

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
15 SEYMOUR STREET
PO BOX 443, BLENHEIM 7240
NEW ZEALAND

TELEPHONE (0064) 3 520 7400
EMAIL mdc@marlborough.govt.nz
WEB www.marlborough.govt.nz



**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

14 August 2026

Record No: 26167133
File Ref: D050-001-E01
Ask For: Nicole Chauval

Notice of Committee Meeting – Thursday 20 August 2026

A meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on **Thursday, 20 August 2026 commencing at 9.00 am.**

BUSINESS

As per Agenda attached.

JOHN BOSWELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



**Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
to be held in the Council Chambers, District Administration Building,
Seymour Street, Blenheim on THURSDAY, 20 AUGUST 2026 commencing at 9.00 am**

Committee

Clr B A Fauls (Chairperson)
Clr S J Arbuckle (Deputy)
Clr A R Burgess
Clr G A Hope
Clr J C Hyndman
Clr R J Innes
Clr M J Taylor
Mayor N P Taylor
Mr S Harvey (Rural Representative)
Mr R McKinney (Iwi Representative)

Departmental Head

Mr H Versteegh (Group Manager Environmental Science and Policy)
and Ms G Ferguson (Group Manager Consents and Compliance)

Staff

N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

In Public

Page

1.	Apologies	1
2.	Declaration of Interests	1
3.	Working for Nature Grants / Mahi mō te Taiao Grant Scheme	2
4.	Biosecurity – Operational Plan Report 2025/2026	5
5.	Summary Report on the Results of the Significant Natural Areas 2025/2026	8
6.	Update on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill – Select Committee Reports	10
7.	Climate Change Response Amendment Bill	17
8.	Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on Groundwater.....	19
9.	High Intensity Rainfall Design System (HIRDS) 2025 Update	23
10.	Wairau Catchment Flood Frequency Assessment 2025	31
11.	Climate Change & Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28 Progress Report	35
12.	Proposed Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment	41
13.	Making Further PMEP Provisions Operative.....	44
14.	Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024 – Changes to Alcohol Control Areas.....	48
15.	Environmental Health Activity Summary 2025/2026 and Review of Survey Results.....	54
16.	Environmental Protection Enforcement Activity Summary for 2025/2026	59
17.	Compliance Monitoring Summary 2025/2026	65
18.	Forestry Monitoring Report.....	73
19.	Dog Control Policy and Practices Annual Report 2025/2026	85
20.	Information Package.....	86

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Mayor N P Taylor and Cllr B A Faulls (Chairperson).

2. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3. Working for Nature Grants / Mahi mō te Taiao Grant Scheme

(Cllr Arbuckle) (Report prepared by Zeke Hoskins)

E390-003-26-01

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on the 2025/2026 grant round which concluded on 1 June 2026.
2. To inform the Committee of the decisions made by the Grant Sub-Committee regarding successful applicants of the 2026-2027 Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao grant round.

Executive Summary

3. The 2025/2026 Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao grant concluded on 1 June 2026 with all projects achieving expected outcomes.
4. Applications for the 2026-2027 Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao grant were open from 1 April to 30 April 2026.
5. Thirty-nine applications were received during this period, requesting \$349,129.25 from a fund with \$142,400 available for allocation.
6. The Grant Sub-Committee assessed each application to form their decisions for which projects would receive funding.
7. Twenty-two of the thirty-nine applicants were approved for either partial or full funding towards their project goals. All applicants have been advised of the funding decisions made.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council approves the funding allocations recommended by the Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao Grant Sub-Committee for the 2026-2027 funding round.

Background/Context

8. Since 2020, Marlborough District Council has been running the Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao Grant Scheme to support community involvement with restoring and protecting native species and habitats throughout the region. The grant is open to community organisations, iwi, businesses, and individuals.
9. Each application is assessed on their individual merits, considering the environmental benefit, project viability, level of collaboration from outside sources, long-term maintenance arrangements, and alignment with the grant scheme guidelines and objectives. Projects that have secured alternative funding are also viewed more favourably.
10. The grant is separated into three categories:
 - a) **Protecting Marlborough:** These projects support the control and management of plant and animal pests which threaten our native flora and fauna. The maximum funding available under this category is \$15,000.
 - b) **Habitat Marlborough:** These projects support the restoration of native habitats to support biodiversity outcomes and improve freshwater health. This category supersedes the Tui to Town and Greening Marlborough programmes, targeting the restoration of forests through the planting

of species that would be naturally found within the project area. The maximum funding available under this category is \$10,000.

- c) **Environmental Advocacy:** These projects seek to promote environmental awareness within the community. The maximum funding available under this category is \$2,000.

11. The 2025/2026 grant round concluded on 1 June 2026. All grant recipients completed their project objectives as outlined in their grant applications.
12. To further achieve the objectives of the grant, \$142,400 has been allocated for the 2026-2027 funding round.
13. Applications for the grant opened on Wednesday 1 April and closed on Thursday 30 April. A total of thirty-nine applications were submitted. Twenty-five under the Protecting Marlborough category, nine under Habitat Marlborough, and five under Environmental Advocacy.
14. Funding requested during this application round totalled \$349,129.25.
15. A total of \$639,714 was to be provided from alternative funding streams across all applications. After removing \$308,955 labelled as 'volunteer hours', this reduces the value to \$330,759.
16. The overall expenditure for all projects that were applied for, based on the values given in the application, would equate to over \$1.03 million of environmental protection or enhancements.
17. Partial or full funding was awarded to twenty-two applicants to support their projects. These decisions were undertaken by the Grant Sub-Committee, consisting of Councillors Arbuckle, Burgess, Innes and Taylor.
18. Three projects received full funding while the remaining nineteen received partial funding. Alternative funding sources or project scope may need to be adjusted to continue their projects.
19. To increase purchasing power, Council placed a bulk order for AT220 automatic traps on behalf of twelve applicants. This approach reduced the cost through consolidated shipping and bulk-purchase discounts.
20. The following applications received funding during the 2026-2027 round:

Protecting Marlborough:

