

Incident response in the Waimakariri 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 Waimakariri zone, we received nearly 500 reports. The majority of these were related to discharges of air, followed by discharges to water and land.

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.

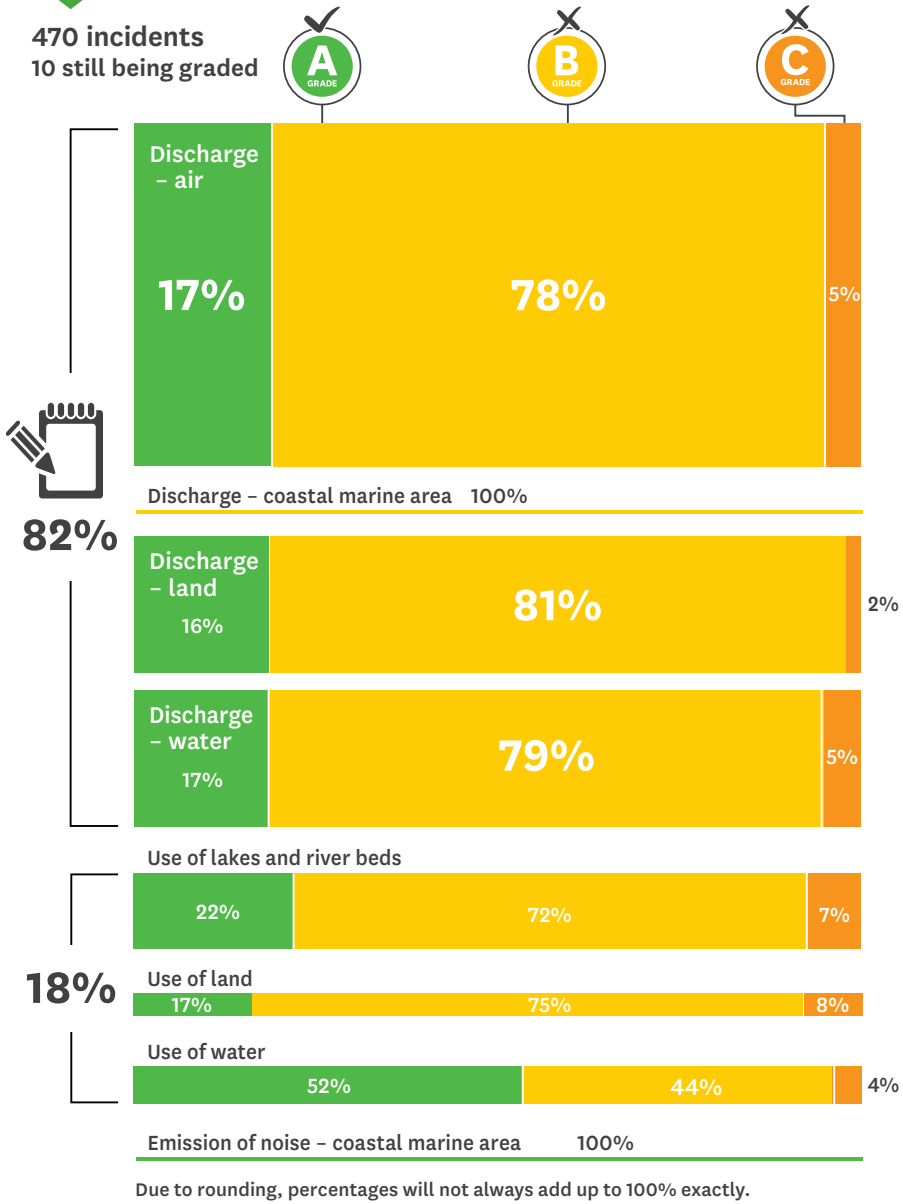
If you’re concerned an activity may be damaging our environment, please call us on 0800 765 588 (24 hours) to report it, or use the Snap Send Solve app to report it from your mobile phone

