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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa
and Environment Committees
from Stephen Yeats, Senior Resource Advisor

Annual Compliance Monitoring Report 2000/01

1. Purpose

To report to the Committee on a summary of the compliance monitoring undertaken across the region during the 2000/2001 financial year.

2. Background

Compliance monitoring refers to the monitoring of granted resource consents to determine whether the consent holder is undertaking the consented activity in accordance with their consent conditions. Compliance monitoring is a combination of compliance inspections undertaken at the site where the activity is occurring, and the review of monitoring information provided by the consent holder.

Over the past few years we have increased our focus on compliance monitoring. Compliance monitoring is crucial to ensuring the effects of consented activities are minimised.

The full report, which is available on request, summarises the compliance monitoring undertaken by Council staff in the 2000/2001 financial year. For the first time a region-wide compliance summary has been produced. In previous years the Wairarapa and Environment Divisions have produced separate reports.

3. Classifying Compliance

Wellington Regional Council rates compliance on the following scale:

<i>Fully Complying</i>	100% compliance with all consent conditions at all times.
<i>Mainly Complying</i>	Compliance with all conditions relating to environmental effects during the year. However, there may be minor non-compliance with administrative-type conditions e.g. late (but by no more than one month) submission of management reports. All administrative conditions are met at the end of the financial year.
<i>Partially Complying</i>	Compliance with all conditions relating to environmental effects during the year. However, there may be non-compliance with administrative-type conditions e.g. late submission of management reports. The Consent Holder needs to be prompted by Wellington Regional Council before such administrative conditions are met at the end of the financial year.
<i>Non-Complying</i>	Non-compliance with condition(s) relating to environmental effects during the financial year (this includes any confirmed complaints) and/or not all administrative-type conditions met at the end of the financial year.

4. The Compliance Monitoring Programme

Depending on the scale and type of activity, the Council carries out the following compliance monitoring functions:

- Site visits and inspections;
- Review of monitoring information provided by the consent holder;
- Reporting on the outcome of the monitoring back to the consent holder;
- Taking samples, measurements and analyses.

Inspections are undertaken for all those activities which have a potential environmental impact. The frequency of inspections is recommended in the Resource Management Charging Policy 2001. The policy allows for changes to the frequency depending on the compliance history.

Different types of inspections are carried out:

- Routine inspections which have generally been pre-arranged with the consent holder;
- Random inspections, where the consent holder has not been notified that the Council will be inspecting;

- Surveillance inspections which have resulted from a history of non-compliance at a site;
- Inspections as a result of someone raising concerns about the consented activity.

5. Compliance Summary 2000/2001

Over the year a total of 1030 consents were inspected. A summary of the compliance ratings given to those consents is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Compliance Grading

Fully Complying	Mainly Complying	Partially Complying	Non Complying	Not Rated
768	98	43	86	35
75%	10%	4%	8%	3%

Some prominent aspects of the year's monitoring are:

- Territorial Authorities, which hold consents for activities which have potential for significant environmental impact, continue to be disproportionately represented in the *non-complying* ratings.
- Eighty percent of the formal enforcement action taken in the Wairarapa was on dairy farms.
- The single most inspected type of consent was coastal structures, which includes boatsheds, seawalls, moorings and jetties. The second most inspected type of consent was animal waste discharges.

6. Enforcement Action Related to Consented Activities

During the year, we issued 12 abatement notices, 9 infringement notices, and initiated one prosecution. This amount of enforcement activity is significantly less than the previous year. In the previous year, we issued 35 abatement notices. We have not analysed why there has been a drop in formal enforcement activity this year.

7. Communications

A consents newsletter will be distributed to all consent holders again this year, and will include summary information from this report.

The Wairarapa Division intend publicising some aspects of the compliance monitoring which is carried out on dairy farms.

8. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

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