

# Incident response in the Upper Waitaki 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 Upper Waitaki zone, we received nearly 55 reports. The majority of these were related to discharges of land, followed by discharges to air.

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.

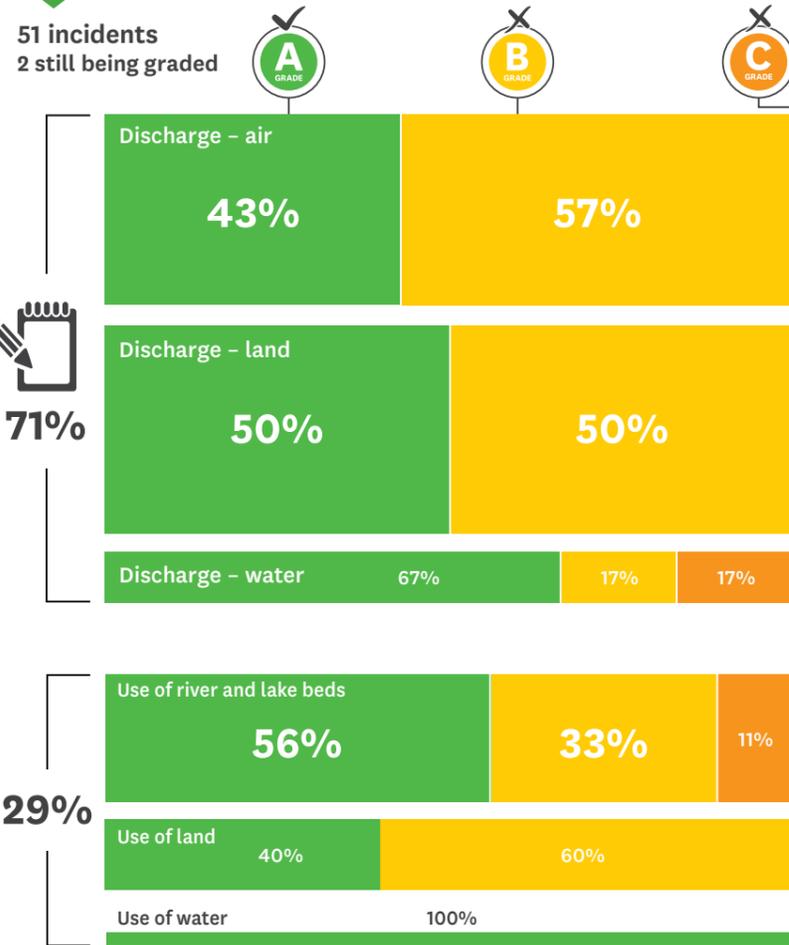
If you're concerned an activity may be damaging our environment, please call us on 0800 765 588 (24 hours) to report it, or use the Snap Send Solve app to report it from your mobile phone

\*See over for grading explanation

## 53 incidents

### What we found

51 incidents  
2 still being graded



71%

29%

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

### How we responded to reduce environmental damage



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## UPPER WAITAKI 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 53 incident reports,
- targeted 159 consents with a focus on water use,
- hired a full-time resource management officer to be based in Upper Waitaki, and
- focused on working with the community to ensure best practice (see below).

### Good Management Practice for irrigation in the Ahuriri Catchment

The Waitaki Lakes are some of the most valued lakes in the country providing irrigation for farms, hydro power for electricity generation; important cultural and recreational values for the community and visitors. Unfortunately, there's been a decline in water quality at the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore so we've focused on what we can do to help address this.

In the last year, we've visited farms that irrigate in the Ahuriri catchment to check they're implementing Good Management

Practices for irrigation as we want to support landowners to operate within agreed industry practices.

It's important that irrigation systems are running efficiently as this helps reduce nutrient losses to waterways and helps protect water quality.

We also encouraged landowners to get involved in discussions around what's happening with water quality in the catchment, risks, and what can be done to minimise the risks for their farms and the lake by holding a community meeting.

Additionally, all consented farms in this catchment were monitored within the year.

