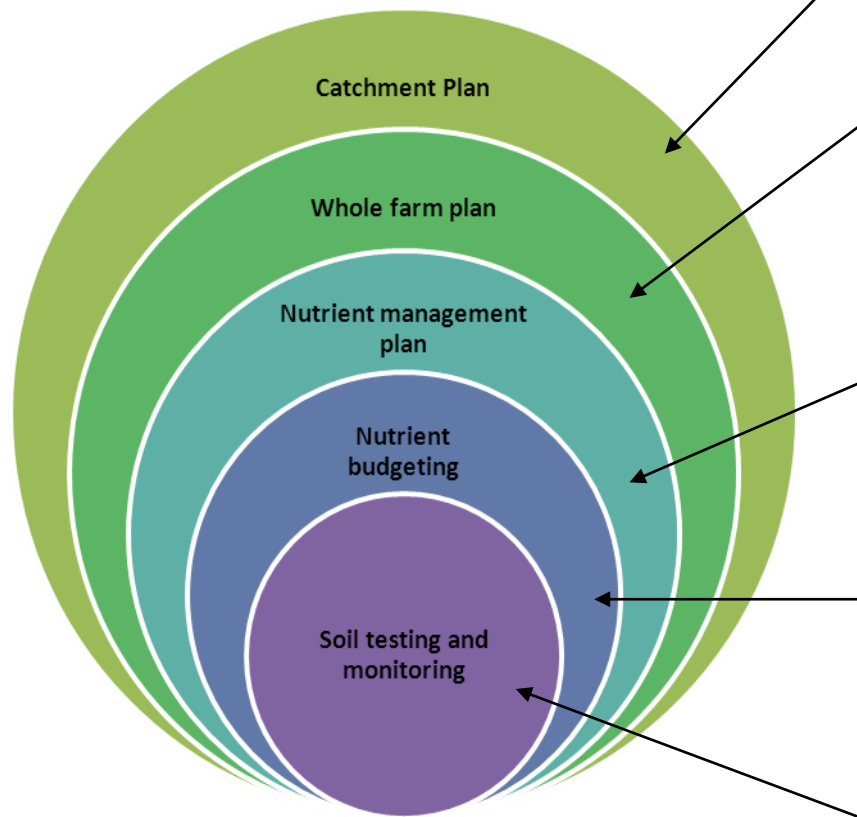


Nutrient Management Plans

The nutrient management plan process

A nutrient management plan assists the profitable management of nutrients with minimal environmental impact.



The catchment plan sets the objectives for the catchment. It usually focuses on water quality, but might include other environmental objectives. All the land within the catchment is considered.

The whole farm plan considers the full range of activities being under-taken on the farm, often from an environmental perspective. They may include plans of action for soil erosion, biodiversity enhancement, animal welfare and wetland and riparian management.

A nutrient management plan considers the whole farm. It involves;

- Setting business objectives – economic, environmental and social.
- Performing a risk assessment for the sustainable management of nutrients.
- Deciding on a plan of action – including time frames and costs.
- Keeping records that are auditable by an independent third party.

The nutrient budget compares crop inputs with crop outputs, partitioning the nutrients between the crop and the environment. Nutrient budgets are completed for land compares crop inputs with crop outputs, partitioning the nutrients between the crop and management units, which might be as small as a single paddock.

Soil chemical tests and soil quality measurements provide the information for assessing risk, managing nutrients and maintaining the soil productivity on the farm. Information from the soil tests is used in tools like the potato and wheat calculators. Over time, they provide evidence that the NMP is delivering on its objectives.