

DAIRY AND STREAM CROSSING SURVEY

2020/21 Snapshot



MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

KEY POINTS



46 dairy farms operate in Marlborough.



34 farms operate under permitted activity status under the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan.



12 farms operate under Resource Consent.



90% (28 out of 31) farms were compliant after the follow up inspections were completed.



10% (3 out of 31) farms were non-compliant after the follow up inspections.



0 significant non-compliance was observed.

Snapshot of the 2020/21 monitoring programme

What was found during the 2020/21 inspections and annual monitoring

Marlborough District Council monitored 31 dairy farms during the 2020/21 survey. Monitoring consists of conducting a site visit to the farm and assessing any records that are required to be provided by resource consent conditions.

This season a second compliance report was completed which assessed the compliance against the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) rules for dairy shed effluent:

96% (24 out of 25) farms were rated as compliant after first inspection, this didn't change after follow up inspections.

4% (1 out of 25) farms were assessed as non-complaint, this didn't change after follow up inspections.

Areas of Non-compliance:

- Nitrogen loading exceeded the 200kgN/ha limit by 31kg.
- Storage system located within 20m of waterway
- Herd size exceeding resource consent condition

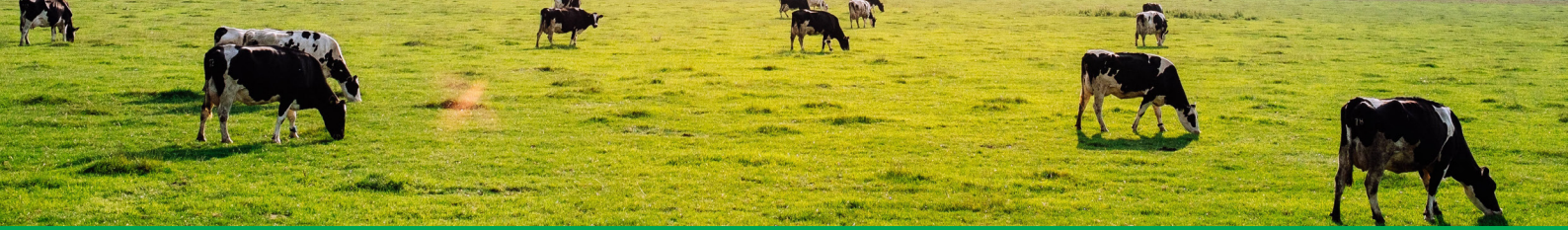
As well as inspecting dairy effluent Council has been requesting Nitrogen data from synthetic inputs from farmers ahead of the new NES Freshwater regulations coming into force for the following season (2021-2022). Although not directly linked to the effluent and stream crossing inspections the PMEP and resource consent conditions stipulate limits on synthetic nitrogen inputs, therefore this information will be captured in the same reports going forward.

NOTE: Farms with no storage or systems located within 20m of a waterway have previously been rated as significantly non-compliant. Since the 2017/18 season they have been rated as non-compliant which reflects that no environmental effects were observed as a result of the non-compliance. The change in compliance rating is in line with Council's compliance rating schedule and other regional councils throughout New Zealand.

Summary of Compliance Rating System

Results reported in this snapshot reflect the compliance of each permitted activity standard or resource consent condition, the lowest rated condition is the overall compliance level. For example a wastewater discharge consent could have 25 conditions of which 23 are rated compliant (green), 1 is rated minor non-compliance and 1 is rated significant non-compliance – the consent is rated significant non-compliance.

| Full Compliance | Technical non-compliance | Environmental non-compliance | Significant non-compliance |
|--|---|---|--|
| 100% compliance with all consent conditions/ permitted activity standards assessed | Non-compliance with condition which are considered to only have minor or no adverse environmental effects. E.g. failure to keep records | Breach of effects based/best practice conditions/rules that cause minor actual or potential environmental effects. E.g. ponding of wastewater remediated immediately. | Significant breach of effects based/best practice conditions/ rules that cause actual or potential environmental effects. E.g. multiple exceedances of parameters or wastewater reaching a waterway. |



Compliance Levels over the last three seasons for the MSRMP and Resource Consents

| | 2018/2019 Percentage | 2018/2019 Follow up Percentage | 2019/2020 Percentage | 2019/2020 Follow up Percentage | 2020/2021 Percentage | 2020/2021 Follow up Percentage |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Full Compliance | 82% | 86% | 87% | 89% | 87% (27) | 90% (28) |
| Technical Non-Compliance | 4% | 4% | 2% | 2% | 3% (1) | 0% |
| Non-Compliant | 12% | 10% | 11% | 9% | 10% (3) | 10% (3) |
| Significant Non-Compliance | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

- The PMEP was notified 9 June 2016;
- The discharge of dairy farm effluent into or onto land is a permitted activity within the Rural Environment Zone and the Coastal Environment Zone;
- 7 rules had immediate legal effect;
- A compliance report for the PMEP rules was completed for each farm that operates under the permitted activity standards in order to provide the farmers with an indication of future compliance for the effluent system as it currently operates.

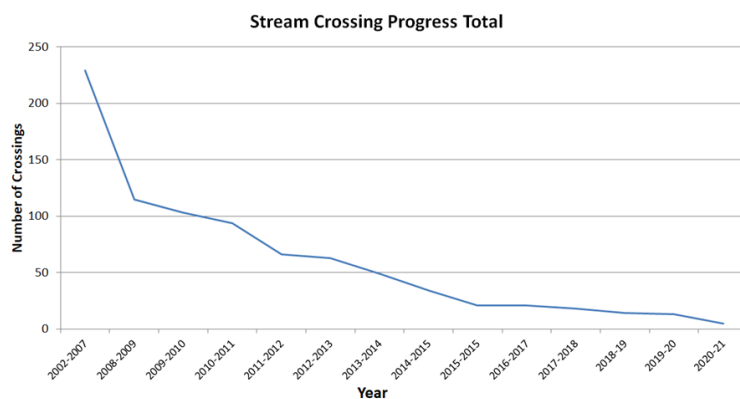
PMEP Compliance rate for rules with immediate legal effect

| Compliance Rating | 2019/2020 Follow up Percentage | 2020/2021 Follow up Percentage |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Full Compliance | 94% | 96% (24) |
| Technical Non-Compliance | 0% | 0% |
| Non-Compliant | 6% | 4% (1) |
| Significant Non-Compliance | 0% | 0% |

PMEP Compliance

- 32 farms have effluent storage systems that are lined with an impermeable material;
- 5 storage systems are located within a Flood Hazard Area - 2 of these farms hold a resource consent to legalise the location;
- 3 farms have discharge fields located within a Soil Sensitive Area - all 3 farms have resource consent to legalise the discharge of dairy effluent to land.

Stream Crossing Progress Total



- Ten stream crossings have been removed this season;
- The remaining 5 low priority stream crossings are on two farms, with 4 crossings being located on one farm;
- The permitted activity standards within the PMEP restrict intensively farmed livestock from entering onto or passing across the bed of a river if there is water flowing in the river. Each farm has been advised that the crossings cannot be used when water is flowing and there will be a continued focus on eliminating the remaining stream crossings.

For More Information

For more information on compliance and enforcement monitoring undertaken by Marlborough District Council, contact the Environmental Protection Group

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 Website: www.marlborough.govt.nz



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