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

# 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.

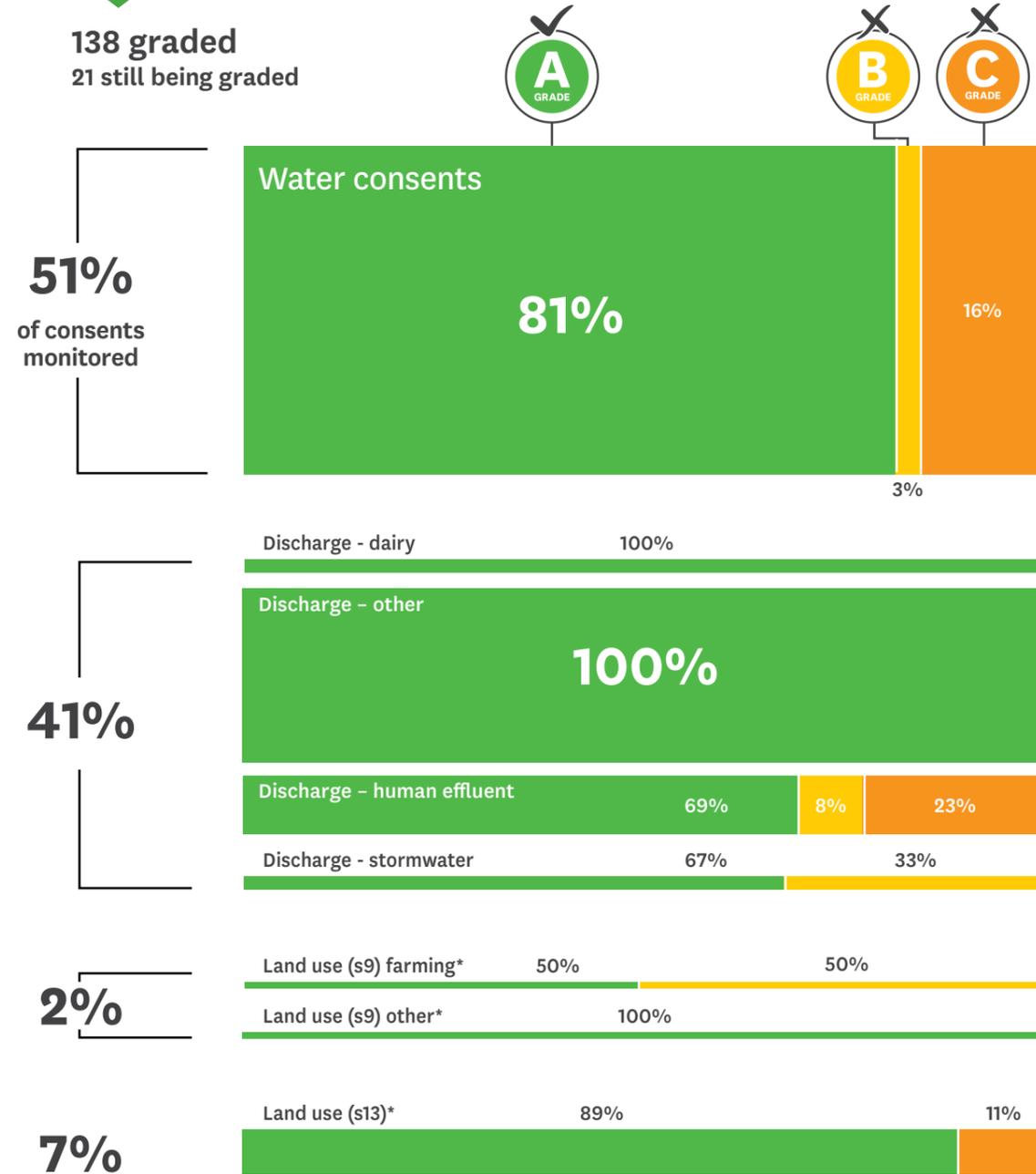


**Prosecution** is reserved for offences so serious that warrant court proceedings.

# 159 consents targeted

## What we monitored

138 graded  
21 still being graded



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

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.