Project Name	Grant Value
Arapaoa Kiwi Stage 4	\$5,071.50 (full funding)
Duncan Bay tracks – Possum control	\$5,000
East Coast Protection Group	\$4,000
French Pass Wilding Pine Control	\$5,000
Kaiaho Pt Trapping & Habitat Protection	\$9,000 (full funding)
Management of Feral Ungulate Control	\$7,500
Maungatapu Pest Control	\$7,500
Mt Cawte Possum Trap Line	\$10,000
Okaramio / Kaituna Rvr Restoration Project	\$7,500
Okuri Bay Kohekohe Forest Protection	\$6,000
Penzance Conservation Project	\$7,500
Port Ligar Restoration. Pest Control	\$9,000

Project Name	Grant Value
Project TRAP*	\$7,500
Punaruawhiti Network Sustainability*	\$7,500
TARA Community Trapping	\$1,685
Te Hoiere Bat Recovery Predator Control	\$10,000
The Ned / Te Hau Restoration Project	\$7,500
Wild Waikawa	\$12,500 (full funding)
Total	\$101,685.00

Habitat Marlborough:

Integrated Native / Vineyard Development	\$2,000
Link Pathway Native Plant Restoration	\$2,000
Port Ligar Restoration. Nest Boxes	\$1,000
Taylor Reserve Planting 2027	\$1,000
Total	\$6,000

21. Two applicants received multi-year funding support in 2025/2026. These are now in year two of their phased projects. These have been noted in the tables above, indicated with an asterisk.
22. Correspondence was sent to all applicants in June, advising the outcome of their applications.
23. Successful grantees received an agreement form outlining the terms and conditions of their grant. Upon review, applicants are to return a signed copy of this form to Council before funding will become available.

Next steps

24. The deadline for the 2026-2027 grant round is 1 June 2027. All invoices and accountability forms must be submitted by this date.
25. A description illustrating project outcomes, supported by photographs and invoicing as evidence of expenditure must be included on the accountability form. This helps verify alignment between purchases and the approved grant application, along with confirmation that projects are adhering to the Terms and Conditions of the grant.
26. Applications will reopen in April 2027 for the 2027-2028 Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao grant round.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Zeke Hoskins (10 minutes).

Author	Zeke Hoskins, Biodiversity Officer
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science and Monitoring Manager

4. Biosecurity – Operational Plan Report 2025/2026

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Clr Hope) (Report prepared by Liam Falconer)

E315-002-005-10, E315-002-005-11

Purpose of Report

1. For Council approval of the Biosecurity Operational Plan Report for 2025/2026.

Executive Summary

2. A final report has been prepared on the Biosecurity Operational Plan at the completion of the 2025/2026 financial year, covering the activities of Council's Biosecurity function.
 3. A review of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028 was carried out on 1 July 2026. There is one proposed amendment contained within Part Four of the report this year.
 4. It has been a successful year for the Biosecurity Section with 99% of the operational delivery targets achieved, 1% almost achieved and 0% not achieved.
 5. The \$2.9m National Wilding Conifer Control Programme has been delivered across the region.
 6. In terms of the progress of the pest programmes, many continue to be on track. Of particular importance, there continues to be no establishment for majority of the pests under Exclusion Programmes within the Regional Pest Management Plan.
 7. For those programmes not on track, this often reflects the biological challenges and realities of managing invasive species, even those at low incidence.
 8. Emerging pests continue to be a challenge to effectively monitor and resource with multiple emerging Biosecurity issues currently challenging the region and country.
-

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.
 2. That the below additional performance target be added into the operational plan is approved.
(a) *Each year, a minimum of 30 awareness and engagement actions are undertaken relating to Chilean needle grass.*
 3. That the annual report on the Biosecurity Operational Plan for the 2025/2026 financial year be approved by the Council in accordance with section 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
-

Background/Context

9. Council delivers a wide range of services with respect to the management of invasive species threats. This is mandated by section 12B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 where Council provides leadership for pest management within its region.
 10. A major instrument used by Council is the making of a Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) prepared under the Biosecurity Act 1993. This is a regulatory instrument that outlines several programmes targeting the most strategic threats to our region. These programmes range from high threat species not in our region but elsewhere in NZ (e.g. wallabies), to high threat/low incidence species already in our region (numerous pest plant species), and high threat/widespread however manageable species (e.g. nassella tussock, rabbits).
-

11. Other key services include oversight or involvement in specific projects such as the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, Avian Influenza preparedness or biological control agent research initiatives. In the background, staff are also continually keeping up to date on, assessing or investigating new potential threats.
12. The Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028 was prepared to meet the requirement under section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 in relation to the Regional Pest Management Plan. However, given the Biosecurity range of services plans a lot wider than just the RPMP, it also outlines plans for those other components of work delivered by Council and the community.
13. In accordance with section 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, a management agency implementing a RPMP must prepare a report on the Operational Plan and its implementation not later than five months after the end of each financial year. This report on the Operational Plan is intended to meet this obligation.
14. In accordance with sections 100B(1)(b) and (c), the Operational Plan must also be reviewed annually, and a decision made on appropriate amendments, if necessary.
15. A review of the Operational Plan was completed on 1 July 2026, with one amendment to the operational performance targets proposed, to align with the increased focus on managing Chilean needle grass spread pathways. The performance target is expressed as: Each year, a minimum of 30 awareness and engagement actions are undertaken relating to Chilean needle grass.

Highlights from 2025/2026

16. As outlined in the report, the work of the Biosecurity section during the 2025/2026 financial year is wide-ranging and has continued to be of high quality. This has been achieved through committed implementation by the team, contractors, the community and our wider programme partners.
17. Numerous pest plant programmes where the long-term objective is to suppress populations to low levels are tracking well and, in many instances, tracking downwards.
18. Council have worked with the National Avian influenza team to develop a Regional Avian Influenza Management Plan.
19. Given the level of interest around ungulate levels council has created a Regional Ungulate Coordination group for leaders in this space to come together yearly to discuss the various work streams and programmes to improve collaboration and create constructive relationships.
20. Strong progress has been made strengthening relationships and continuing to develop strategic partnerships in the marine, aquatic and terrestrial space leading to stronger Biosecurity management across the region.
21. Council alongside programme partners have effectively delivered the \$3 million National Wilding Conifer Control Programme in Marlborough this year. The programme has increased in size throughout the year as council has taken a more active and strategic approach to secure additional funds from multiple sources as they come available throughout the year.
22. The operations team continue to investigate and undertake early intervention work to get a handle on the emerging threats; Wild kiwifruit, Pink ragwort, Bomarea, False tamarisk, Blue passion flower, African love grass and Red eared Slider turtles. A number of these are worth considering in the future as long-term management programmes supported through the Regional Pest Management Plan.
23. Council is continuing to be involved in discussions around national biosecurity challenges and pathways including recent arrivals to NZ, including Gold clam, Caulerpa, Great Willow Herb and Sea Spurge.

