

TAKING CONTROL OF COMPLIANCE WITH SMARTER STORAGE SOLUTIONS

MALVIN WELCH – EFFLUENT STORAGE CASE STUDY

“WITH THE ADDITION OF OUR TWO NEW TANKS, WE’VE GONE FROM ONLY HAVING A FEW DAYS OF STORAGE, TO NOW OVER 90 DAYS EFFLUENT STORAGE CAPACITY”

Malvin Welch operates a combined 400-hectare dairy farm in Mangatawhiri, home to 860 dairy cows. With the ongoing drive to meet environmental regulations, Malvin recognised the need for a sustainable solution to manage the farm’s dairy effluent. In partnership with KlipTank, Malvin installed two uncovered effluent storage tanks, drastically improving the farm’s operations and compliance with environmental standards.

Before reaching out to KlipTank, Malvin’s effluent storage was limited to a small pond and above-ground tanks with a capacity of only 2-4 days’ storage. This setup required constant irrigation and left little room for flexibility. *“We’d been promising Environment Waikato for some time about our upgrades,”* says Malvin. *“We knew we were marginal, and as part of the whole dairy sector and meeting their regulations, this was part of it.”*

With a goal to increase storage capacity and ensure compliance, Malvin contacted KlipTank. In November 2023, KlipTank installed the first of two tanks. The second was completed in November 2024. With 5 million litres of usable storage, the tanks now provide Malvin’s farm with over 90 days of effluent storage.

“KLIPTANK APPEARED TO HAVE THE BEST OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR WHAT WE NEEDED,” MALVIN SHARES. “WITH THE WATER TABLE NEEDS, WE REQUIRED ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE. KLIPTANK OFFERED THE LARGEST CAPACITY WITH A SMALLER FOOTPRINT, WHICH MADE IT IDEAL FOR US.”

The tanks have been transformative for the farm's effluent management system. One tank stores green water near the shed, while the other, positioned further away, also stores green water to increase the application area. Malvin explains, "We've got a feed pad, flood wash, and a system to separate solids. The green water is stored for irrigation, which is crucial to our operations." With the new storage capacity, Malvin no longer faces the pressure of daily irrigation. "If we're careful with our effluent, the storage could last even longer," he adds.

Reflecting on his experience with KlipTank, Malvin praises the team's professionalism and the quality of their service.

"THEIR COMMUNICATION LINES ARE GOOD," HE SAYS. "THE TEAM THAT CAME OUT TO INSTALL THE TANK WERE GOOD TO DEAL WITH. THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND MADE THE PROCESS SMOOTH."

Environment Waikato's response has also been positive. "They've audited us and are very happy with the setup. Everything is compliant, and they're satisfied with the volume of storage we have," Malvin reports.

For Malvin, the decision to choose KlipTank was reinforced by KlipTank's reputation and innovative design. "A contractor we use, one of his family members, has had a KlipTank for a long time. We went to have a look at it, and they were very happy with theirs," he explains.

Malvin highlights the tank's large volume, simplicity, and durable plastic panels as standout features.

"I THINK KLIPTANK IS THE BETTER OPTION FOR ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE," HE SAYS. "WE'RE EVEN CONSIDERING PUTTING A THIRD TANK IN ANOTHER LOCATION."

Malvin's partnership with KlipTank has not only enhanced the farm's operations but also provided peace of mind knowing the farm meets environmental standards. With increased storage capacity and a reliable system in place, Malvin is well-prepared for the future. Put simply, "it just works," he concludes. "I would definitely recommend it to someone else."

Malvin Welch
Mangatawhiri, New Zealand



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