



Report 09.713
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Committee Regulatory Committee
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Environmental Regulation - 2008/09 report card summary

1. Purpose

To present a summary of regulatory activities undertaken by the Environmental Regulation department in 2008/09.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Annual environmental reporting

2007/08 was the first year the Environmental Regulation department produced a set of cards covering its functions. Due to the success of these cards, we have produced these again for the 2008/09 year. Report cards cover the following areas:

- Resource consents
- Compliance monitoring
- Incident response
- Enforcement
- Pollution prevention

The report cards will be tabled at this meeting.

4. Selected highlights from the 2008/09 cards

The following is a summary of some of the key points from each report card:

Consents

- 546 resource consent applications were processed in 2008/09, which represents a 22% decrease from the previous year.

- 90% of all applications were processed on a non notified basis.
- There was a significant increase in the number of notified applications processed compared to 2007/08 (18% increase in fully notified, and 133% increase in limited notifieds).
- 37% of all notified applications resolved without a hearing.
- 98% of all resource consent applications were processed within statutory timeframes.
- The biggest group of applications received was land use consents (49% of all consents processed). Water permits and discharge permits made up 24% and 22% of all applications processed respectively.

Compliance

- A total of 1,278 resource consents were monitored during 2008/09.
- The proportion of consents receiving full complying rating has increased by 3% from 2007/08. Conversely, not complying ratings had decreased by 4% from 2007/08.
- The permit types with the highest level of non-compliance are water and discharge permits (76% of total non-compliance).

Incident response

- Environmental incidents decreased by 2% from 2007/08, with no major changes in the distribution of incidents across pollution type.
- 31% of all environmental incidents reported resulted in confirmed breaches of regional rules and of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Air and freshwater are the most frequently affected receiving environments.
- Odour incidents are the most common pollution type, comprising 79% of all air incidents, and 29% of all incidents in 2008/09.
- Sediment and liquid waste are the most common causes of freshwater pollution.

Enforcement

- A total of 376 'actions' were taken for non compliant activities. Ranging from advisory notices (82) through to prosecutions (8).
- The number of abatement notices increased 10% from 2007/2008.
- 100% increase in the number of parties prosecuted from 2007/2008 to 2008/2009.

- The most frequently used enforcement tools are written warnings, abatement notices and infringement notices.

Take Charge and pollution prevention

- 32 small to medium businesses have received a full audit under the Take Charge programme.
- Pollution prevention projects included the continuation of the ‘Muddy Waters’ programme, the Regional Environmental Protection Officers forum (REPO), wetland monitoring in south Wairarapa, the Agrecovery Programme, and participating in household hazardous waste collection.

5. Communication

A press release will be prepared to support the distribution of the report card package in December. The package will be sent to environmental service providers in the region, including iwi, local and central government decision-makers, non-governmental organisations, environmental and community organisations, industry, interested individuals and libraries. The cards will also be available on our website.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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