

Nutrient limits

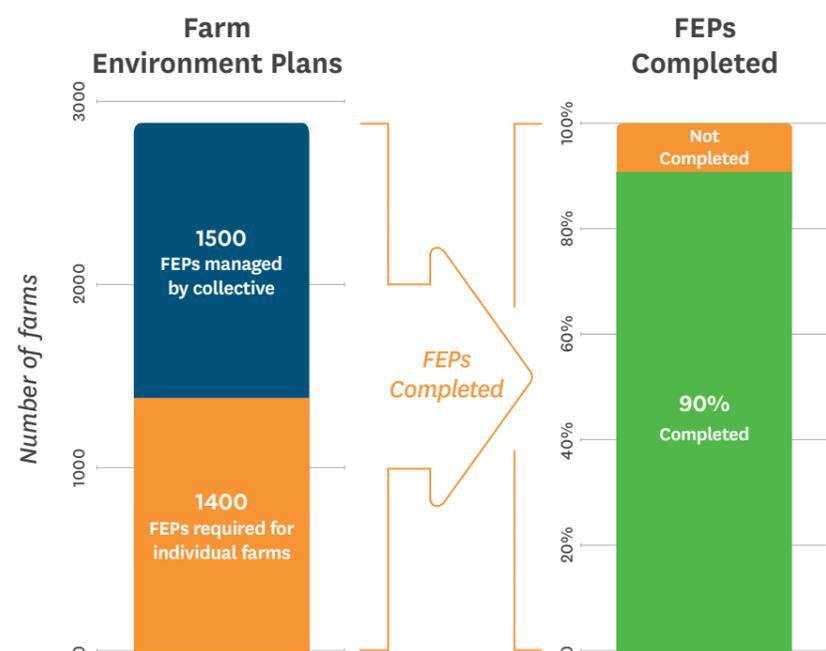
In 2012 strict nitrate pollution limits were imposed on Canterbury farmers (in the Land and Water Regional Plan). Since then even more stringent limits have been introduced in areas with rising nitrate levels (Selwyn district, Ashburton, Hinds, and South Coastal Canterbury).

Land users are required to measure and manage nitrate leaching via a consent to farm and an associated Farm Environment Plan (FEP). To ensure farmers are doing what they need to do, there are regular independent farm plan audits which result in a grade:

- A grade is compliant.
- B grade is considered to be compliant against your resource consent, however there is a requirement that progress will be made over a reasonable timeframe to an A grade, demonstrating the farm is at Good Management Practice for all management areas.
- C or D grade is non-compliant.

Note: This grading structure is specific to FEP audits.

Farm Environment Plan progress



Case study

BROMLEY – a new approach to odour

An innovative approach to residents' complaints about odour in a Christchurch suburb has led to action being taken to address the smell.

Environment Canterbury, with the support of the Christchurch City Council and the Bromley community, carried out a pilot study in March 2020.

Environment Canterbury operations director Nadeine Dommissie said the study identified Christchurch City Council-run facilities Living Earth and EcoDrop as significant odour emitters.

"We know this has been an issue for Bromley residents for a long time and it hasn't been an easy one to resolve. Tracing odour is a complex issue and the usual methods councils use to track odour simply didn't work in Bromley.

The pilot study used reports from the community via a mobile app, and an independent odour assessor. Those reports were compared to wind and weather information and site operational data provided by the Christchurch City Council to determine the significant sources of odour.

See more at ecan.govt.nz/bromleyodour



Compliance monitoring 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

Protecting the environment is our top priority

Here's a handful of things we've done in the past year to help protect Canterbury's environment:

- We did 5539 inspections across Canterbury to check on compliance with consents
- We've provided proactive guidance to consent holders to ensure they're on the right track
- We focused on erosion and sediment control practices at urban building sites in Christchurch to protect local streams
- The Selwyn Waihora zone team completed a land use campaign for all farms with more than 50 hectares of irrigation

As a Council, it's important that we:

- Ensure effective and targeted **consent compliance monitoring** (this report)
- Respond quickly to as many **incident reports** as possible (incident response report).

We want to deal with environmental risks before they turn into incidents and cause damage. This is happening through nutrient limits and the Good Management Programme of continuous improvement on farm.

Monitoring consent compliance and responding to incidents, while necessary and important, are more like the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. They are needed to fix a problem often after the environmental damage has occurred and to prevent it happening again.

As long as we have consents with conditions, we will continue to monitor them to ensure the activity is compliant. But what consents we monitor and how we monitor is changing. With

more than 22,000 consents that need monitoring, we are finding smarter ways to do compliance monitoring and smarter ways to identify non-compliance so we can focus our efforts in the right places.

In the last year, we've focussed on water use as a priority. In Canterbury, there are more than 5000 water take and use consents. Each of these consents has conditions relating to water use data and are monitored as part of a water use compliance assessment.

Given this focus, we've seen an increase in significant non-compliant water use consent from one per cent previously to five per cent in the past year's data.

