

Compliance Snapshot report

Dairy effluent

2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 monitoring seasons



Bay of Plenty Regional Council monitored a combined total of 766 dairy discharge consents during the reporting period 1 September 2019 – 31 May 2022.

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.

What was found during the inspections?

There was a small dip in the farms that rated as complying on first visit 63% compared to 71% in 2019/20 and 2020/21. Common areas for not complying were around general maintenance of sandtraps, irrigation equipment, effluent ponds and not providing irrigator calibrations as required. Serious non-compliances (a combination of moderate and significant risk non-compliances) was at just under 10%. 1 Prosecution was commenced with 2 under investigation.



At a glance 613 dairy shed consents in the region (at June 2022)

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Consents monitored	225	271	270
Visits (including follow-up visits)	292	338	352
Compliant at first visit	71%	71%	63%
Serious non-compliance at first visit	20%	8%	9.7%
Infringements issued	4 (\$3,000)	1 (\$750)	0
Abatements served	18 (relating to 17 sites)	2 (relating to 2 sites)	6 farms
Prosecutions initiated	Zero	Zero	1 (2 under investigation)

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/tanks/bladders; inspecting the location of stormwater diversion systems; where possible viewing the irrigation system and distance of irrigators to waterways; and checking for signs of seepage from effluent ponds into watercourses.

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

In addition to the routine effluent monitoring, during the 2021/22 season staff also obtained information on water used through the dairymshed (where possible). Understanding the source and volume of dairymshed water used across the Bay of Plenty is a focus of a separate joint project with industry, working towards addressing unauthorised shed water use, as water taken in excess of the Regional Plan rules requires a resource consent. The dairy industry supports having all farm and shed water metered not only so that farmers can prove compliance with Regional Rules, but also so that they can monitor water volumes to ensure it is used efficiently.

Compliance levels



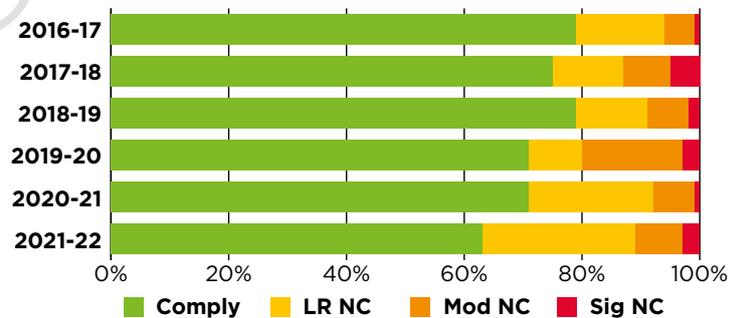
■ Comply ■ LR NC
■ Mod NC ■ Sig NC

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

Results

Compliance levels at first visit over the last six seasons



Enforcement undertaken

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.

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