Option One (Recommended Option)

24. Council approves the Operational Plan Report 2025/2026 and amendments proposed to the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2026-2027.

Advantages

25. Council will be meeting the requirements of sections 100B(1)(b) and 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Disadvantages

26. Nil

Next Steps

27. If approved, the Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2025/2026 will be made publicly available on the Council website.

Presentation

A presentation will be given by Liam Falconer (20 minutes).

Attachment

Attachment 4.1 – Biosecurity Operational Plan Report is available on Council's website [here](#)

Author	Liam Falconer, Biosecurity Manager
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science and Monitoring Manager

5. Summary Report on the Results of the Significant Natural Areas 2025/2026

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Mike Aviss)

E310-006-001

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the results of the Significant Natural Areas Programme for the period July 2025 - June 2026.

Executive Summary

2. This report records the outputs of the Significant Natural Areas (SNA) programme including new sites surveyed, the restoration or management of threats in SNAs and the monitoring of their condition. It also reports on the results of associated projects, such as native seed collection and publicity.
-

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received

Background/Context

3. Through the Resource Management Act 1991 and pursuant to the Biodiversity Chapter in the Marlborough Environment Plan, the Council has a role in maintaining and protecting indigenous biodiversity and significant natural areas in the Marlborough region.
4. Since 2001 the Council has implemented the SNA programme, which has involved extensive field based ecological survey work and a subsequent protection and monitoring programme.
5. The 2025/2026 SNA report is attached to this report which provides an overview of activities and projects undertaken during the year.

Programme Highlights

6. The survey programme of SNAs is ongoing as landowners agree to provide access to their land. Nine new SNA sites were identified, documented and mapped during 2025/2026. This means we have 974 sites identified in our database.
7. We monitored 81 sites to measure condition and trend; 40 were managed sites and 41 were unmanaged. As you would expect, managed sites are faring better than unmanaged.
8. The Landowner Assistance Programme provides assistance to landowners to help protect and restore SNA sites. There are currently 29 projects active, with \$196,776 of Council funding spent on managing sites during this reporting period. With other contributions, including from landowners, the total spent was \$454,292.
9. Funding assistance has been provided to 195 sites since 2003 to manage threats. Over those 25 years, \$2,281,601 has been allocated and this has leveraged another \$3,907,128 from landowners and others.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Mike Aviss (15 minutes).

Attachment

Attachment 5.1 – Summary Report on the Results of the Significant Natural Areas Project 2025/2026 is available on Council's website [here](#)

Author	Mike Aviss, Biodiversity Coordinator
Authoriser	Peter Hamill, Team Leader Land & Water

6. Update on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill – Select Committee Reports

(reports available via separate links)

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Sarah Pearson)

L150-019-R01-01

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the Environment Select Committee's reports on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill.

Executive Summary

2. The Environment Select Committee (**Select Committee**) has reported back on the Planning Bill (**PB**) and Natural Environment Bill (**NEB**), recommending they proceed through Parliament with amendments (**Attachment 6.1**). The Bills remain the Government's proposed replacement for the Resource Management Act (**RMA**).
3. The Select Committee has retained the overall structure of the reforms, including the two-Act framework, Regional Spatial Plans (**RSP**), regulatory relief and the transition to a new planning system.
4. While many amendments are technical, key changes include:
 - revised purpose of the PB and goals of both Bills;
 - exclusion of adverse effects of climate change from consideration;
 - expanded Ministerial powers to allow some publicly beneficial activities to exceed environmental limits;
 - changes to Regional Spatial Planning provisions; and
 - an extended transition period of approximately 4.5 years.
5. Several aspects of Council's submission have been reflected in the amended Bills, including better integration between the Bills, clarification of national direction, provisions relating to permitted activities, and retention of first-in, first-served allocation methods.
6. However, Council's request that the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (**PMEP**) be deemed a combined plan under the new system was not adopted.
7. Significant uncertainty remains regarding the final form of the legislation, the content of future national direction, wider legislative reforms and Local Government reforms, and the implications of the upcoming General Election.
8. It is currently expected that the Bills will pass into law in September before Parliament rises.
9. Staff will continue monitoring the legislation and will report back once the final Acts are enacted, including implications for Regional Spatial Planning, resourcing and implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background

10. The PB and NEB were introduced to the House in December 2025 as the Government's replacement for the RMA. Council submitted on both Bills and presented to the Select Committee on 18 March 2026. On 20 July 2026 the Select Committee reported back recommending the Bills proceed with amendments.
11. The overall architecture of the proposed system remains largely unchanged from the Bills introduced in December 2025. A summary diagram is included in **Attachment 6.2**.

Key Changes

12. The Select Committee retained the overall design of the reforms with the two Act structure, goals, treatment of Treaty Settlement obligations and Māori interests, requirement for RSPs and regulatory relief.
13. However, they also recommended extensive amendments, many being technical in nature with a focus on improving workability and proposed an extension to transition from the RMA to the new framework of a year.

Theme	Key Change
<i>Purpose and goals</i>	PB purpose amended to '<u>provide for the enjoyment of land by establishing a framework for planning and regulating the use and development of land</u>'¹. PB goals now include creation of abundant development opportunities and enabling infrastructure to meet and respond to current and future demand. NEB goals changed to remove the caveat that resource use must be within environmental limits; additional goals included for the inclusion of food and fibre production which expressly includes aquaculture and to enable enhancement of the natural environment. Now explicit that there is no priority in the goals, nor must they all be sought to be achieved in all places at all times.
<i>Climate Change</i>	Adverse effects of climate change excluded, only positive effects of an activity associated with avoiding, reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions in scope.
<i>Environmental Limits</i>	Expanded ability for Minister to set national standards to permit breaches of environmental limits for publicly beneficial activities.
<i>Transitional Consenting</i>	Enable updates to district plans to remove plan provisions relating to effects out of scope of the new Bills without using standard plan change process. Amendment of RMA s104 to exclude a list of matters from consideration as "effects on the environment for any purpose under a district plan".
<i>Regional Spatial Planning</i>	Additional consultation and governance requirements. RSP committee to include 1 member with "knowledge, skill and experience relating to te ao Māori and Māori development. Secretariat to include 1 or more technical experts or advisors, appointed by the chief executive of the Ministry, with this advisor funded by the crown.
<i>Transition timing</i>	Extended from around 3.5 years to 4.5 years

¹ Underlined text is the addition to the original purpose of the PB.

