

Incident response in the Selwyn Waihora zone

The public play an important role in protecting our region's natural resources. Every year, we receive about 4,000 reports regionwide regarding incidents with potential to harm the quality of our air, land or water.

In the Selwyn Waihora zone, we received nearly 530 reports. The majority of these were related to discharges of air – many relating to dust and outdoor burns.

We respond to environmental incidents and consent breaches with a range of enforcement procedures, to remediate adverse effects, educate those responsible, and prevent similar incidents recurring.

Due to the high volume of reports, we respond to the most serious incidents first. If it involves a potentially serious environmental incident or offence, a Resource Management Officer will make a site visit. Our priority when responding is the safety of our officers, followed by minimising any adverse effect, and then investigating the incident.

Our staff call upon expertise from other technical staff (scientists, engineers), city and district council staff, and external consultants as the situation demands.

Breaching the Resource Management Act can amount to serious criminal offending. Our investigative practices are carried out to police standards, including conducting thorough scene examinations and evidence gathering.

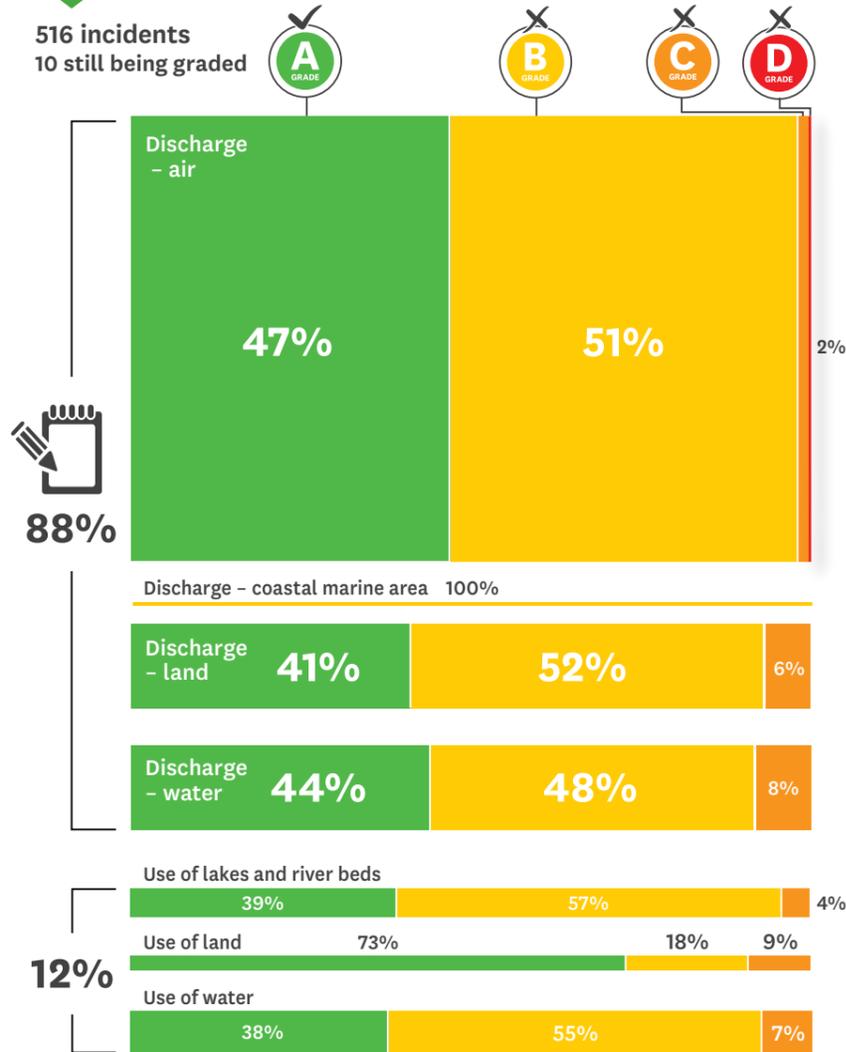
If you're concerned an activity may be damaging our environment, please call us on 0800 765 588 (24 hours) to report it, or use the Snap Send Solve app to report it from your mobile phone.

*See over for grading explanation

526 incidents

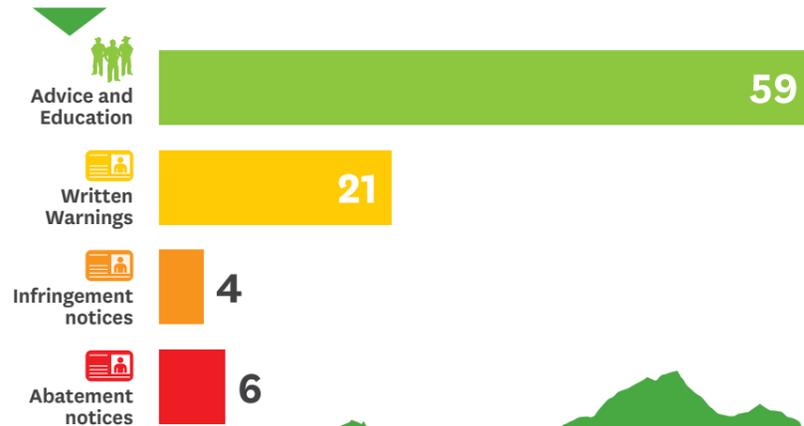
What we found

516 incidents
10 still being graded



Due to rounding, percentages will not always add up to 100% exactly.

