

Compliance summary

This summary is based on resource consent monitoring undertaken by Greater Wellington from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. We undertake monitoring to confirm consent holders are meeting the conditions of their resource consents. The frequency and type of monitoring depends on the scale and nature of the effects of the consented activity. For activities with the potential for significant adverse effects, such as wastewater discharges or landfills, site-specific monitoring programmes are undertaken.

Regional issues

'Muddy waters'

In 2004 Greater Wellington initiated a collaborative project called 'Muddy Waters' with territorial authorities, contractors, consultants and property developers. The project looked at ways to better manage the environmental effects of earthworks, reflecting that the increasing trend for development on steeper land has increased the risk of soil loss from earth-worked sites. The Muddy Waters project has provided training workshops, developed site checklists and designed resource kits to improve the control of sediment run-off from earthworks. The project will continue in the 2005-06 year.



Sediment retention pond with flocculation, essential for sediment control at a subdivision site in Duck Creek, Porirua

A number of major roading and subdivision projects, involving discharges of treated sediment to waterways, have also been progressing in the region (western side) during the year. Consent conditions for sediment control measures have become more stringent. Conditions now require the increased use of techniques, such as chemical flocculation and management plans, that enhance the efficiency and performance of sediment control for large earth-worked areas. More frequent inspections to confirm compliance with consent conditions have also been carried out.

Survey of dairy farm discharges

Consents staff visited all 210 dairy farms in the region during the 2004-05 milking season to assess progress against two of the performance targets set by the Regional Action Plan (RAP). These targets arose from the 2003 Dairying and Clean Streams Accord between regional councils and Fonterra.



Dairy farm feedpads are a growing source of effluent and need careful management

Our survey showed that the RAP target of 100% compliance of dairy effluent discharges with resource consents and regional plans was not met; a total of 21% of dairy farms were either non-complying or partially complying. We also investigated if the RAP target of 50% of regular stream crossing points being bridged or culverted by 2007 (increasing to 90% by 2012) would be achieved. We are pleased to report that 82% of all crossings (including those not covered by the RAP) had been bridged or culverted.

Nuisance odours

Overall most complaints received about consented activities concerned unpleasant odours. However, odour complaints continue to decline and are now about half of the numbers received in 2002. As in previous years the majority of reported odours were associated with the Carey's Gully complex (where the Southern Landfill, United Water's sludge dewatering plant and the Living Earth co-composting plant are located), and the Taylor Preston meatworks in Ngauranga Gorge.

The decline in odour incidents can be attributed to a combination of unsettled weather, more intensive compliance efforts by Greater Wellington and infrastructure improvements at key sites. Specifically, there has been a significant reduction in odour complaints after biofilters were installed at both the Taylor Preston meatworks and United Water's sludge dewatering plant.



Daily cover of refuse is important to minimise odours at landfills (photo by Neil Mackenzie)

Compliance ratings

On 30 June each year all consents inspected in the previous 12 months are given one of the following compliance ratings:

- Fully complying** Full compliance with all consent conditions at all times.
- Mainly complying** Full compliance with conditions which have environmental effects at all times. Minor non-compliance with administrative type conditions during the year. All administrative conditions met by the end of the year without prompting by Greater Wellington.
- Partially complying** Full compliance with conditions which have environmental effects at all times. Minor non-compliance with administrative type conditions during the year. All administrative conditions met by the end of the year after prompting by Greater Wellington.
- Non-complying** Non-compliance with conditions which have environmental effects (including any confirmed complaints), and/or not all administrative type conditions met by the end of the year.

Compliance ratings summary

The table below reports compliance ratings for the 2004-05 financial year.

	Fully complying	Mainly complying	Partially complying	Non-complying	Total no. inspected
Landfills	49	3	1	12	65
Discharges to air	49	3	3	9	64
Wastewater treatment plants	32	1		2	35
Agricultural, wastewater and miscellaneous discharges	153	36	23	40	252
Public supply and water permits	121	10	6	19	156
Land use	189	29	13	25	256
Works in major rivers	35			3	38
Coastal activities	252	33	11	16	312
Forestry, roading and subdivision	38	2		12	52

Landfills – the main areas of non-compliance were in relation to offensive and objectionable odour issues, and some surface water quality parameters being exceeded. Late submission of monitoring results has been an ongoing problem for some landfill operators. The results of compliance assessments for Wairarapa landfills were not available at the time of writing.

