

Christopher Carter

Submission to Healthy Rivers Committee

Walking the talk on Healthy Rivers

- How are we doing with present monitoring and enforcement to ensure contaminants are not getting into our rivers?
- How do we ensure the delivery of Healthy Rivers going forward?

Monitoring – the current state – July 2017 to June 2018

(Source OIA, Waikato Regional Council, 13 May 2019)

- 4092 dairy farms, 1045 activities monitored, 46 discharge consents.

Compliance

	Permitted Activity	Discharge consents	Total
Full Compliance	21.3%	2%	20.4%
High-Level Compliance	2.3%	11%	2.7%
Provisional Compliance	42%	0%	40.2%
Partial Compliance	26.1%	57%	27.4%
Significant non-compliance	8.3%	30%	9.3%

Enforcement - Northland shows the way, and shows us up

Council	TOTAL Formal warnings ⁷	TOTAL Abatement notices	TOTAL Infringement fines	TOTAL Enforcement orders	TOTAL FORMAL ACTIONS	TOTAL FORMAL ACTIONS (exc. warnings)
REGIONAL						
Northland	6	373	253	0	632	626
Waikato	198	89	100	0	387	189
Bay of Plenty	DNA	106	29	2	137	137
Hawke's Bay	14	46	91	0	151	137
Taranaki	0	200	67	1	268	268
Manawatu-Whanganui	46	41	23	0	110	64
Wellington	57	11	25	0	93	36
West Coast	50	24	10	0	84	34
Canterbury	415	72	127	1	615	200
Otago	5	12	22	0	39	34
Southland	19	80	35	3	137	118

Source:- CESIG
Dec 2018

Northland Dairy Population 2015: 380,000
Waikato Dairy Population 2015: 1,759,000

A failure to comply in the Waikato

Northland has fewer consents than Waikato, yet monitors all Dairy Farms annually. In the Waikato this figure is well under 50%.

Northland has 1/5th the Dairy cow numbers, but issues more than 3 times as many formal actions.

In the Waikato

- 78.7% of monitored activities were not Fully Compliant
- 98% of Discharge Consents were not Fully Compliant

These metrics have barely changed in a decade.

This suggests a systematic and consistent failure in compliance management.

Under-Resourcing in Compliance

Council	TOTAL FTEs	Population	FTEs per 1,000
REGIONAL			
Northland	22.4	173,500	0.13
Waikato	46.5	455,000	0.10
Bay of Plenty	31	296,900	0.10
Hawke's Bay	10	162,900	0.06
Taranaki	36	117,400	0.31
Manawatu-Wanganui	10	238,800	0.04
Wellington	15.5	509,700	0.03
West Coast	5.5	32,500	0.17
Canterbury	43.7	607,000	0.07
Otago	23.2	221,900	0.10
Southland	13.1	98,200	0.13

Source:- CESIG
Dec 2018

Our present compliance systems have failed.
This failure made my child sick, which is why I am here.



The status quo on monitoring and enforcement is not working,
and will not deliver Healthy Rivers in any timeline

How do we fix our sick waterways?

- Fund monitoring and enforcement properly
- Harness consumer science – it doesn't all have to be only Council's problem – give us the tools to measure our own water quality, make it publicly exchangeable.
- Monitor 100% all of all farms annually
- Set time-bound, measurable goals for short term action
- Enforce the law, it is the Council's statutory duty
- Clean rivers by 2040, **not** by the time our grandchildren have passed.

File No: 03 04 02G
Document No: 14132320
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13 May 2019

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Tēnā koe Christopher

REQ148036 C Carter effluent compliance

Thank you for your request for information set out below, received on 15 April 2019.

As discussed in an email with Waikato Regional Council's Team Leader Stuart Stone on 17 April 2019, the information provided covers the Waikato Region for the 2017/18 season.

Original request:

I am after some more current information on Effluent compliance, for the most current year, in preparation for a submission to the Healthy rivers hearings. Presently it appears the only publicly available information is from over 2 years ago - per the below article:-

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/95059380/less-than-one-quarter-of-all-waikato-dairy-farms-meet-their-effluent-obliqations>

This includes:

- 1) Number of farms in catchment*
- 2) Number of farms inspected*
- 2) Number and split by fully compliant, partially or significantly non-compliant.*
- 3) Number of infringements, abatement notices, and formal warnings. For the full year of 2018 would be ideal. Please call/email if any clarification needed.*

Response:

The following information is for the period 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018.

1. Total number of dairy farms in the Waikato Region:

4,092 as at 8 May 2019.

2. Number of farms inspected:

In the 2017/18 season council monitored 1045 permitted activities and 46 discharge consents.

2. Compliance of farms monitored in the 2017/18 season:

	Permitted Activity	Discharge consents	Total
Full Compliance	21.3%	2%	20.4%
High-Level Compliance	2.3%	11%	2.7%
Provisional Compliance	42%	0%	40.2%
Partial Compliance	26.1%	57%	27.4%
Significant non-compliance	8.3%	30%	9.3%

3. Number of enforcement actions against farms monitored during the 2017/18 season:

Enforcement Action: 1 July 2017-30 June 2018	
Infringement Notice	33
Abatement Notice	13
Formal Warning	87
Prosecutions	4
Total	137

Please contact me, should you have any queries.

Nāku, nā



Statutory Processes Advisor