

Compliance Snapshot report

Dairy effluent

2022/2023 monitoring season



Bay of Plenty Regional Council inspected 200 dairy discharge consents during the reporting period 5th October to 30th November 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 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 diversions; where possible viewing the irrigation system and location of irrigators to waterways.

What was found during the inspections?

61% of farms were rated as compliant on first visit. This compares to 63% last year. 22% of farms were rated with low risk non-compliances (26% previous season). These were mostly made up of poor general maintenance (ponds, sand traps, irrigators) or not supplying required records.

Moderate and significant risk non-compliances made up for 17% of visits (12% moderate, 5% Significant) This was a significant increase on the previous year where 9.7% were rated moderate or significant and only 6 abatements were issued with no infringements given. Feed pads and stockholding areas that don't meet NES-Freshwater 2020 requirements default to a moderate risk non-compliance. These will continue to be dealt with as we conduct our inspections. The rest were all either deliberate or accidental discharge of effluent to land where it may enter water.

Enforcement undertaken

17 Infringement notices and 8 abatement notices were issued to the 10 farms that were rated with significant non-compliances. 1 farm is looking at possible prosecution.

N-CAP reporting

One year into the new requirement to report synthetic nitrogen usage into the national portal. First year participation was recorded by MFE at 69% for the Bay of Plenty. The 31% that didn't report are being contacted and made aware of their requirement to submit their nitrogen usage. It was encouraging that of those who did successfully report we didn't have any exceedances of the 190kg per hectare per year. The portal is open now for any farmers who are not fertilizing again this season to enter their data into the portal for the 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 season. ALL dairy farms are required to have this information reported by the 31st July 2023.



Compliance levels at first visit