Council submission outcome

14. Council's submission² strongly emphasised the PMEP was already a one stop shop for our community and resource users, recommending it be deemed an operative plan under the PB and NEB during the transition. Unfortunately, this recommendation was not adopted by the Select Committee.
15. Several submission points were however reflected in the Select Committee changes;
 - Better integration between the Bills through allowing permit authorities under the NEB to consider effects regulated under the PB and confirming that natural hazards and contaminated land are not excluded from consideration under the PB.
 - Clarity around national instruments defining national policy direction for high-level policy direction and national standards confined to procedural and regulatory consistency.
 - Clarity on permitted activity registration only where required by a national standard and retention of controlled activity status under the NEB only.
 - Current allocation framework of first in, first-served retained, other methods removed.
16. The Select Committee's amendments to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions also addressed Council concerns. However, the Government has since announced³ that existing and initiated agreements will not transfer to the new system. Councils will instead have the option of entering into iwi participation agreements to provide for iwi participation in statutory planning processes and Treaty settlement obligations.

Parliamentary process and timings

17. Parliament will now consider the Select Committee's recommendations through the remaining legislative stages, including the Second Reading, Committee of the Whole House and Third Reading. Further amendments may be made during this process, including through Supplementary Order Papers, with changes already signalled by the Government regarding the treatment of existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements.
18. Subject to Parliamentary approval and Royal Assent, the Bills are expected to become law in September before Parliament rises.
19. Once enacted, there will be a staged transition;
 - First tranche of National Policy Direction and national standards issued within 12 months to support RSPs.
 - Further national direction released through 2028
 - Preparation, notification and decisions on RSPs, Natural Environment Plans (**NEPs**) and Land Use Plans (**LUPs**) through 2029 and 2030.
 - RMA and transitional consenting regime repealed in 2031, with the new system becoming fully operational approximately 4.25 years after enactment.
20. A timeline schematic of the proposed Select Committee changes to transition timing and Local Government reform has been created by Simpson Grierson and is attached as **Attachment 12.3**.

Challenges

21. There are several key challenges that require awareness which could affect Council's current work programmes, priorities and future resourcing and funding.
 - Final form of the Bills is uncertain, further changes are expected through the Parliamentary process.
 - Shape and direction of national instruments is unknown at this stage.

² The Council's submission was approved through the [19 February 2026](#) Council meeting.

³ [Better planning for growth and environment](#) – Beehive Press Release by the Honourable Chris Bishop and Simon Court 20 July 2026.

- Scale and breadth of parallel regulatory reforms. Most recent example being the Climate Change Response Amendment Bill⁴ requiring local government to prepare adaptation plans for priority locations which must be identified in the region's RSP.
- Simplifying Local Government (**LG**). Kaikoura District Council's⁵ recent vote to pursue amalgamation north brings these reforms to Marlborough. Although RSPs are to be undertaken on current regional boundaries⁶.
- The General Election occurs shortly after the enactment of the Bills. While there is broad agreement across parties that the RMA should be replaced, there is not broad support for the Bills in their current format⁷ as such a change in Government will likely lead to further amendments.

Next Steps

22. The Council is well positioned to use the PMEP as the foundation for developing a Regional Spatial Plan and Land Use Plan under the Planning Act 2026 and a Natural Environment Plan under the Natural Environment Act 2026. The PMEP already provides a single, integrated planning framework for Marlborough. It contains spatially referenced management provisions, environmental constraints, infrastructure considerations and growth management policies that can all be transitioned into the more strategic, long-term approach envisaged by regional spatial planning
23. The Environmental Policy Group is commencing the process of undertaking a regional spatial plan gap analysis, considering the existing PMEP provisions and spatial datasets and assessing gaps in current provisions in the context of housing growth, infrastructure planning, climate adaptation, natural hazard management and economic development.
24. Once the legislation is enacted, governance and partnership arrangements will also have to be confirmed, including the involvement of Marlborough's tangata whenua iwi in the process. The arrangements will include the establishment of a Spatial Planning Committee (which can be an existing Council Committee) and a Secretariat to support the work of the Committee. A further report on arrangements for preparing a regional spatial plan will be provided to the Committee following the enactment of the legislation.
25. Council staff will report back to Council through the Environment and Planning Committee on the final version of the legislation once it becomes law.

Attachments

Attachment 6.1 – Select Committee Reports on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill are available [here](#) for the Planning Bill and [here](#) for the Natural Environment Bill

Attachment 6.2 – Summary diagrams of the new system architecture Page [14]

Attachment 6.3 – Timeline for RMA and Local Government Reforms produced by Simpson Grierson Page [16]

Author	Sarah Pearson, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy

⁴ [Climate Change Response Amendment Bill](#) introduced to the House on 15 July 2026.

⁵ Simplifying Local Government – Reforms 2026 – [Kaikōura votes to align with Marlborough for government reforms](#). 15 July 2026.

