

2017/18

Waiau Catchment

Compliance report summary

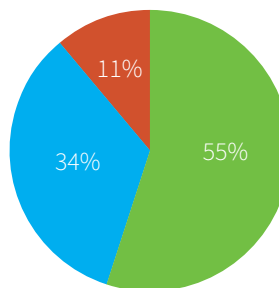


Dairy consent compliance

	Waiau	Southland
Full compliance	90.2%	86.9%
Low risk or moderate non-compliance	7.3%	11.2%
Significant non-compliance	2.4%	1.9%

Industry consent compliance*

- Full compliance
- Low risk non-compliance
- Moderate non-compliance
- Significant non-compliance



*Assessment of compliance includes industry and council sewerage systems overall performance against consent conditions.

Mycoplasma bovis

The Mycoplasma bovis outbreak had an impact on our compliance work, with farm visits initially suspended during the early weeks of the outbreak. This allowed time to gain a good understanding of the biosecurity procedures required to ensure we did not contribute to the spread of the disease. Working with the Ministry for Primary Industries, we established strong biosecurity procedures for both staff and vehicles which allowed us to resume visits. Our staff worked closely with farmers to reassure them and reduce any potential risk of spread. We also reintroduced our aerial monitoring as a way of reducing on-farm visits during this time, while still maintaining the necessary compliance inspections.



▲ Compliance team members Graeme McKenzie and Rachael Batley check out the cleaning kit used before a farm visit.

Diversion Scheme

In October 2017, we introduced a Diversion Scheme as another tool in the compliance toolbox. Diversion enables eligible defendants to complete certain requirements in a set timeframe to avoid the continuation of a prosecution and the possibility of receiving a conviction. Diversion has three primary purposes: rehabilitation; reparation and restoration. When pursued effectively, diversion can result in positive environmental

Shed talks

This year we focused on new consent holders and those with variations to consents who would most benefit from Shed Talks.

The talks are a popular tool to reduce risks to the environment, while also breaking down some of the myths about compliance officers. The aim of a shed talk is to provide a better understanding of the conditions set out in the consent, and to point out spots on the farm where there is a higher risk of effluent reaching waterways. Shed talks are free. If you'd like to take advantage of this service, then give us a call on 0800 76 88 45 or email service@es.govt.nz. Places each season are limited.

Compliance activities 'best practice'

In Southland, we inspect all dairy farms – 941 effluent discharge consents; some more than once in a given year. We follow up with each of the farms graded as significantly non-compliant, and details of this are readily available on our website. When a farm is graded as significantly non-compliant there is a range of follow-up actions available to us. Not all of these actions result in enforcement. Other actions include re-inspection, infringement notices or abatement notices.

outcomes and promote a more cohesive ongoing relationship between the defendant, the council, and the wider community. Strict criteria apply and participants can be required to take a range of actions including acceptance of responsibility, remediation, environmental enhancements, infrastructure improvements among others.