

LOWER WAITAKI ZONE

COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND INCIDENT RESPONSE 2020-21 SNAPSHOT REPORT

Protecting the environment is our top priority. In the last year, the zone team has:

- received 93 incident reports, and
- targeted 229 consents with a focus on water use.

Incident response in the Lower Waitaki zone

The public play an important role in protecting our region's natural resources. Every year, we receive over 4,400 reports regionwide regarding incidents with potential to harm the quality of our air, land, or water.

In the Lower Waitaki zone, we received nearly 100 reports. The majority of these were related to discharges to 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), 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.

WHAT WE FOUND

88 incidents have been graded, and 5 are still being graded

Incidents Responded to	A Grade	B Grade	C Grade	D Grade	Total
Discharge - Air	45%	50%	5%	0%	60%
Discharge - Land	63%	38%	0%	0%	
Discharge - Water	67%	33%	0%	0%	
Use of Lakes and Riverbeds	35%	47%	18%	0%	40%
Use of Land	50%	17%	33%	0%	
Use of Water	33%	67%	0%	0%	

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

HOW WE RESPONDED TO REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

1. Advice and Education - 15
2. Written Warnings - 5
3. Infringement Notices - 2
4. Abatement Notices - 16

COMPLIANCE MONITORING JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021 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:

- A. (Full compliance): Full compliance with all relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations, and national environmental standards
- B. (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.
- C. (Moderate non-compliance): Non-compliance with some of the relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations, and national environmental standards. Some environmental consequence.
- D. (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.

229 consents targeted

What we monitored

218 consents were graded

11 consents are still being graded

Consents Targeted	A Grade	B Grade	C Grade	D Grade	Total
Discharge - Dairy Effluent	85%	3%	13%	0%	31%
Discharge - Air	50%	10%	30%	10%	
Discharge - Other	76%	0%	24%	0%	
Discharge - Human Effluent	47%	21%	32%	0%	
Discharge - Stormwater	100%	0%	0%	0%	
Land Use (s9)* Farming	88%	6%	6%	0%	6%
Land Use (s13)*	57%	0%	43%	0%	2%
Water Consents	69%	1%	22%	8%	60%

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:

1. Advice and Education - 50
2. Written Warnings - 12
3. Abatement Notices - 15

REGIONAL RESULTS - 6491 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.

CWMS Zone	Percentage of inspections done
Kaikōura	1%
Waimakariri	10%
Christchurch West Melton	11%
Banks Peninsula	2%
Ashburton	22%
Lower Waitaki	5%
Upper Waitaki	5%
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora	13%
Selwyn Waihora	26%
Hurunui Waiau	6%