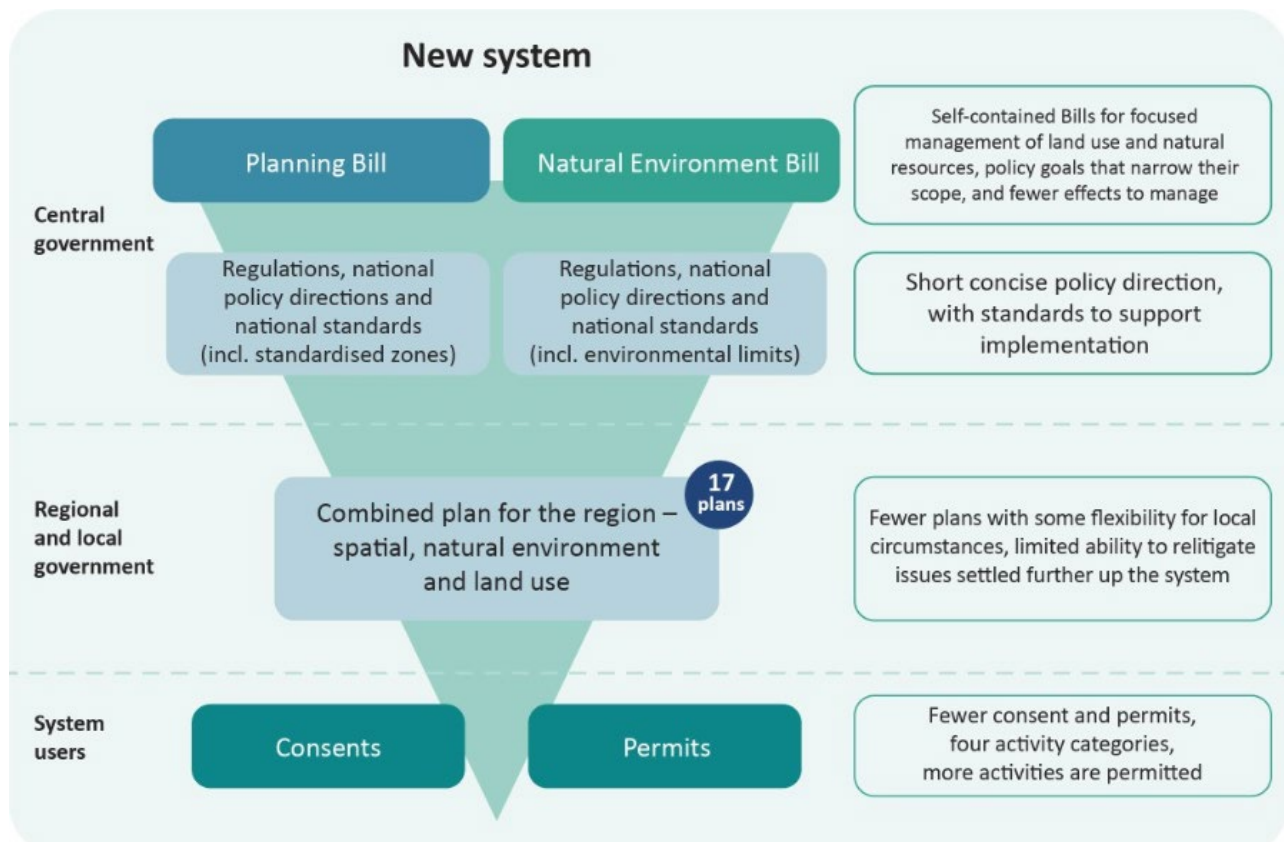
⁶ [Guidance for Head Start outline proposal](#) – Simplifying Local Government – Page 5. Department of Internal Affairs (now Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT)).

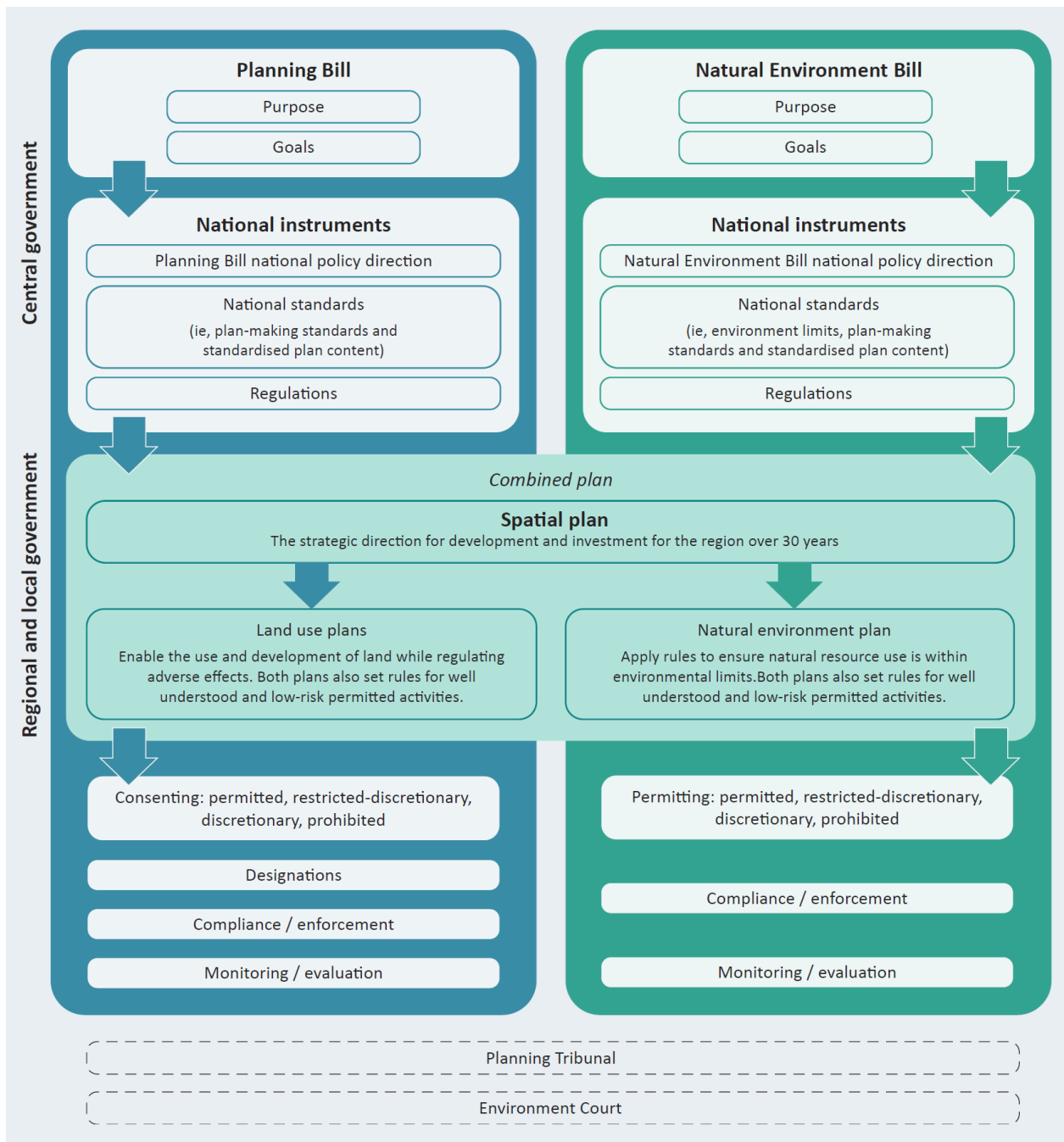
⁷ See the Select Committee reports commentary starting on page 143.

