

Incident response in the Banks Peninsula zone

The public play an important role in protecting our region’s natural resources. Every year, we receive about 4,000 reports regionwide regarding incidents with potential to harm the quality of our air, land or water.

In the Banks Peninsula zone, we received just over 100 reports. The majority of these were related to discharges of water, followed by discharges to the coastal marine area and discharges to air.

We respond to environmental incidents and consent breaches with a range of enforcement procedures, to remediate adverse effects, educate those responsible, and prevent similar incidents recurring.

Due to the high volume of reports, we respond to the most serious incidents first. If it involves a potentially serious environmental incident or offence, a Resource Management Officer will make a site visit. Our priority when responding is the safety of our officers, followed by minimising any adverse effect, and then investigating the incident.

Our staff call upon expertise from other technical staff (scientists, engineers), city and district council staff, and external consultants as the situation demands.

Breaching the Resource Management Act can amount to serious criminal offending. Our investigative practices are carried out to police standards, including conducting thorough scene examinations and evidence gathering.

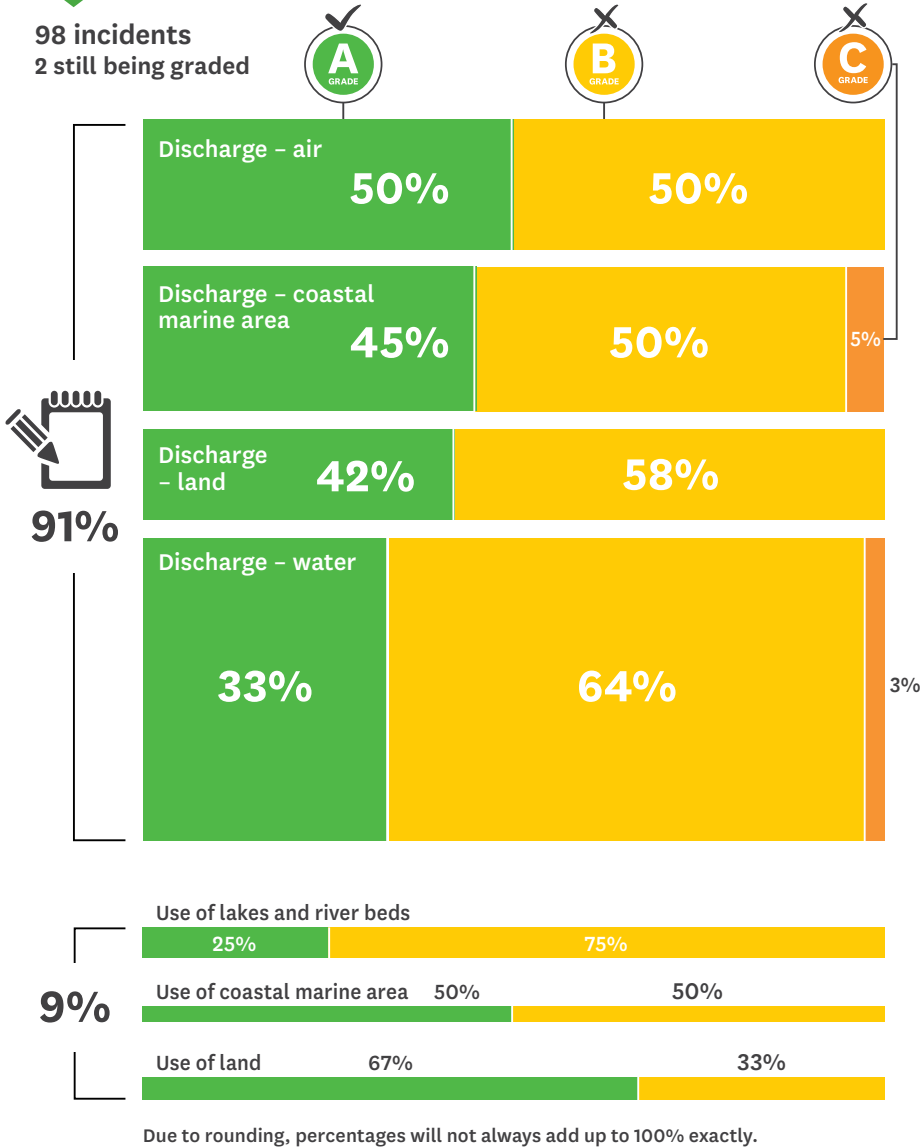
If you’re concerned an activity may be damaging our environment, please call us on 0800 765 588 (24 hours) to report it, or use the Snap Send Solve app to report it from your mobile phone

*See over for grading explanation

100 incidents

What we found

98 incidents
2 still being graded



How we responded to reduce environmental damage



Taking action together to shape a thriving and resilient Canterbury, now and for future generations.
Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Tangaroa, toitū te iwi.