How we responded to reduce environmental damage



Taking action together to shape a thriving and resilient Canterbury, now and for future generations.

Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Tangaroa, toitū te iwi.

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SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE



Compliance monitoring and incident response 2019-20 SNAPSHOT REPORT

Protecting the environment is our top priority

In the last year, the zone team has:

- received 526 incident reports,
- targeted 1112 consents with a focus on water use,
- proactively visited sites with higher risk of sediment run-off to work with site managers on best practice, and
- ensured Yaldhurst quarries have installed boundary monitoring devices to help with monitoring objectionable and/or offensive dust over boundaries (see case study below).

Quarries – a new approach to dust management

Over the last several years there have been a lot of complaints about dust from quarries in the Yaldhurst area. Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council and the Canterbury District Health Board committed to working together to resolve quarry dust issues and ran a monitoring programme in 2017/2018.

The four-month air quality monitoring programme showed no serious public health risk from airborne dust, but that nuisance dust could be an issue from time-to-time.

The programme led to us calling for better dust management by quarry operators.

Since then, we've engaged with industry to have all quarries with sensitive boundaries install boundary monitoring devices. Last summer was the first season where quarries used the monitoring devices to assist with monitoring objectionable and/or offensive dust over the boundary. We have seen improvement in the past few years, and we've made it a priority to work with quarry operators in the Yaldhurst area to ensure industry level compliance. Monitoring officers will continue to conduct inspections of quarry operations on a regular basis.

- ▶ See inside for our consent compliance results.
- ◀ See the back for our incident response results.



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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.