Attachment 6.2

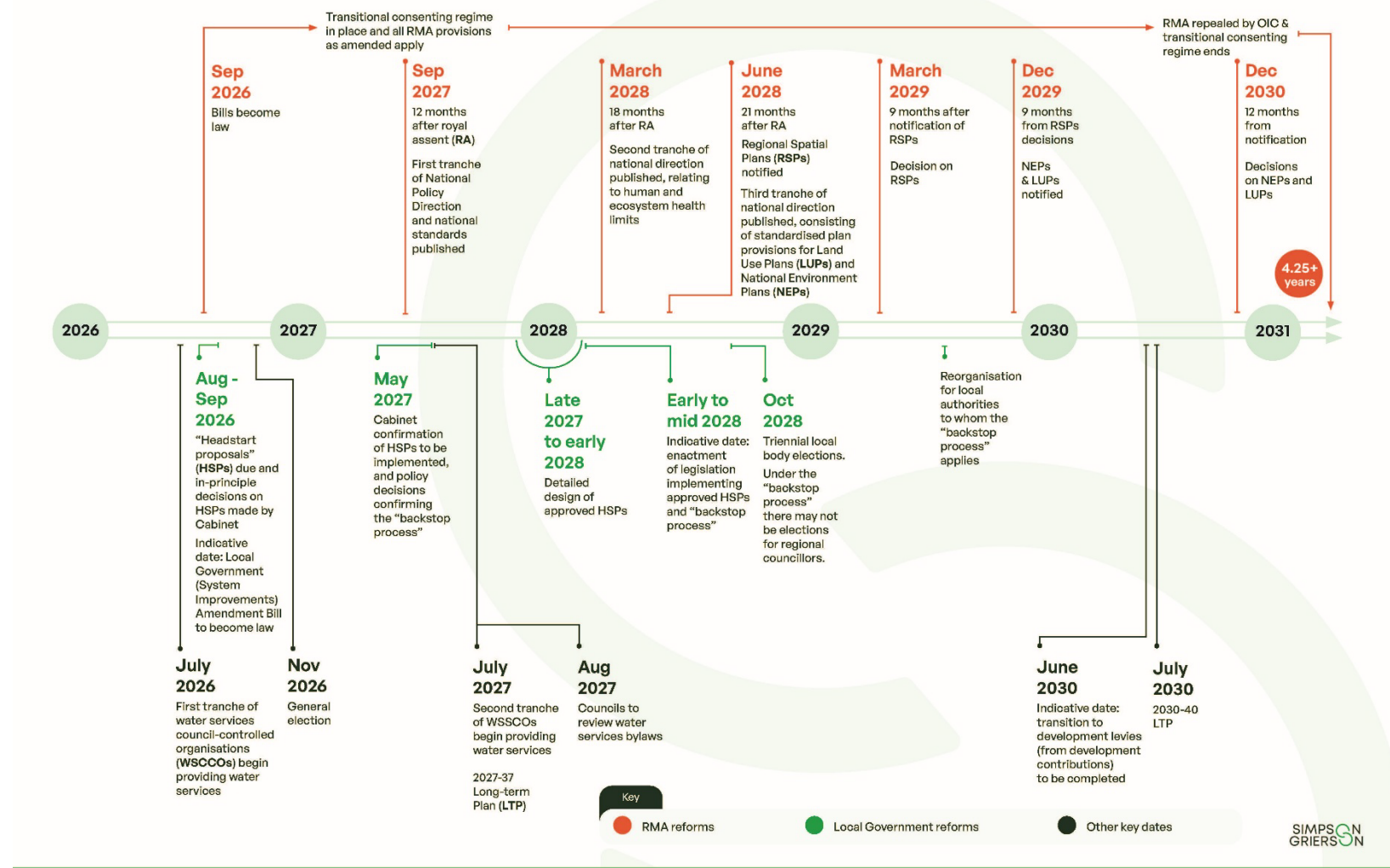
Summary diagrams of the new system architecture

Source - Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions& Transport – [Better planning for a better New Zealand](#)





Timeline for RMA & Local Government Reforms



7. Climate Change Response Amendment Bill

(Clr Hope) (Report prepared by Jamie Sigmund)

E320-003-001

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Council that the Climate Change Response Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament on 15 July 2026 and is expected to be referred to a Select Committee for public submissions.
2. To seek Council approval to establish a Climate Change Response Amendment Bill Sub-Committee to determine whether Council should make a submission on the Bill and, if appropriate, oversee preparation, approval and lodgement of that submission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Committee seek Council approval to establish a Climate Change Response Amendment Bill Sub-Committee comprising Clrs Hope, Hyndman and Croad.
3. That the Committee recommends Council delegate authority to the Sub-Committee to determine whether Council will make a submission on the Climate Change Response Amendment Bill, including approve the preparation and lodgement of any submission on behalf of Council, and represent Council during any Select Committee hearing process.

Climate Adaptation Planning Framework

3. The Bill proposes that territorial authorities prepare climate adaptation plans for priority locations identified through regional spatial planning processes. Adaptation plans would be required to:
 - Assess climate-related hazard risks over at least a 30-year planning horizon;
 - Identify adaptation objectives and preferred adaptation responses;
 - Establish implementation pathways and decision triggers;
 - Identify indicative funding and financing approaches; and
 - Provide monitoring, review and reporting mechanisms.
4. Collectively, these requirements shift adaptation planning beyond risk identification toward implementation planning and funding decisions, while improving integration with spatial planning, infrastructure planning and emergency management processes.

