the new irrigation module requires," says Dr Read.

OVERSEER 6.2 may result in increased nitrate loss estimates for some irrigated properties due to more accurate modelling but IrrigationNZ says this is not as bad as it sounds.

"Having the ability to model specific irrigation practices will dramatically improve OVERSEER's predictions of nitrate loss for irrigated properties. So while you may see some upwards movement immediately, more realistic modelling will reward irrigators who modernise and improve irrigation practice," says IrrigationNZ CEO Andrew Curtis.

"IrrigationNZ and OVERSEER have been working closely with the regional councils to address any compliance issues. Yes there's going to be some short term pain but moving to a more transparent and realistic irrigation module will eventually deliver better results for all irrigators," says Mr Curtis.

Irrigating farmers need to understand the data requirements for OVERSEER 6.2 as they are different.

While the new irrigation module will include backward compatibility for reading files, irrigators need to update their files to truly reflect their management practices," Dr Read says.

Full information and technical notes for OVERSEER 6.2 are now available on the OVERSEER website www.overseer.org.nz. The new look OVERSEER website has also been the subject of conversation at the Roadshow.

“Our aim is to provide more accessible information about OVERSEER and a dedicated portal for users to seek specific information and support.” Says Dr Read. Other than the new look and feel, the introduction of the helpdesk through My OVERSEER will be a significant change to the OVERSEER experience. While users will have to register to use the helpdesk and portal, they will then be able to track progress on their queries and easily search advice and support information.”

ENDS

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OVERSEER calculates nutrient inputs, transfers and outputs from individual farms based on information specific to that farm, producing a nutrient budget. This helps farmers and their consultants to examine farm-scale nutrient management options to optimise production and minimise losses of nutrients to the environment.

The use of OVERSEER in water quality management enables New Zealand to apply an effects-based approach to managing off-farm nutrient losses and as a result is stimulating innovation in the agricultural industry’s approach to improving nutrient management.