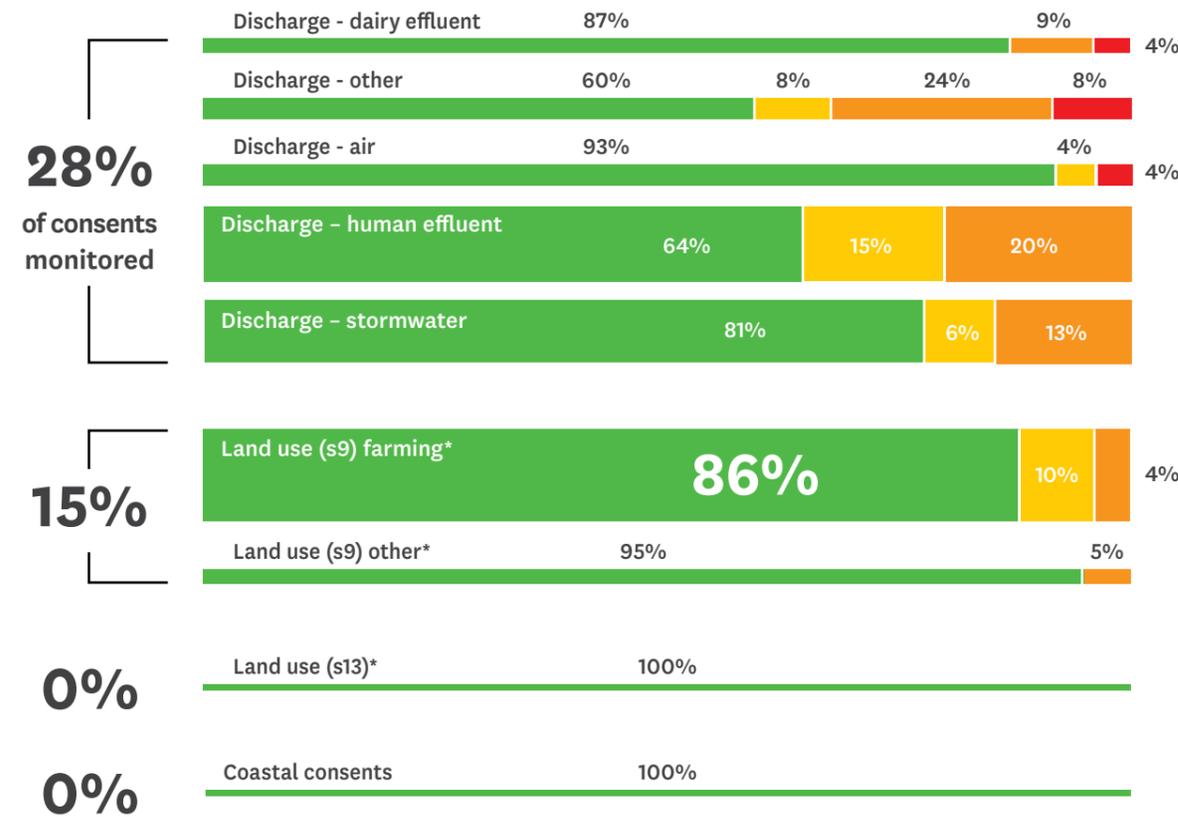
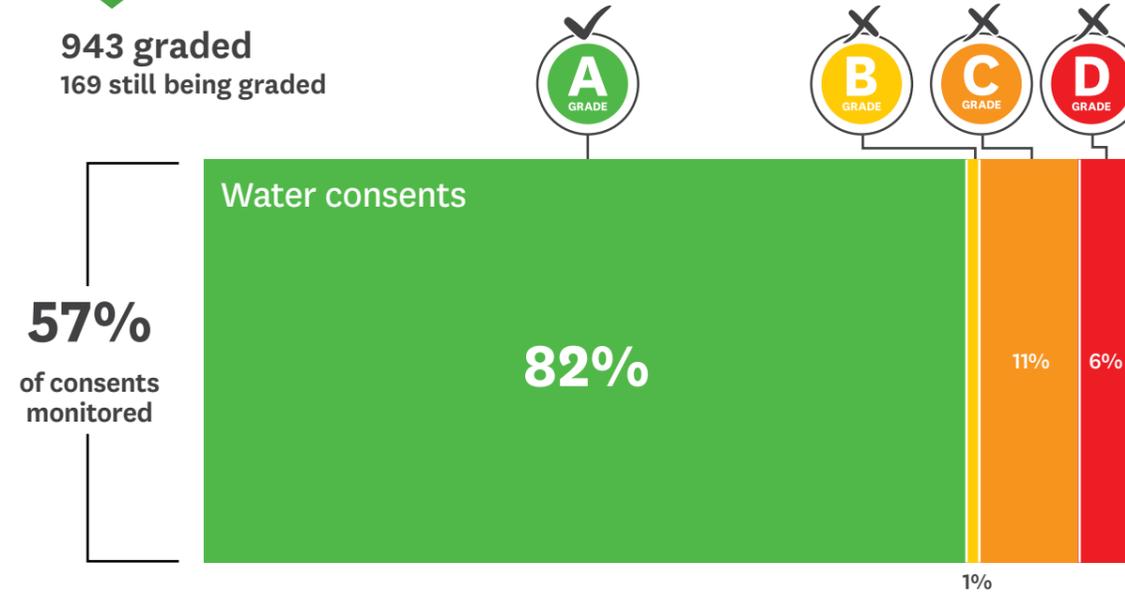


Prosecution is reserved for offences so serious that warrant court proceedings.

1112 consents targeted

What we monitored

943 graded
169 still being graded

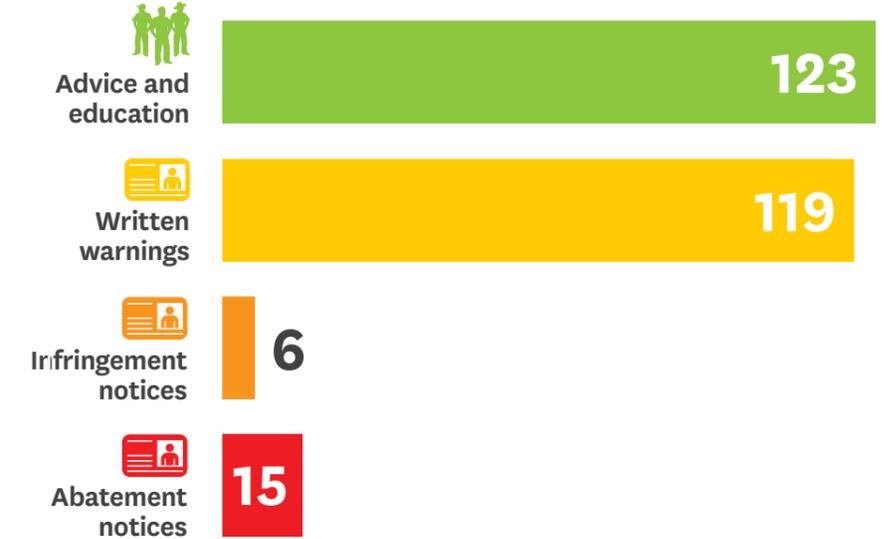


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Note: Only data for completed monitored visits shown.

*Please refer to sections 9 & 13 of the land use section 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.