- ▶ For a breakdown of our compliance monitoring, please see inside.
- ◀ See the back for case studies.



Compliance monitoring

JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020 REPORT

Why this matters

We are working with land managers, individuals and industry to improve compliance to ensure the best long-term environmental results.

Consenting rules

- Resource consents allow people or organisations to do something that may have an effect on the environment, but this comes with conditions to protect the environment.
- It is important consent holders comply with their conditions otherwise they can have a negative impact on the environment.

What the grades mean



(Full compliance) Full compliance with all relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards



(Low risk non-compliance) Compliance with most of the relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Carries a low risk of adverse environmental effects.



(Moderate non-compliance) Non-compliance with some of the relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Some environmental consequence.



(Significant non-compliance) Non-compliance with many of the relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Significant environmental consequence.

How we respond to improve compliance grades

If there is an issue, our first response is to work with individuals and businesses to stop any immediate environmental damage.

We then investigate to determine what actions should be taken, including enforcement.



Education can achieve better outcomes and is valued by consent holders who need help. If education does not get the right results, there are a range of compliance actions as set out below:



Formal written warnings notify of an offence and require action to be taken.



Infringement notices, which include a fine, are issued for more significant breaches.



Abatement notices are a formal written direction, requiring certain actions to be taken or to cease within a specified time.

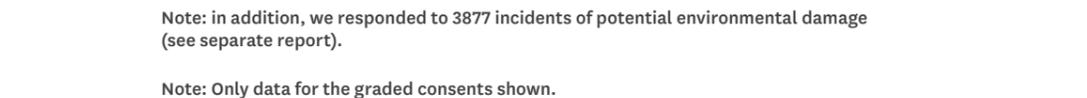
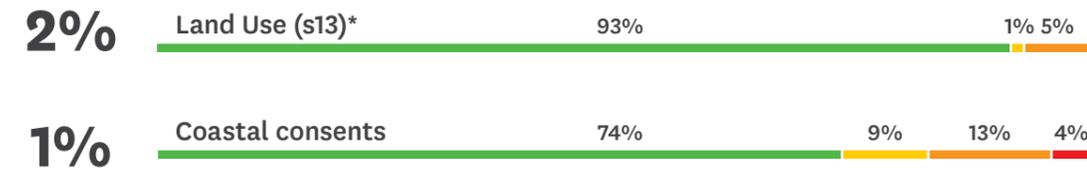
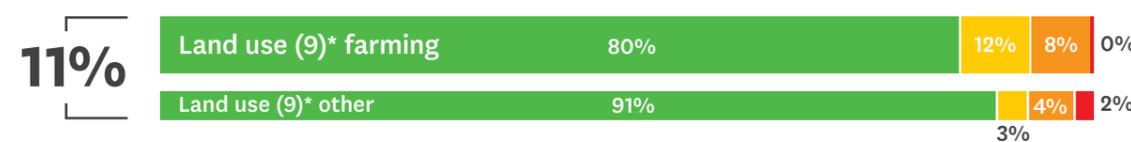
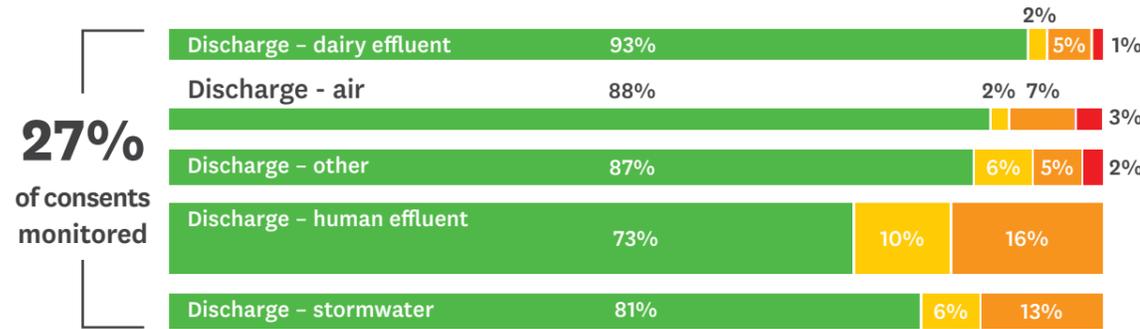
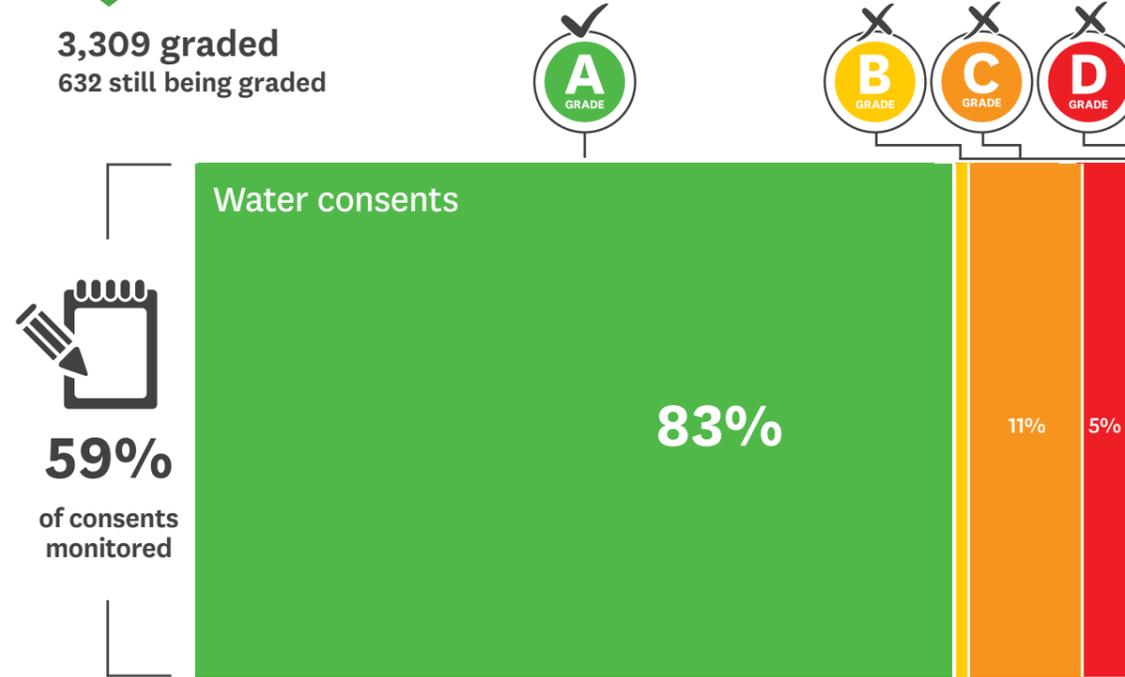


