

## What if I already have a LEP?

Some farmers will already have a Land and Environment Plan but may refer to it by a different name. If this is the case, please compare it against the examples included as part of the LEP Tool Kit. If it doesn't measure up, consider drafting up an improved LEP using the Tool Kit guidelines and resources.

## How do I obtain the LEP Tool Kit?

A start-up LEP Tool Kit containing the two Level 1 Workbooks is available by contacting Meat & Wool New Zealand:

Freephone: 0800 696 328  
Email: [help@meatandwoolnz.com](mailto:help@meatandwoolnz.com)  
Post: P O Box 121, Wellington 6140, New Zealand  
[www.meatandwoolnz.com](http://www.meatandwoolnz.com)

Guidelines for other levels of LEP are also available on request.

## I have the LEP Tool Kit. What now?

If you already have the Tool Kit then reading the remainder of this introduction and having a look at the examples booklet should give you a broader idea of the type and level of LEP most suited to your situation.

When you know the level you want, start working through the appropriate Workbook or Guide.

## What's in the kit

- **LEP information pamphlet.**
- **Examples of completed LEPs** sourced from around New Zealand.
- **Reference Guide** including 'how to' LEP tips, along with links and contacts for additional resources, and solutions to common problems.
- **Level 1 workbooks.** Introduces the principles of environmental assessment, response-selection, and building a plan of action. Includes documentation of current actions on-farm to protect environmental resources, and lists outstanding challenges. Two options are available. If you have a farm photo or map, then use the **Mapping Method** workbook, otherwise use the **Risk Assessment Method** workbook.
- **Level 2 guidelines.** Builds on Level 1. The farm is broken-down by land-type and reassembled into Land Management Units. Each unit is assessed to identify strengths, weaknesses, yield gap, and nutrient budget status. Opportunities are considered against SMART criteria to develop a response plan.
- **Level 3 guidelines.** Builds upon Level 2 and aims to produce a LEP comparable to those used by regional councils and quality assurance programmes. Emphasis is on standards used by professional farm planners. Level 3 requires land resource mapping, detailed planning and a reasonable time commitment.
- **LEP on CD.** Includes the complete Tool Kit in electronic format, plus most of the internet resources referred to in the Reference Guide (for those with slower internet connections).



## Land and Environment Plans

MEAT & WOOL  
NEW ZEALAND



Version 1.00

LEP information pamphlet



Some supporting funds provided by the Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF).  
Web: [www.maf.govt.nz/sff/](http://www.maf.govt.nz/sff/)

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## What is a Land and Environment Plan?

A Land and Environment Plan (LEP) is a documented assessment of a farm's land and environmental issues, and a plan outlining how those issues will be managed.

It generally involves a stock take of land, soil and water resources, an assessment of opportunities and environmental risks, and a plan showing **what** actions are going to be undertaken, **where** they are being targeted, and **when** they will be implemented.

## Why have a LEP?

A well prepared LEP captures stewardship as a record, and provides proof that measurable actions are being taken to address environmental concerns.

- Most farmers want to farm in a sustainable manner and to leave the land in better condition than when they started.
- LEPs can help identify areas where resources are not being fully utilised and production opportunities are being lost.
- A LEP can identify improvements in farming practice that will enhance production, future-proof the business and foster access to environmentally discerning markets.
- To maintain a premium price for New Zealand products, customers are demanding we prove we are farming sustainably and are protecting our environment.
- If a plan is written down with achievable time-frames, it is more likely to get done.
- A LEP may add value to a farm and assist with information transfer.
- A LEP is completely voluntary.

