Incident response in the Christchruch West Melton zone

We research and evaluate all incidents involving contaminants in waterways or unauthorised discharges to land or air to assess the potential environmental effects the reported incident may have.

What we found

1374 Incidents excluding 14 which are still in process

A GRADE ✓ B GRADE ✗ C GRADE ✗ D GRADE ✗

97%

Discharge to air
- 14%
- 84%

Discharge to coastal marine area
- 67%

Discharge to land
- 25%
- 71%

Discharge to water
- 19%
- 74%

3%

Use of lakes and river beds
- 50%
- 36%

Use of coastal marine area
- 100%

Use of land
- 46%
- 54%

Use of water
- 60%
- 40%

Due to rounding, percentages will not always add up to 100% exactly.

What the grades mean

A GRADE **(Full compliance)** Full compliance with all relevant plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards

B GRADE **(Low Risk Non-Compliance)** Compliance with most of the relevant plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Carries a low risk of adverse environmental effects.

C GRADE **(Moderate non-compliance)** Non-compliance with some of the plan rules, relevant regulations and national environmental standards. Some environmental consequence.

D GRADE **(Significant non-compliance)** Non-compliance with many of the relevant plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Significant environmental consequence.

How we respond to incidents:

Our first response is to work with individuals and businesses to stop environmental damage and achieve the right environmental outcome if there is an issue.

We then investigate to determine what action should be taken, including enforcement.

Formal written warnings are sent out to notify of an offence and they require action to be taken.

If it is a significant breach we may issue an **infringement notice** which includes payment of a fine.

Abatement notices are a formal written direction, requiring certain actions to be taken or to cease within a specified time.

Anyone can make an application to the Environment Court to issue an **enforcement order**. The court then identifies the conditions which must be satisfied before issuing the order. Breaching an enforcement order issued by the court is an offence which may lead to prosecution.

Advice and Education — **330**
Written Warnings — **80**
Infringement notices — **27**
Abatement notices — **8**

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Environment Canterbury Regional Council Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Facilitating sustainable development in the Canterbury region
www.ecan.govt.nz
R19/112

E19/7574

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Christchurch West Melton zone

Compliance monitoring and incident response

2018-19 SNAPSHOT REPORT

Protecting the environment is the top priority

The work to protect and improve Canterbury's rural environment has several parts:

- Set the necessary nutrient limits across Canterbury via planning rules
- Promote Good Management Practices (GMP) for farmers
- Require land-use consent to farm and independent audit (for higher risk activities)
- Ensure effective and targeted consent compliance monitoring (compliance monitoring report)
- Respond quickly to as many incident reports as possible (this report).

We want to deal with environmental risks before they turn into incidents and cause damage - let's have a fence at the top of the cliff.

Monitoring consent compliance and responding to incidents, while necessary and important, are more like the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. They are needed to fix a problem often after the environmental damage has occurred and stop it happening again.

As long as we have consents with conditions we will continue to monitor them to ensure the activity is compliant. But what consents we monitor and how we monitor is changing. With over 20,000 consents that need monitoring, we are finding smarter ways to do compliance monitoring and smarter ways to identify non-compliance so we can focus our efforts in the right places.

Better technology will improve our ability to monitor activities for compliance without having to do as many physical site visits.

▶ **See inside for our consent compliance results.**

◀ **See the back for our incident response results.**

Compliance monitoring

JULY 2018 – JUNE 2019   REPORT

Why this matters

We are working with land managers, individuals and industry to improve compliance to ensure the best long-term environmental results.

Consenting rules

- Resource consents allow people or organisations to do something that may have an effect on the environment, but this comes with conditions to protect the environment.
- It is important consent holders comply with their conditions otherwise they can have a negative impact on the environment.

What the grades mean

(Full compliance) Full compliance with all relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards

(Low Risk Non-Compliance) Compliance with most of the relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Carries a low risk of adverse environmental effects.

(Moderate non-compliance) Non-compliance with some of the relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Some environmental consequence. Abatement notices are typically issued when the offender doesn't co-operate or if we have reason to believe that the offence could happen again.

(Significant non-compliance) Non-compliance with many of the relevant consent conditions, plan rules, regulations and national environmental standards. Significant environmental consequence.

How we respond to improve compliance grades

If there is an issue, our first response is to work with individuals and businesses to stop any immediate environmental damage.

We then investigate to determine what actions should be taken, including enforcement.

Education can achieve better outcomes and is valued by consent holders who need help. If education does not get the right results, there are a range of compliance actions as set out below:

Formal written warnings notify of an offence and require action to be taken.

Infringement notices, which include a fine, are issued for more significant breaches.