Prosecution is reserved for offences so serious that warrant court proceedings.

3,941 consents targeted

What we monitored

3,309 graded
632 still being graded

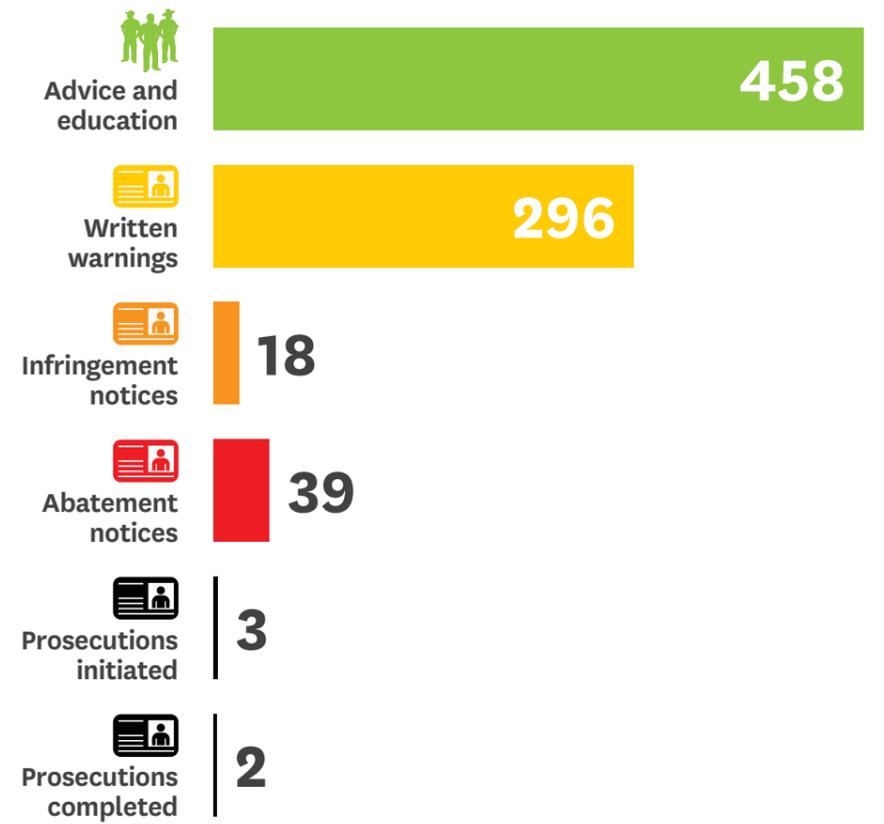


Note: in addition, we responded to 3877 incidents of potential environmental damage (see separate report).

Note: Only data for the graded consents shown.

*Note: The number in brackets refer to sections of the Resource Management Act.

How we responded to improve compliance grades



5,339 inspections by zone

Some consents have multiple inspections, these include those with a C or D compliance rating, as well as those identified as high-risk which are subject to more regular monitoring.

