

Compliance snapshot report: Dairy effluent

2017/2018 monitoring season

KEY POINTS

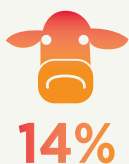


Approximately 680 current dairy shed consents in the Bay of Plenty region

271 dairy shed consents **monitored** – a 22% decrease on the number monitored last season



74% of farms checked at their first visit **complied** with their consent conditions



14% of farms had a **serious non-compliance** noted at their first visit

14

14 abatement notices served

7

7 infringement notices issued

5

5 prosecutions initiated

What was found during the 2017/18 inspections?

Bay of Plenty Regional Council monitored 271 dairy discharge consents during the 2017/18 survey. Results reported in this snapshot relate to the compliance at the first visit. Subsequent visits for sites rated moderate or significant non-compliance are carried out until full compliance is achieved.

The majority (74%) of consents inspected were rated as complying, while a further 12% of consents inspected received a rating of low risk non-compliance. 14% of consents monitored breached conditions relating to environmental effects or best practice.

Top 3 issues found

- 1 Poor pond management - full or overflowing
- 2 Effluent irrigation causing bad ponding and/or runoff to waterways
- 3 Effluent observed discharging through the stormwater diversion system

Summary of the Compliance Rating System

Complying	Low risk non-compliance	Moderate non-compliance	Significant non-compliance
At the time of the inspection the consent holder was complying with all consent conditions that were able to be assessed.	These non-compliances are considered to only have minor or no adverse environmental effects. Examples include excessive weed growth in storage pond, irrigator less than 20m from property boundary, paperwork not in order.	Environmental effects and/or best practice conditions not met, but not resulted in direct discharge of effluent to waterways. Examples include storage pond overflowing to land, ponding of effluent from irrigator observed.	Repeated breach of environmental effects and/or best practice conditions, or significant breach of environmental effects. Also includes a breach of abatement notice. Examples include ponds or sumps overflowing into waterways, irrigators discharging into waterways.
			Serious non-compliance
			A combination of the moderate and significant non-compliance categories.

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Compliance

What was checked?

Staff inspected all aspects of the effluent treatment and/or disposal systems against the specific consent requirements during their visits. This included inspecting effluent sumps, pipework and ponds; inspecting the location of stormwater diversion systems; where possible viewing the irrigation system; and checking for obvious signs of seepage from effluent ponds into watercourses.

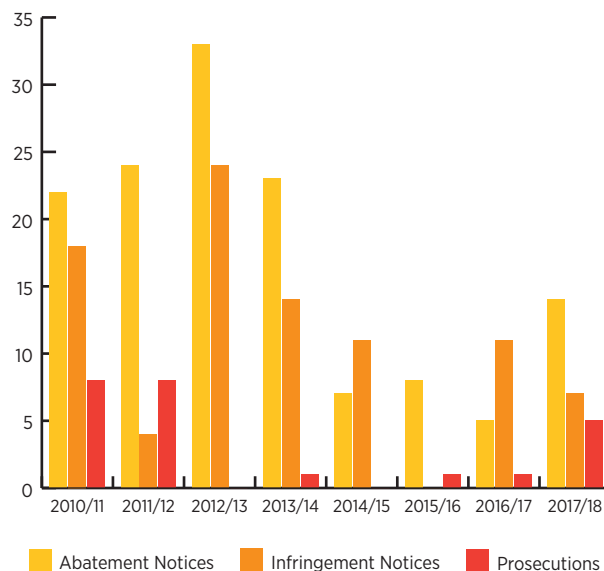
In addition, staff checked whether the property had feedpads/standoff pads, and if so, checked where the runoff from those facilities went.

Compliance levels at first visit over the last eight seasons



Enforcement

Types and numbers of enforcement action taken over last eight seasons



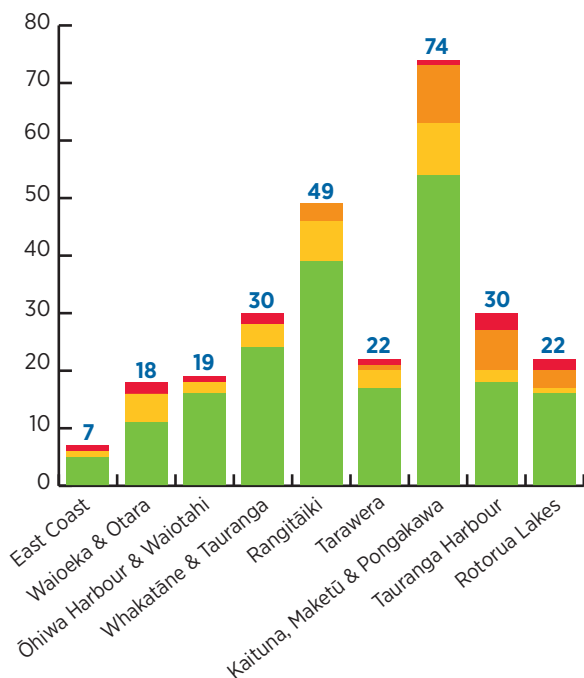
Note: Some sites may receive more than one infringement or more than one abatement notice.

Abatement notices are formal instructions. They are a direction to either cease doing something, take action to address an environmental effect, or to comply with consent conditions.

Infringement notices (fines) are issued for serious non-compliance offences that don't warrant prosecuting. The fine is \$750 for most dairy-related offences.

Prosecutions are undertaken for the most serious of offending, where actual impacts on the receiving environment are significant, or have the potential to be significant. Maximum penalties of up to \$300,000 or two years imprisonment can be awarded against individuals, or up to \$600,000 for corporate entities.

Dairy Discharge Inspections Per WMA 2017/18



More information

For more information on compliance and enforcement undertaken by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, contact a Regulatory Compliance Team Leader.

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