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**Committees** Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee  
Environment Committee

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## Resource Consents Annual Compliance Report 2003

### 1. Purpose

To report to the Committee on a summary of the compliance monitoring undertaken across the Region during the 2002/2003 financial year.

### 2. Background

*Compliance monitoring* is the monitoring of granted resource consents to determine if the consent holder is undertaking the activity in accordance with their consent conditions. Compliance monitoring can be a combination of inspections of the site where the activity is occurring, audit sampling and review of monitoring information provided by the consent holder during the year.

Over the past few years we have increased our focus and efforts on compliance monitoring. Compliance monitoring is crucial to ensuring the effects of consented activities are minimised.

A copy of the full report is enclosed as a separate document. The report summarises the compliance monitoring undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) staff in the 2002/2003 financial year and encompasses a region-wide overview of consent compliance.

### 3. Classifying compliance

Greater Wellington classifies compliance using the following rating scale:

<b>Fully complying</b>	100 % compliance with all consent conditions at all times.
<b>Mainly complying</b>	Compliance with all conditions relating to environmental effects during the year. However, there may be minor non-compliance with administrative-type conditions, e.g., late (but by no more than one month) submission of management reports. All administrative conditions are met at the end of the financial year.
<b>Partially complying</b>	Compliance with all conditions relating to environmental effects during the year. However, there may be non-compliance with administrative-type conditions, e.g., late submission of management reports. The consent holder needs to be prompted by Wellington Regional Council before such administrative conditions are met at the end of the financial year.
<b>Non-complying</b>	Non-compliance with condition(s) relating to environmental effects during the financial year (this includes any confirmed complaints) and/or not all administrative-type conditions met at the end of the financial year.

#### 4. The compliance monitoring programme

Depending on the scale and type of activity, Greater Wellington carries out the following compliance monitoring functions:

- site visits and inspections
- review of monitoring information provided by the consent holder
- taking samples, measurements and analyses for audit sampling
- reporting on the outcome of the monitoring back to the consent holder.

Inspections are undertaken on all those activities that have a potential environmental impact. The frequency of inspections is recommended in the Resource Management Charging Policy 2001. The policy allows for changes to the monitoring frequency, depending on the consent holder's compliance history.

Different types of inspections are carried out:

- routine inspections that have generally been pre-arranged with the consent holder
- random inspections, where the consent holder has not been notified that Greater Wellington will be inspecting
- proactive surveillance inspections that have resulted from a history of non-compliance at a site

- inspections as a result of someone raising concerns about the consented activity.

## 5. Compliance summary 2002/2003

Over the year, 1234 consents were inspected in the Wellington region. A summary of the compliance ratings given to those consents is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: compliance grades of consents inspected in 2002/2003**

Fully complying	Mainly complying	Partially complying	Non-complying
851	144	54	185
68%	12%	5%	15%

Some prominent aspects of the year's compliance monitoring are:

- The percentage of overall fully complying consents has decreased from 77% last year to 69% this year.
- The percentage of overall non-complying consents has increased from 13.3% last year to 15% this year.
- Correspondingly, the percentage of both mainly complying and partially complying consents has increased this year.
- The group with the highest percentage of fully complying consents in Wellington was river works. In the Wairarapa it was land use consents.
- The groups with the highest percentages of non-complying consents in Wellington were coastal and landfill consents. In the Wairarapa it was wastewater treatment plants.

## 6. Enforcement action related to consented activities

During the year we issued 20 abatement notices, 12 infringement notices and initiated 1 prosecution. In the previous year we issued 11 abatement notices, 14 infringement notices and initiated five prosecutions. Infringement notices and prosecutions are down from last year while abatement notices are up. The increase in abatement notices was mostly due to a suite of abatement notices served to Wairarapa dairy farmers requiring water meters to be installed. This action was required after repeated written and verbal requests failed to result in meters being installed.

## 7. Recommendation

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

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