*See over for grading explanation

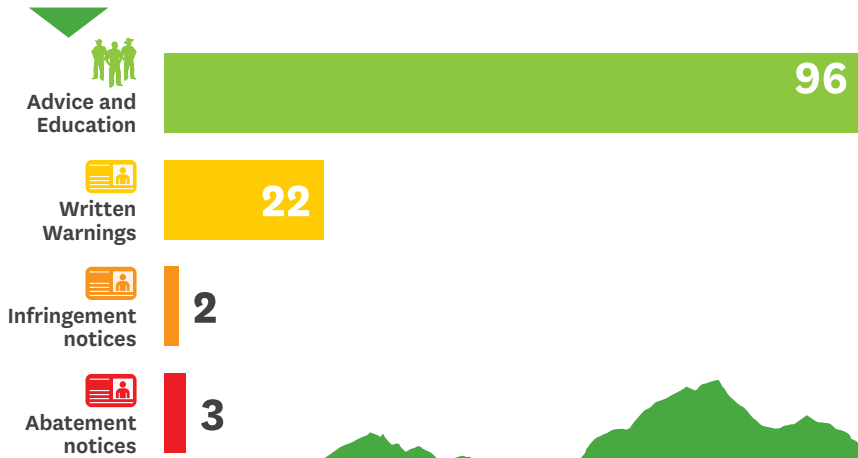
480 incidents

What we found

470 incidents
10 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.

WAIMAKARIRI 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 480 incident reports,
- targeted 376 consents with a focus on water use, and
- worked with the community to ensure compliance around whitebaiting structures (see below).

Community calls for safer Cam River

A few years ago, a project to remove illegal structures from the Cam River was started after we received calls from members of the community concerned about the danger posed by the structures.

Many of the structures had been in the river decades and were in poor condition. They were a safety concern in terms of structure, but we were also concerned about erosion and sediment issues, along with navigational safety for those using the river for boating.

People were given four months to remove the structures, and staff went out to talk to people to share the community’s concerns. By early 2019, the majority of structures were removed.

Zone Lead Marco Cataloni said he’s been really impressed by how receptive the structure’s owners/users were and follow-up visits in the past year had shown a good level of compliance.

“As we head into whitebaiting season again, we’re reminding people not to erect these structures without proper consent. With summer approaching and more people using the river we need to make sure that everyone can safely enjoy our waterways.”

If anyone sees a structure they’re concerned about, then please contact us on 0800 765 588.