Emissions Trading Scheme

5. The Bill also includes amendments to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme focused on market governance, administrative efficiency, forestry flexibility and recognition of additional carbon removal activities. These changes are intended to improve market confidence and operational efficiency rather than introduce significant changes to the overall design of the ETS.

Implications for Council

Strategic Implications

6. The proposed adaptation planning provisions represent a significant shift in climate adaptation governance. The reforms would establish adaptation planning as a formal statutory responsibility for territorial authorities and strengthen integration between climate risk management, resilience, spatial planning, infrastructure planning and long-term investment decision-making.

7. The framework is directly relevant to Council's responsibilities relating to hazards, risk reduction, resilience, emergency management, infrastructure planning and community wellbeing.
8. Participation in the legislative process will enable Council to identify implementation issues and advocate for practical, workable, and sustainable arrangements for local government.

Financial and Implementation Implications

9. While the Bill provides greater clarity regarding adaptation planning responsibilities, significant uncertainty remains regarding funding arrangements, cost-sharing mechanisms, implementation expectations and liability settings. These matters are likely to be of particular interest to local government during the Select Committee process.
10. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. However, the proposed framework may generate future costs associated with hazard assessment, technical analysis, planning, community engagement, monitoring and implementation.

Next Steps

11. Subject to Council approval, officers will undertake a detailed assessment of the Bill and its implications for Council. If the Subcommittee determines that Council should make a submission, officers will prepare a draft submission for consideration by the Subcommittee.
12. The Subcommittee will review, amend and approve the final submission for lodgement and determine whether Council should present oral evidence during any Select Committee hearing process.
13. The results of this process will be brought back to a future Council meeting.

Author	Jamie Sigmund, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Climate Change Action Group Chair, Manager Environmental Policy

8. Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on Groundwater

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Clr Hope) (Report prepared by Jamie Sigmund)

E320-003-001

Purpose of Report

1. To receive the technical report 'Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on Groundwater, Lower Wairau River Plain', (Earth Sciences New Zealand, June 2026) [Attachment 8.1].

Executive Summary

2. This project is a deliverable identified by Council's Climate Change Action Plan [Item 11].
3. Earth Sciences New Zealand (under contract to Council) has produced an integrated surface water–groundwater assessment under a range of Climate Change futures, the assessment focuses on the Lower Wairau Plain area.
4. The assessment builds on an existing Council groundwater model, introducing new technical inputs to demonstrate how future climate change and relative sea level rise could affect groundwater systems within the model framework.
5. The technical report (and spatial files produced) provides a comprehensive assessment of possible future impacts.
6. The key conclusion is that groundwater systems across the Lower Wairau Plain will not respond uniformly. Inland 'groundwater' conditions (Southern Valleys and Wairau Aquifer) are expected to be influenced primarily by climate-driven changes in rainfall, recharge and river flows, while coastal groundwater systems (especially Rarangi Shallow Aquifer) become increasingly influenced by sea level rise.
7. Shallow coastal aquifers (RSA) are identified as the most sensitive environments, with modelled increases in groundwater levels and associated hazards becoming more pronounced under higher sea level rise, affecting associated drainage features away from the main river systems.
8. While the model is intended to inform sub-regional scale decision-making rather than site-specific predictions, it specifically identifies priority areas for future monitoring, appropriate risk assessment use, inputs to decision making associated with Regional Spatial Planning and future infrastructure investigation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background

9. Understanding future groundwater behaviour under climate change conditions is a key component of Council's Climate Change Action Plan.
10. The Lower Wairau Plain was prioritised because of its low-lying topography, economic reliance on groundwater resources, concentration of productive land uses, critical infrastructure and transport networks, drainage features, and number and value of private and public assets.

11. The 'Rising Groundwater' assessment forms one component of a broader all-hazard programme alongside coastal flooding and fluvial/pluvial flood modelling. Collectively, these investigations are intended to support future risk assessment, Regional Spatial Planning, Adaptation, and long-term decision-making.
12. The technical assessment developed an updated integrated groundwater model for the Lower Wairau Plain. Key improvements included:
 - Updated geological and hydrogeological information.
 - A refined four-layer groundwater model that better represents coastal aquifer systems.
 - Integration of river, drainage and groundwater features and processes.
 - Updated irrigation, recharge and water-use information.
 - Calibration against longer-term data
 - Observations of groundwater and streamflow monitoring data.
 - Assessment of model uncertainty and confidence in future projections.
13. Each model 'run' was tested against a range of future climate and sea level rise 'scenarios' extending to the end of the century.
14. Two Shared Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP) climate scenarios were modelled, SSP2-4.5M a medium-emissions scenario representing a future where global emissions stabilise and some mitigation occurs. And SSP3-7.0M a slightly higher-emissions scenario representing stronger climate change and higher future greenhouse gas concentrations. The extreme scenarios were not considered within the scope of this assessment.
15. Five Relative Sea Level Rise (RSLR) increments were assessed, these incorporated both projected ocean level rise and local vertical land movement assumptions: 0.2 m, 0.3 m, 1.0 m, 1.3 m, 1.9 m. this utilised Council updated hydro-dynamic model outputs for consistency.
16. Five time periods were used within the model assessment, one being a representation of a 'baseline' current day period, with four other periods representing a plausible future under future climate change conditions.
17. The assessment therefore compared a range of future conditions against a trusted set of baseline conditions, the spatial files (deliverable of the contract) representing the technical work are reflected in **Table 1** below.

Assessment Period	Climate Scenario	RSLR
Baseline (1995–2014)	Historical climate	Existing sea level
2030	SSP2-4.5M	0.2 m
2050 (2040–2059 climate period)	SSP3-7.0M	0.3 m
Late Century / 2130 (using 2080–2099 climate data)	SSP2-4.5M	1.0 m, 1.3 m, 1.9 m
Late Century / 2130 (using 2080–2099 climate data)	SSP3-7.0M	1.0 m, 1.3 m, 1.9 m

18. This assessment provides Council with an evidence base for understanding how the Lower Wairau groundwater systems may respond under a range of plausible future climate and sea level rise conditions.
19. In practical terms, the modelling tested how groundwater responds to changing rainfall, evapotranspiration and river inflows under future climate conditions.
20. How groundwater is likely to respond to rising sea levels, particularly along the coastal margin and coastal aquifers.