Abatement notices are typically issued when the offender doesn't co-operate or if we have reason to believe that the offence could happen again.
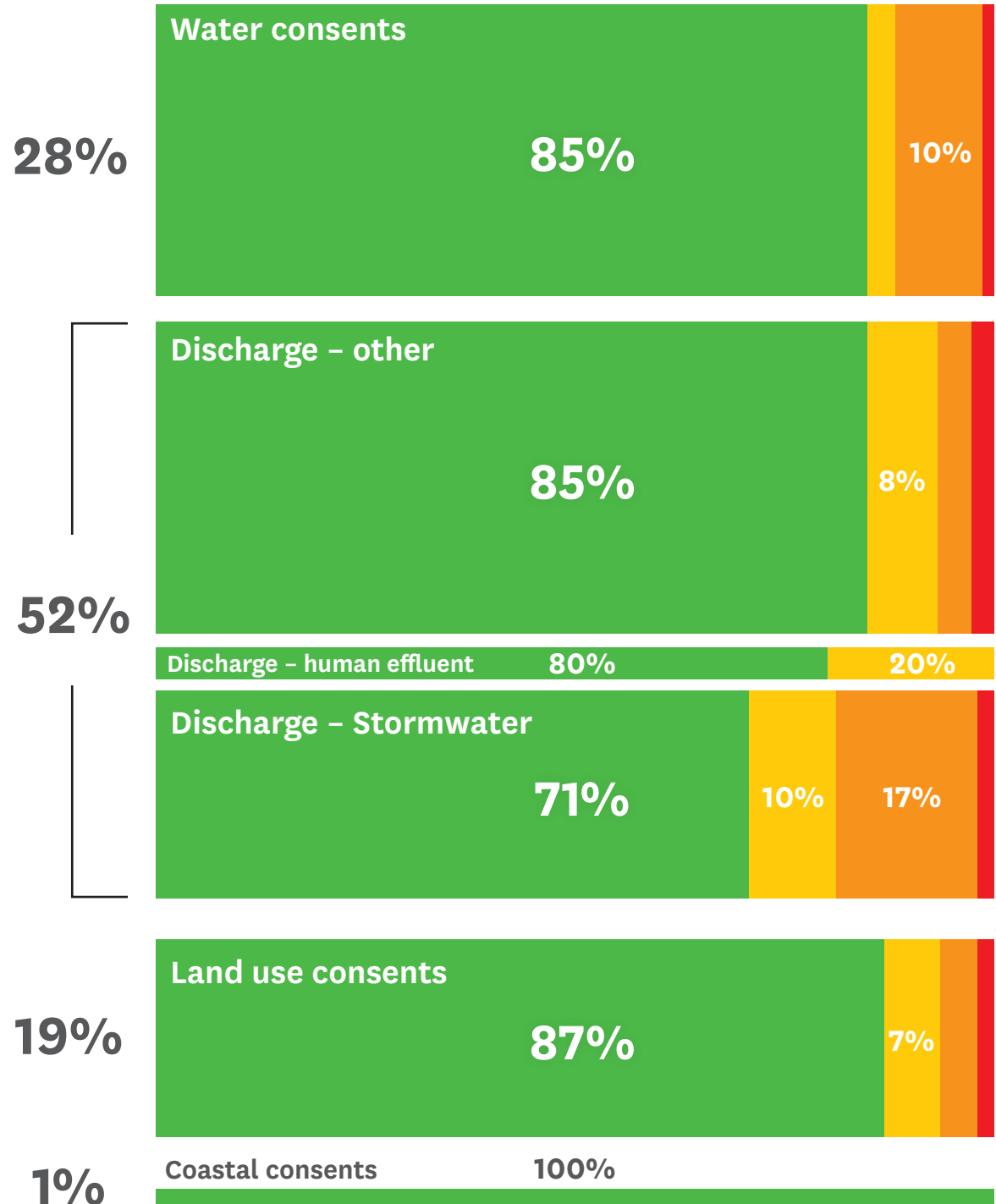
Prosecution is reserved for offences so serious that they warrant proceedings through the courts.

Christchurch West Melton zone compliance results

269 Consents Monitored

240 Completed
29 still in process

| A GRADE | B GRADE | C GRADE | D GRADE |

Water consents
28%   85%   10%

Discharge – other
52%   85%   8%

Discharge – human effluent
80%   20%

Discharge – Stormwater
71%   10%   17%

Land use consents
19%   87%   7%

Coastal consents
1%   100%

Due to rounding, percentages will not always add up to 100% exactly.

Note: In the graph the 29 consents still in process are not shown. Only data for completed monitored visits are shown.

How we responded to improve compliance grades

Advice and Education — 47

Written Warnings — 25

Infringement notices — 4

Abatement notices — 7

Regional compliance monitoring
5,362 inspections by zone

Some consents have multiple inspections, these include those with a C or D compliance rating, as well as those identified as high-risk which are subject to more regular monitoring.

Selwyn Waihora 22%

Hurunui Waiau 4%

Kaikoura 1%

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora 14%

Waimakariri 9%

Upper Waitaki 3%

Christchurch West Melton 10%

Lower Waitaki 7%

Ashburton 27%

Banks Peninsula 3%