Discharges to air – non-complying ratings were given to consent holders for objectionable or offensive discharges of odour, and also for discharges of grit from abrasive blasting.

Wastewater treatment plants and wastewater overflows – all treatment plants in the western region performed well. There has been only one instance of a discharge standard not being met and this was due to very high influent loading. One overflow of a wastewater system also occurred which was due to a blockage in the public reticulation system and was outside the control of the consent holder. The results of compliance assessments for Wairarapa wastewater treatment plants were not available at the time of writing.

Agricultural, wastewater and miscellaneous discharges – the main non-compliance issues related to ponding of effluent on land and poor maintenance of irrigation equipment.

Public water supply and water permits – non compliance related to late submission of monitoring results, abstraction data and management plans. Only one instance of over-abstraction occurred and was from a back-up pump while a main pump was being repaired. The majority of Wairarapa public water supplies and water permits have not been assessed for compliance during the 2004-05 year.

Land use consents – these consents include structures and works in river beds, and drilling bores. Main reasons for non-complying ratings have been failure to provide 48 hours notice prior to undertaking works in streams, and works not being carried out in accordance with the consent application.

Works in major rivers – global operations and maintenance consents are held by Greater Wellington for flood and erosion mitigation works in major rivers throughout the region. All consents for river works in the western side of the region were rated as fully complying, with the exception of consents for gravel extraction in the Waikanae River, which were undertaken incorrectly by a contractor.

Coastal activities – a small number of boatsheds were rated as non-complying because they had been used for activities

other than boating. Some swing moorings were non-complying because inspection records had not been forwarded to Greater Wellington. Some consented works at Waitangi Park breached consent conditions by causing siltation of coastal water.



Sediment from earthworks during the development of the waterfront needs to be kept out of Wellington Harbour

Forestry, roading and subdivision – a number of large roading projects have been in progress. Ongoing compliance issues relating to poor erosion and sediment control measures at McKay's Crossing, Kapiti Coast, were resolved. Non-compliance with sediment control conditions for a major subdivision at Aotea Block, Porirua, resulted in enforcement action.

Year-to-year compliance comparisons

We are pleased to report that the number of non-complying consents has reduced and the number of consents rated as fully complying in the region has increased for the 2004-05 financial year.

Compliance rating	04-05 year	03-04 year	02-03 year
Fully complying	75%	70%	69%
Mainly complying	9%	5%	10%
Partially complying	5%	4%	6%
Non-complying	11%	21%	15%

Enforcement action

Most non-compliance was resolved without the need for formal enforcement action. In the 2004-05 year we served six abatement notices and issued 10 infringement notices.

Abatement notices have been served as follows:

- objectionable discharge of grit from abrasive blasting in Tawa;
- unauthorised works in the Wainuiomata River;
- incorrect installation of flood protection works in the Pauatahanui Stream;
- unauthorised discharge of sediment from subdivision earthworks to the Kenepuru Stream; and
- two unconsented discharges of dairy shed effluent to land in Whitemans Valley.

Infringement notices have been issued as follows:

- discharge of dairy shed effluent from a travelling irrigator in Whitemans Valley;
- installation of three stormwater outlets in the Karori Stream without resource consent;
- failure to treat all discharges to air from a meatworks plant in Ngauranga;
- undertaking of structural works in a tributary of the Karori Stream without resource consent;
- discharge of sediment from earthworks subdivision to an unnamed tributary of the Pauatahanui Inlet;
- discharge of an offensive and objectionable odour from an industrial site in Seaview;
- unauthorised works in the Wainuiomata River;
- discharge of sediment from subdivision earthworks to the Pauatahanui Inlet;
- discharge of contaminated sawdust to land in Seaview; and
- construction of a bore without resource consent in Waikanae.



Resource consent annual compliance summary 2004-2005

Water, air, earth and energy: elements in Greater Wellington's logo that combine to create and sustain life. Greater Wellington promotes **Quality for Life** by ensuring our environment is protected while meeting the economic, cultural and social needs of the community.

Quality for Life



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