

Waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites

Environment Canterbury's role is as the lead agency for identifying and monitoring contamination of land and as joint lead agency for managing the effects of hazardous substances and waste on the environment



What we achieved this year

Within this portfolio we contribute towards achievement of two main community outcomes:

Our contribution

- Our work this year has increased the amount of information available on contaminated or potentially contaminated sites, assisting landowners and businesses to make more informed decisions on remediation or other land-use options for those sites.
- We expanded our programme working with industrial and commercial businesses on implementation of the Pollution Prevention Guide.
- We collected 18 tonnes of unwanted agrichemicals, in conjunction with local councils and the Ministry for the Environment, through the Targeted Agrichemical Collection Programme. This brings the total amount collected since 2003/04 to 196 tonnes. Under the scheme, the unwanted chemicals are sent for safe disposal either in New Zealand or overseas.
- 40 resource consents were issued, with conditions, for waste and hazardous substance-related activities. 184 conditions were monitored for compliance. Action was taken in the seven cases where significant non-compliance with consent conditions was found.

Community outcome

The environment, in general, is to be looked after

Business and farming activities do not harm the environment

In this portfolio we report on four levels of service to illustrate our achievements this year.

Effect on the four well-beings



Cleaner air, land and water results in increased social and environmental well-being. Although the cost of complying with consent conditions could negatively affect the economic well-being of some people, this is offset by wider benefits to environmental well-being.

Other key achievements this year

- To enable better compliance with requirements for safe handling and disposal of waste and hazardous substances, this year we visited 311 businesses and undertook 269 business site assessments during the year. Of 476 issues identified, 26% were resolved and 17% have been programmed for resolution, with follow-up action underway for the remainder.
- We extended our work on assessing contaminated sites in Canterbury, providing information to landowners, potential purchasers and other users about contaminated and potentially contaminated sites. In the Waimakariri district, the third district to be assessed, we identified 105 potential new sites to date, most of which will be added to the Listed Land Use Register following confirmation of land uses. Throughout the region, 90 new contaminated or potentially contaminated sites were added to the Listed Land Use Register.
- We provided funding for seven local waste exchanges.
- We started or continued work on three hazardous waste initiatives: development of a domestic hazardous waste drop-off network, identification of priority hazardous wastes, and metal processing waste.
- We lodged submissions on four notified city/district plan changes to ensure consistency with regional policies, and three resource consent applications notified by city/district councils to address hazard substance and waste-related issues.

Levels of service

This section reports on performance for 2008/09 against Annual Plan targets.

1. Providing advice on preventing pollution from industrial and commercial sites, to protect the environment

Measure

The number of businesses that receive a site assessment and guidance on pollution prevention each year.

Target 2008/09
300 businesses.

269 businesses were visited. Recruitment and training was completed later than expected and significantly more issues were identified than anticipated.

The target was revised to 260 sites midway through the year.
Not achieved.

Number of businesses	
2005/2006	69
2006/2007	236
2007/2008	200
2008/2009	269

Source: Environment Canterbury records.

Notes: It is estimated that there are 7000 industrial sites in Christchurch that would benefit from this programme. Initially, priority will be given to businesses that handle or produce significant quantities of hazardous substances, as potentially these pose the greatest risk to the environment.

The term "businesses" in the measure was clarified in the 2007/08 Annual Plan to mean "business sites".

2. Removing and disposing of existing unwanted agrichemicals, to prevent contamination of the environment

Measure

The number of territorial authorities that have completed the Canterbury Targeted Agrichemical Collection Programme.

Target 2008/09
Eight territorial authorities.

Achieved. The following territorial authorities have completed the programme: Mackenzie, Waimate, Waitaki, Timaru, Selwyn, Christchurch City, Banks Peninsula¹, Waimakariri, Hurunui and Kaikoura.

Number of territorial authorities that have completed the programme

2005/2006	6
2006/2007	7
2007/2008	10
2008/2009	10

Source: Environment Canterbury records.

Notes: This programme started in 2003/04 and is planned for completion in 2013/14.

The Ministry for the Environment funded the disposal of collected agrichemicals.

The Canterbury Targeted Agrichemical Collection Programme is run jointly with territorial authorities, with support from the Ministry for the Environment.

¹ When the LTCCP was written, the Banks Peninsula District Council existed. The programme is still to be completed in Ashburton District. This, and associated work, will be achieved by 2014.

