

Compliance snapshot report: Dairy effluent

2014/2015 monitoring season

KEY POINTS

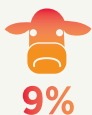


Approximately 680 dairy sheds located in the Bay of Plenty region

290 dairy shed consents **monitored** – a 15% decrease on the number monitored last season



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



9% of farms had a **serious non-compliance** noted at their first visit



7 **abatement**s and 11 **infringement**s have been issued.



No prosecutions were initiated.



About 90% of the farms inspected undertook some form of **effluent irrigation**



What was found during the 2014/15 inspections?

Bay of Plenty Regional Council monitored 290 dairy discharge consents during the 2014/15 survey. Results reported in this snapshot relate to the compliance at the first visit. Subsequent visits for sites rated high-risk or major non-compliance are carried out until full compliance is achieved.

The majority (74%) of consents inspected were rated as complying, while a further 17% of consents inspected received a rating of low-risk non-compliance. Less than 10% of consents monitored breached conditions relating to environmental effects or best practice (rated as significant non-compliance).

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	High-risk non-compliance	Major 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.

Significant non-compliance

A combination of the high-risk and major non-compliance categories. This is sometimes referred to as "serious" non-compliance.

The rating system for dairy monitoring has been in place for over five years.

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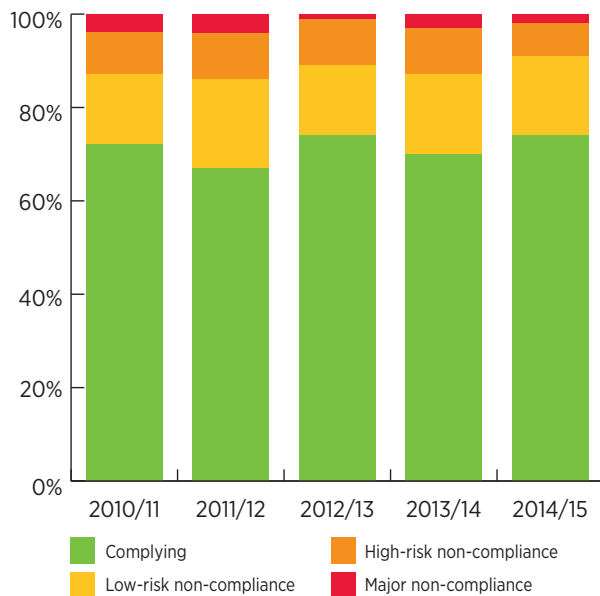
Compliance

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.

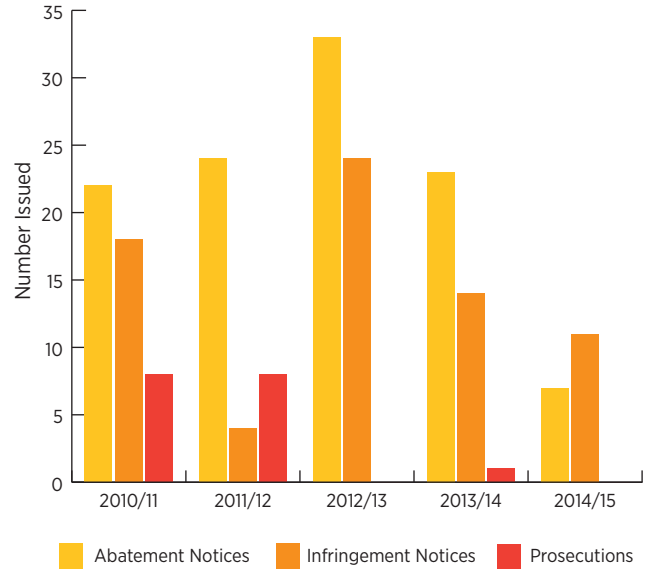
In addition, staff checked whether the property had feedpads/standoff pads, and if so, checked where the runoff from those facilities went.

Compliance levels at first visit over the last five seasons



Enforcement

Types and numbers of enforcement action taken over last five seasons



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

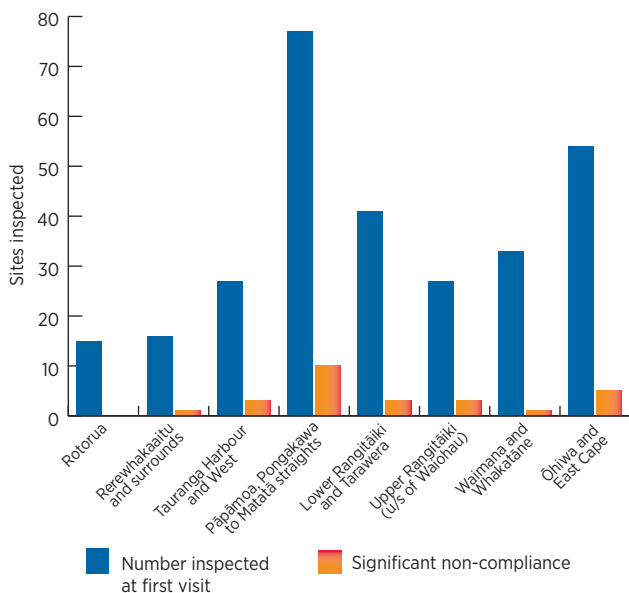
Abatement notices are formal instructions. They are a direction to either cease doing something, take action to address an environmental effect, or to comply with consent conditions.

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

“Great to see overall compliance has improved from the previous season.”

Steve Pickles - Pollution Prevention Team Leader

Sites inspected by catchment 2014/15



More information

For more information on compliance and enforcement undertaken by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, contact the Pollution Prevention Team Leader.

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