



July 2017 - June 2018

Compliance Monitoring and Incident Reporting

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

Hawke's Bay Regional Council's incident response team responded to a call-out in 2018, which looked like orange paint during the day - but it turned out to be something quite different. See the back page.

Dairy Compliance Awards

Thirty farms have maintained full 'gold level' compliance for at least five consecutive years, with another 19 farms well on their way to gold status. The award scheme developed from a goal set by the Dairy Industry Liaison Group when it was established by the Regional Council in 2008. Hawke's Bay has a total of 79 dairy farms that are monitored annually.

With the aim of 100% compliance, the industry sees improvements every year, from 71% compliance across the board in the first year, to 89% in 2017-18. To achieve 100% compliance, farms must achieve full compliance with their consents at all inspections; water take consents are included as well as the farm's dairy effluent discharge consent.

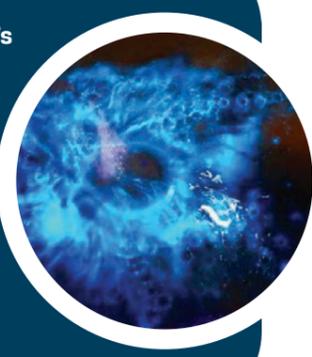


Farm Environment Management Plans

The Regional Council hit its first regulation deadline under the Tukituki Plan on 31 May 2018, requiring every owner of land over 4 hectares to show evidence of a Farm Environmental Management Plan.

Significant action undertaken by catchment advisors and regulation staff in the catchment led to more than 90% of Farm Plans being sorted in Central Hawke's Bay, by the deadline.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council's incident response team responded to a call-out in 2018, which looked like orange paint during the day, but after dark - when disturbed in the water - gave a stunning, luminous light-show, commonly known as sea sparkle.



The work to protect and enhance Hawke's Bay's environment has many strands, supported to a large degree by our Regional Resource Management Plan and Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

Our work includes:

- Set the necessary nutrient limits
- Promote Good Management Practices (GMP) for farmers
- Land-use Farm Environment Management Plans in the Tukituki catchment
- Ensure effective and targeted consent compliance monitoring
- Respond quickly to incident reports

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 Practice of continuous improvement on farms.

Monitoring consent compliance and responding to incidents are important functions of the Regional Council's role. This work ensures that consents deliver the environmental mitigations they are granted to achieve, or our response helps to fix a problem - often after the environmental damage has occurred - and stops it happening again.

As long as we have consents with conditions we will continue to monitor them to ensure the activity is compliant. Our current approach is focused on monitoring high-risk consents or those consent holders with poor compliance history. Better technology will improve our ability to monitor activities for compliance without having to do as many physical site visits.

- ▶ See inside for our consent compliance and incident response results.
- ▶ See the back for case studies on the progress we are making.

Are you concerned that an activity may be damaging our environment? Call Hawke's Bay Regional Council Pollution Hotline (24 hours) to report an environmental issue **0800 108 838**



Compliance monitoring

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 for our monitoring officers to build and maintain a positive relationship with our consent holders, including guidance. Both parties work together to ensure consents are complied with, which helps us work toward positive environmental outcomes.

What we monitored

2,943 consents

including in process (of a total 3,144 consents requiring monitoring)

FULLY compliant consents
2730
(93%)

MODERATE non-compliance
203
(6.9%)

SIGNIFICANT non-compliance
10
(.3%)

Incident reporting

Why this matters

Incidents involving contaminants in waterways or unauthorised discharges to land or air should be notified to Hawke's Bay Regional Council by calling our Pollution Hotline on 0800 108 838 (24 hours a day, every day of the year).



Air Offensive odour, smoke, burning prohibited items, spray drift or dust



Land & Water Offensive odour, farm dumps, dust, clean fill operations, stream/ river works, chemical or oil spills



Coastal Oil slicks, chemical or sewage spills, rubbish dumped in the sea

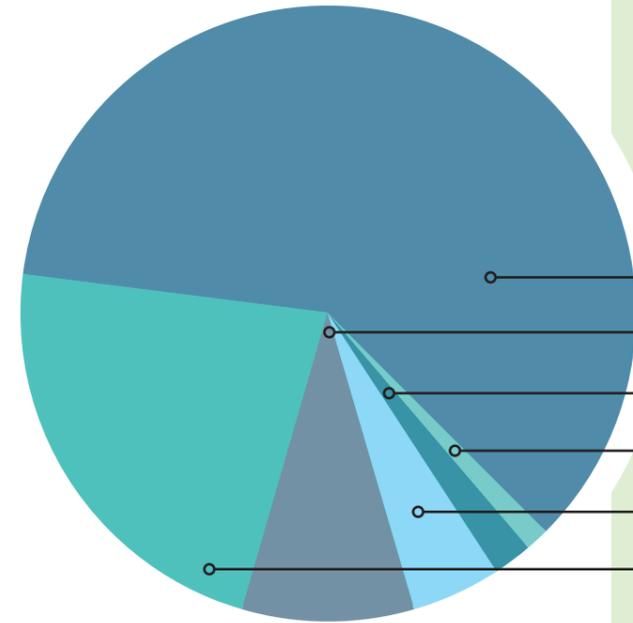
We research, investigate and evaluate all calls to assess the potential environmental effects the reported incidents may have. Due to the high volume of reports, we respond to the most serious incidents first.

Response to the fishing vessel Inyago which sank while berthed in the inner harbour at Ahuriri.



Response to a food colouring dye discharged into the Tyne Street drain, Ahuriri.

What we investigated



1,095 pollution calls

915 prior year up 20%

Air 696 544 prior year, up 28%

Coastal 56 31 prior year, up 31%

Groundwater 16 34 prior year

Navigation Safety 6 5 prior year

Land 97 66 prior year, up 47%

Surface water 224 235 prior year

How we respond

Our initial response is to work with individuals and businesses to stop any environmental damage and achieve the right environmental outcome if there is an issue.

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



Education up front can achieve effective outcomes. However if education does not get the right results, there are a range of compliance actions.



Formal written warnings inform a person or company that they have breached the Resource Management Act. The letter can be used as evidence in court if a prosecution is later taken. This is not a legal requirement.



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



Abatement notices are served by the Regional Council's enforcement officer, under the Resource Management Act, to cease an activity or require some environmental remediation work.



The Regional Council can make an application to the Environment Court to issue an **enforcement order**. Breaching an enforcement order issued by the Court is an offence.



Prosecution is reserved for offences so serious that they warrant proceedings through the courts.

How we responded to reduce environmental damage

Advice and education, informal warnings	937
Formal warnings	16
Infringement notices	92
Abatement notices	46
Prosecutions	4

Enforcement

A significant focus of the compliance monitoring and incident response roles are education, informing and directing, but there are times when enforcement action is required.

A spill of liquid tallow and a meat processing wastewater discharge into the Ahuriri estuary's Tyne Street drain both attracted enforcement action.

Pictured above: 5000L water and liquid tallow discharged to Tyne St drain. \$3,000 fine, plus cost of recovery and disposal of the illegal discharge.

Pictured left: Animal processing waste discharge containing blood, fleshings and animal waste, \$3,600 fine, plus cost of recovery and disposal of the illegal discharge.