3. Identifying contaminated sites and requiring those with responsibility for the contamination to remediate or mitigate the effects

Measure

The number of territorial authorities where all land with activities listed on the Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL) has been identified, registered on the Listed Land Use Register and screened for risk.

Target 2008/09

Three territorial authorities.

The Kaikoura District Council area was completed this year and research was also completed for the Waimakariri District Council area. In addition, identification of historical HAIL sites commenced in the Christchurch District. *Achieved.*

Number of territorial authorities

2006/2007	0
2007/2008	1
2008/2009	3

Note: This was a new 10-year programme starting in 2006/07, aiming to complete one territorial authority area per year.

Source: Environment Canterbury records.

4. Authorising resource users to use natural and physical resources so that the environmental effects remain acceptable to the community

Measure 1

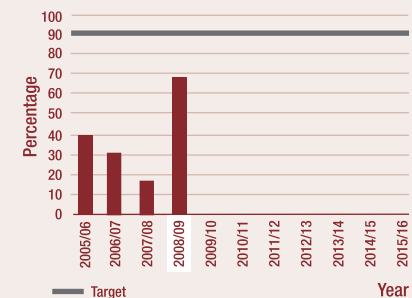
The percentage of resource consent applications processed in compliance with the statutory time-frames set down in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Target 2008/09

90%.

40 applications were processed. High demand for consents from water, dairy and property development-related activities, coupled with increased numbers of notifications and hearings required in water resource constrained areas, and for some large individual applications, has resulted in many consent applications across all portfolios not being able to be completed within statutory timeframes. Difficulties in recruiting staff have compounded this problem. Recent process improvements, coupled with reductions in demand for consents, and improvements in recruitment are starting to show significant improvements in timeframe performance. *Not achieved* (68%).

Processing of applications



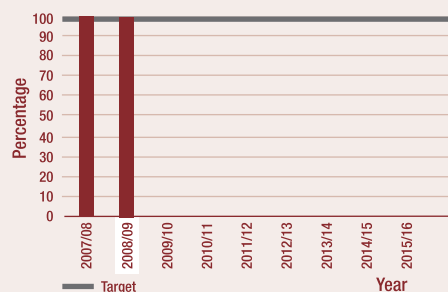
Measure 2

The percentage of resource consents consistent with Resource Management Act 1991 requirements, including proposed and operative regional plan requirements.

Target 2008/09
100%.

Achieved (100%).

Consents consistent with RMA



Source: Environment Canterbury.

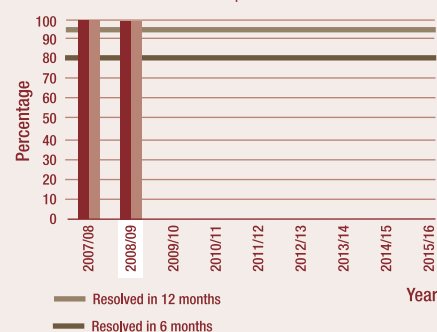
Measure 3

The percentage of significant or major non-compliance¹ with resource consent conditions resolved (no further action is required).

Target 2008/09
80% are resolved in six months.
95% are resolved in 12 months.

Achieved (100%).

Consent conditions – non-compliance resolved



Measure 4

The percentage of environmental incidents resolved (no further action is required).

Target 2008/09
95%.

Inadequate sample size to determine compliance.

¹ Significant non-compliance means there have been moderate, serious or persistent adverse environmental effects. This also includes repeated minor non-compliance with nil or short-term adverse environmental effects, and unauthorised activities.

Financial summary

\$000	Actual 2007/08	Budget 2007/08	Actual 2006/07
Total Expenditure	1,836	1,857	1,458
Funded by:			
General rates	1,538	1,538	1,487
Targeted rates	-	-	-
Grants	266	155	-
User pays and other	141	134	217
Total Funding	1,945	1,827	1,704
Reserves Increase/(Decrease)	109	(30)	246

Additional funding was secured from the Ministry for the Environment which together with fewer chemicals to collect and time savings allowed additional collection of agrichemicals in Ashburton. In-house development of a database and a delay in recruiting a staff member also reduced costs in the industrial pollution prevention project.

Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure associated with this group of activities was funded from general funds and included as depreciation expense.