



Compliance monitoring 2007/08

Key points:

- Overall, the level of compliance with resource consent conditions for 2007/8 is similar to previous years.
- Three quarters of all compliance inspections done in 2007/08 received a 'fully complying' rating.
- Discharge permits experience more non-compliance than other types of permits. As a result in 2008/09 additional inspections of some discharge permits will be undertaken.
- A more cost effective approach to monitoring compliance of minor land use consents will be undertaken in 2008/09, where consent holders will be required to submit photographic records to demonstrate resource consent compliance.

What happened in 2007/08?

During the 2007/08 financial year, Greater Wellington monitored and rated 1352 resource consents. This monitoring identified that the majority (75%) of permits are in full compliance with resource consent conditions. A further 11% are 'partially' or 'mainly' complying, and only 14% are non-complying.

Summary of compliance monitoring undertaken

The table below shows the number of rated compliance inspections undertaken in 2007/08 for each consent type, and the level of compliance achieved.

Type of resource consent	LAND USE CONSENT	COASTAL PERMIT	WATER PERMIT	DISCHARGE PERMIT	TOTAL
FULLY COMPLYING	215	189	315	301	1020
MAINLY COMPLYING	48	8	18	46	120
PARTIALLY COMPLYING	6	3	9	9	27
NOT COMPLYING	23	22	51	89	185
TOTAL NUMBER OF RATED INSPECTIONS					1352

Table 1: Level of compliance achieved for each consent type [Note: an additional ninety-three resource consents were monitored but were not given a compliance rating due to factors including outstanding information].

As Figure 1 shows, the majority of non-compliant ratings apply to discharge permits.

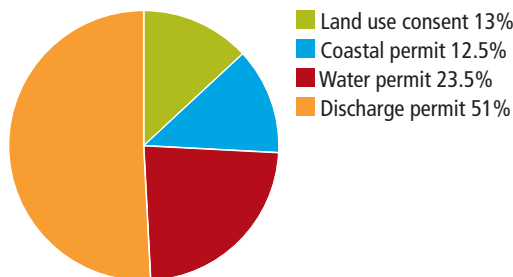


Figure 1: Non-compliance by resource consent type

Land use consents

In 2007/08 Greater Wellington reduced the level of compliance monitoring on bore permits, but maintained the level of monitoring on all other types of land use consents. A number of consents were non-complying due to minor issues (such as failure to notify Greater Wellington of works commencing), and enforcement action was taken in some cases. (See Enforcement 2007/08 for more information).

Coastal permits

The majority of compliance monitoring for coastal permits focused on boatsheds and jetties. The level of non-compliance for these activities is similar to previous years, with a key issue being the use of boatsheds as residences, which is not allowed by consent conditions.



Figure 2: A discharge of leachate to the coastal environment

Water permits

The majority of compliance monitoring for water permits was for water extraction for irrigation. During inspections, annual water meter readings were taken to ensure extraction levels complied with consent conditions. In 2007/08, due to below-average rainfall in the Wairarapa, water restrictions were applied. As a result, an additional 120 permits were monitored, with a high level of compliance observed. Permits for municipal water supplies were either fully complying or not assessed for compliance as further data was still required for analysis.



Figure 3: Poor dairy shed effluent management practices resulting in ponding of effluent

Discharge permits

As was the case in 2006/07, discharge permits had the highest level of non-compliance. Nearly 30% of discharge permits were not complying with conditions which relate to environmental effects. The main activities where non-compliance was observed were discharges to land from agricultural (mainly dairy farm) effluent and on-site human wastewater systems, discharges to air from industrial sites, and discharges to water from large bulk earthworks sites.

Non-compliance with consent conditions at these sites centred around inadequate maintenance of erosion and sediment control structures. There has been on-going work with consent holders to improve compliance performance, including the Muddy Waters programme (see Pollution Prevention 2007/08) and onsite meetings with consent holders in addition to routine compliance monitoring, to improve erosion and sediment controls on site. A variety of actions were taken in response to non-compliance, ranging from recommendations being made as part of the routine compliance reporting process, to formal enforcement action (see Enforcement 2007/08 for more information).

Year to year compliance comparisons

As seen in the table below, the level of compliance rating has not changed significantly since 2004/05.

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
FULLY COMPLYING	75%	76%	74%	75%
MAINLY COMPLYING	9%	9%	9%	9%
PARTIALLY COMPLYING	4%	4%	4%	2%
NOT COMPLYING	11%	11%	13%	14%

Table 2: Overall level of compliance achieved since 2004/05

Nikau compliance award

The Nikau compliance award acknowledges consent holders who are using innovative approaches to proactively exceed their compliance requirements to reduce or avoid adverse effects on the environment. The winner in 2007/08 was Downer EDI Works Infrastructure, which holds a resource consent to discharge contaminants to air associated with the operation of asphalt plant in Ngauranga Gorge. Downer EDI introduced new initiatives to minimise the effects of their discharges and procedures that went over and above requirements of consent conditions. Pacific Wall Coverings Ltd which also has a discharge to air permit, received a merit award.

Looking ahead to 2008/09

In 2008/09 we are looking to further reduce the level of on-site compliance inspections for minor land use consents, and implement an alternative compliance monitoring approach requiring consent holders to submit digital photos of completed works. With coastal permits for boatsheds, we will be inspecting the inside of boatsheds as well as the exterior. Finally, due to our concerns with the level of non-compliance with dairy farm effluent, all dairy farms have now been placed on annual inspections.

More information

For more information on Greater Wellington resource consent compliance please contact the Environment Helpdesk on 04 802 0355 or the Wairarapa office on 06 378 2484.

For more information on Greater Wellington's environmental regulation activities please visit our website at www.gw.govt.nz