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BANKS PENINSULA ZONE



Compliance monitoring and incident response 2019-20 SNAPSHOT REPORT

Protecting the environment is our top priority

In the last year, the zone team has:

- received 100 incident reports,
- targeted 62 consents with a focus on wastewater discharge,
- provided proactive advice to farmers on excluding stock from the valley floor area of the Wairewa catchment,
- targeted programmes that help reduce sediment discharges to waterways, and
- focused on forestry compliance (see below).

Helping forestry companies prevent sediment and erosion run-off

Banks Peninsula has a lot of forestry which means it’s a risky area for sediment run-off into waterways which can mean non-compliance and/or environmental incidents.

After new National Environmental Standards were introduced, we hired a dedicated forestry resource management officer, Sarah Helleur, to help assist us with these.

Since Sarah started she’s worked with industry with an objective of communication rather than enforcement with foresters.

“The new regulations’ purpose was to make forestry activities uniform because up until then all regions made their own rules and regulations,” Sarah said.

“That legislation means forestry activities now need to be notified to local authorities. I do a lot of site visits, predominantly in Banks Peninsula, where the types of soils and steepness of the land make it quite a high soil erosion risk.

“Because of that, I’m making sure that any activity up there meets the sediment discharge requirements. They were put in place in 2017 because of a big slash slide,” she said.

“We’re getting good engagement with the forestry industry which means potential sediment issues are picked up before they enter waterways.”

- ▶ See inside for our consent compliance results.
- ◀ See the back for our incident response results.



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Compliance monitoring

JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020 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.
- (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 a formal written direction, requiring certain actions to be taken or to cease within a specified time.

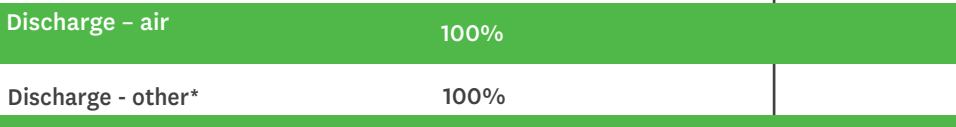
Prosecution is reserved for offences so serious that warrant court proceedings.

62 consents targeted

What we monitored

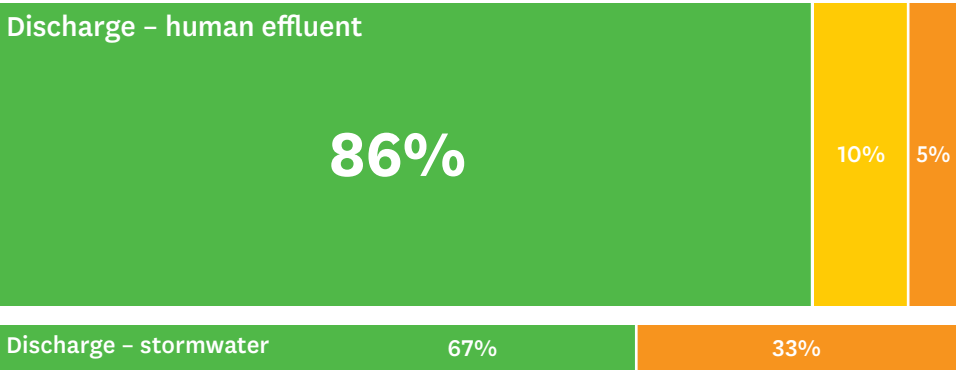
53 graded
9 still being graded

15%



55%

of consents monitored



8%



23%



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

Note: Only data for completed monitored visits shown.

*Please refer to sections 9 & 13 of the land use section of the Resource Management Act.

How we responded to improve compliance grades



5,339 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.