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



Marco Cataloni
Zone Lead
Email: marco.cataloni@ecan.govt.nz
Phone: 027 241 7951

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

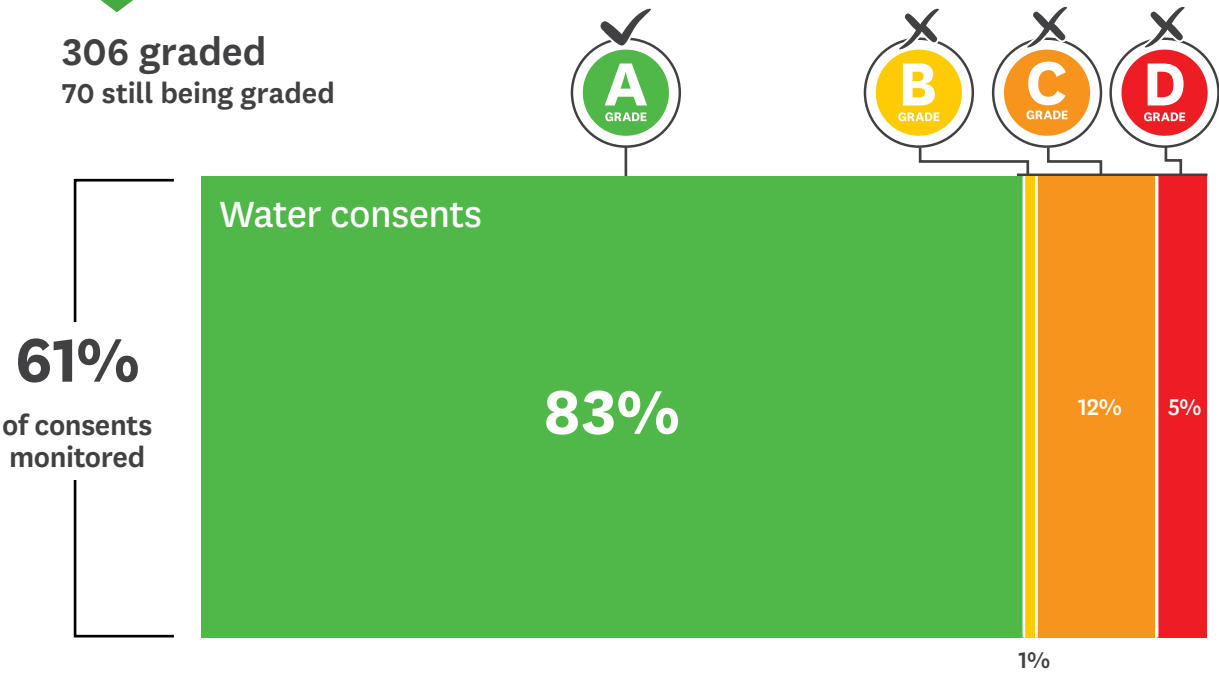
If there is an issue, our first response is to work with individuals and businesses to stop any immediate environmental damage. We then investigate to determine what actions should be taken, including enforcement.

- 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.

376 consents targeted

What we monitored

306 graded
70 still being graded

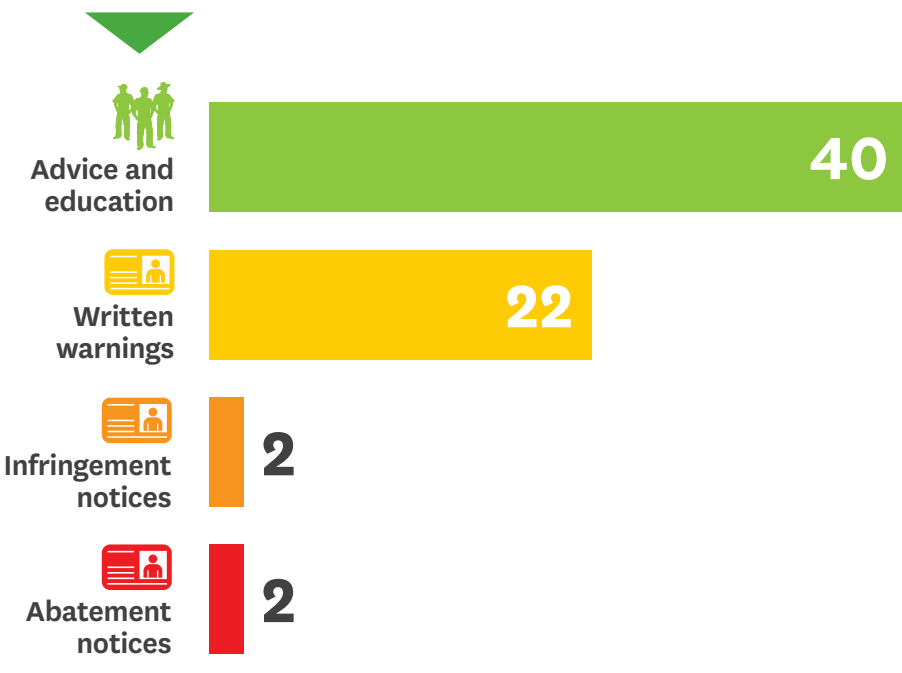


Due to rounding, percentages will not always add up to 100% exactly.

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.