## The Land and Environment Plan Tool Kit

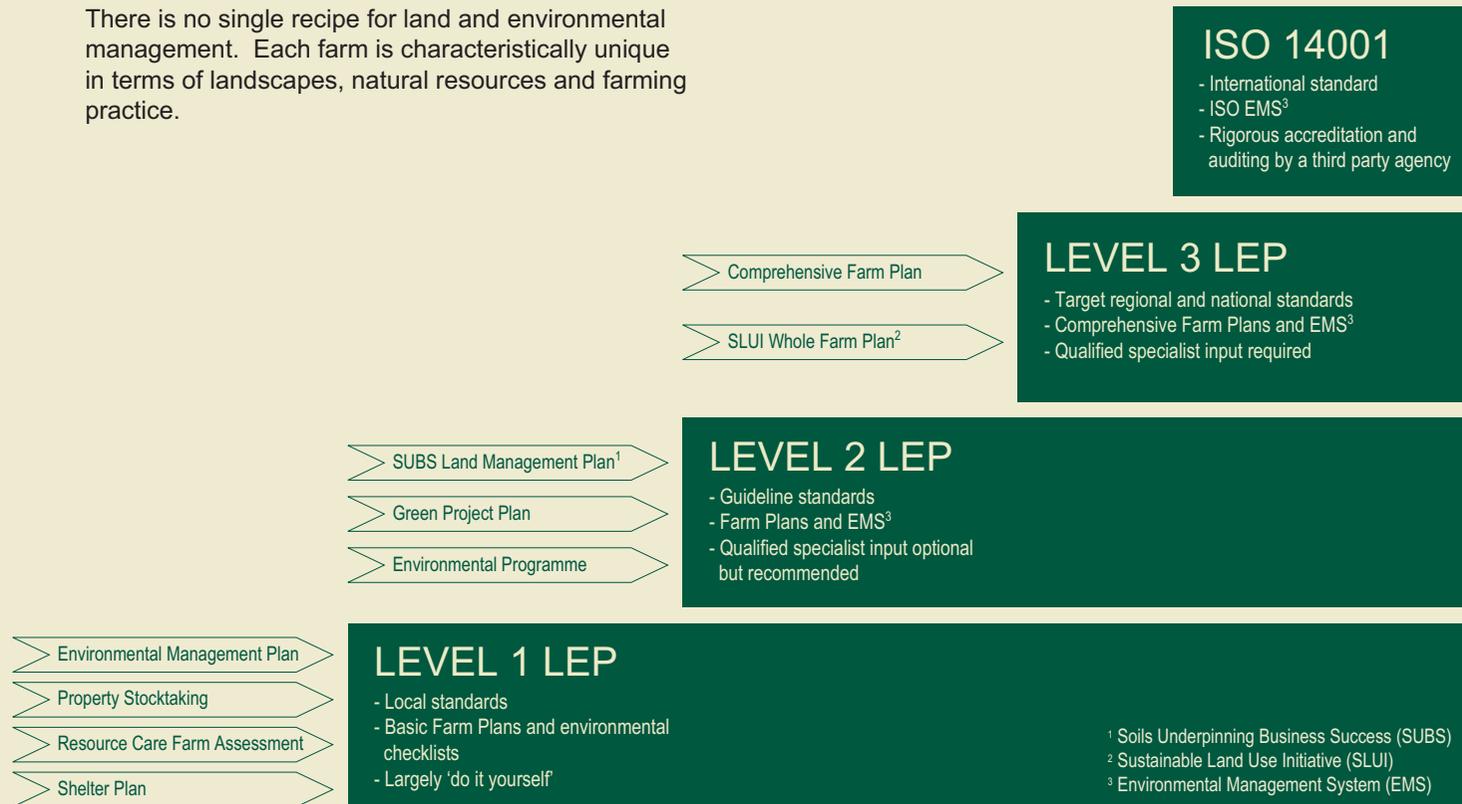
- The LEP Tool Kit is a guide to the preparation of Land and Environment Plans for the meat and wool sector.
- Improvements in farm production and environmental management are targeted through the better use of land, soil and water resources.
- The LEP Tool Kit was requested by meat and wool farmers concerned by environmental trends and market threats.

## No two farms are alike

There is no single recipe for land and environmental management. Each farm is characteristically unique in terms of landscapes, natural resources and farming practice.

LEPs are tailored to individual farming situations. Three levels are available (see diagram below), beginning with an introductory LEP (Level 1) through to more advanced levels. Levels provide the opportunity to choose the most appropriate starting point for a given farm.

Each level represents a successive improvement in LEP quality and comprehensiveness. At the top are ISO 14001 accredited Environmental Management Systems (EMS), which may not be suitable for all farming situations.



<sup>1</sup> Soils Underpinning Business Success (SUBS)  
<sup>2</sup> Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI)  
<sup>3</sup> Environmental Management System (EMS)

# Levels of Land and Environment Planning