21. The combined effects of climate change and sea level rise on; groundwater levels, river-groundwater interactions, drainage feature performance, potential seawater intrusion, and groundwater-dependent infrastructure and land.

Key Findings

Inland groundwater systems

22. The assessment found that climate change is expected to be the dominant influence on inland groundwater conditions.
23. Projected changes in rainfall, recharge and river inflows result in generally small declines in groundwater levels across most inland locations, with the magnitude varying between climate scenarios.
24. Reductions in river flows are also projected for several key upstream catchments (Omaka, Fairhall, Taylor) reducing recharge to groundwater systems over time.

Coastal groundwater systems

25. The strongest groundwater response occurs near the coast.
26. Sea level rise is projected to increase groundwater levels in shallow coastal aquifers, raising groundwater tables and increasing the likelihood of groundwater emergence and associated land drainage issues. The effect is strongest close to the coast and diminishes inland.
27. Deep coastal aquifers appear substantially less sensitive than shallow groundwater systems, highlighting the importance of understanding vertical differences within the aquifer system.

Surface water and drainage networks

28. The modelling confirms that rivers, drains and groundwater are strongly interconnected.
29. Changes in groundwater conditions are expected to influence stream flows and drainage performance. Some low-lying drainage assets may experience reduced effectiveness as sea levels rise. In particular, the report identifies the potential for drainage functionality to be altered where sea level rise affects hydraulic gradients and coastal receiving environments.

Seawater intrusion risk

30. Although the current modelling does not directly simulate saline intrusion, it identifies shallow coastal groundwater systems as increasingly vulnerable under higher sea level rise scenarios.
31. The report therefore recommends enhanced monitoring and future modelling focused specifically on seawater intrusion processes.

Confidence and Limitations

32. The model performed well when compared against Council long-term groundwater levels and streamflow data and is considered 'fit for purpose' for strategic planning and scenario assessment.
33. Confidence is highest in the coastal areas that are the primary focus of the investigation and in areas with stronger monitoring coverage. Higher uncertainty remains in locations where monitoring data are sparse or hydrogeological complexity is greatest, this gap is highlighted within the presentation.
34. The report emphasises that outputs should be used to identify trends, patterns and relative changes rather than as precise predictions for individual sites or properties.

Implications for Council

35. This assessment provides Council with a strategic evidence base for long-term adaptation and risk management across the Lower Wairau Plain. The findings improve understanding of how climate

change and sea level rise are expected to influence groundwater systems, and how those changes may affect communities, infrastructure (drainage), natural systems, and productive land use over time.

36. The modelling highlights that groundwater will become an increasingly important consideration in climate adaptation planning, particularly within low-lying coastal areas where rising groundwater levels may compound existing flood, drainage, land use and infrastructure risks.
37. The assessment also strengthens Council's ability to incorporate groundwater impacts into future spatial planning, infrastructure investment decisions, freshwater management, hazard assessments, and Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning processes.
38. Importantly, the study identifies priority areas where improved monitoring and data collection would reduce uncertainty and support more informed decision-making. This is particularly relevant between SH1 and the coast, where projected groundwater changes are expected to be most significant and where existing monitoring coverage is limited.

Next Steps

39. The assessment identifies several science data collection related improvements that will improve Council's understanding of groundwater-related climate risks and strengthen its adaptive management capability.
40. Priority actions include using the model to identify the most valuable future monitoring investments, expanding groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring in vulnerable coastal areas, and improving the information available on groundwater use, recharge and aquifer behaviour. Collectively, these actions will help reduce uncertainty, improve early detection of emerging climate impacts, and strengthen the evidence base for future policy and investment decisions.
41. The report recommends further technical development of Council's groundwater modelling capability, including investigation of seawater intrusion processes and integration of groundwater thresholds and monitoring 'triggers' into future Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning.
42. While the report does not require any immediate policy or funding decisions, it represents a significant step forward in Council's understanding of future climate risk across the Lower Wairau Plain. These concepts and potential future resourcing requests will be integrated into future Long Term Plan consideration.
43. The assessment will be a key input into the all-hazard risk assessment process and adaptation planning workstreams, ensuring that groundwater impacts are considered alongside coastal, riverine and overland flooding risks (integrated management).
44. The technical assessment and presentation material will be made available on Council's website, with supporting communication material to be developed and shared with key stakeholders and system partners as resourcing allows.
45. The updated groundwater model has been provided to Council for data curation enabling future re-use.

Presentation

Short presentation from Dr Scott Stephens and Dr Jing Yang, (Earth Sciences New Zealand) outlining the technical assessments main findings – (20min)

Attachment

Attachment 8.1 - Assessment of the impact of climate change and sea level rise on groundwater (Lower Wairau River Plain), June 2026 report is available on Council's website [here](#)

Authors	Jamie Sigmund, Strategic Planner and Peter Davidson, Environmental Scientist – Groundwater.
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy, Chair Climate Change Working Group

9. High Intensity Rainfall Design System (HIRDS) 2025 Update

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Clr Hyndman) (Report prepared by Charlotte Tomlinson)

E320-002-001

Purpose of Report

1. To receive the HIRDS report and updated rainfall data prepared by Earth Sciences New Zealand (ESNZ) (Attachment 7.1).
-

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Executive Summary

2. Marlborough District Council commissioned ESNZ to update the High Intensity Rainfall Design System (HIRDS) rainfall surfaces for the Marlborough region, incorporating rainfall records up to 2024 and applying an improved rainfall modelling methodology. The updated dataset is referred to as HIRDS v4.2c.
3. HIRDS provides the rainfall frequency information used to develop design events for flood modelling, infrastructure design, stormwater management, and climate change assessments. The updated dataset will support Council's Floodplain Management, All-Hazards, Climate Change, and Risk Reduction work programmes.
4. The revised rainfall estimates result in notable spatial changes across the region compared with the previous HIRDS v4 dataset. Rainfall depths have generally decreased across the southern inland mountain ranges and increased across the Richmond and Bryant Ranges, Marlborough Sounds, and south-eastern coastal areas. Low-lying areas such as the Wairau Plain show relatively little change.
5. Within the Wairau River catchment, where most Council flood protection assets are located, rainfall estimates have decreased in southern tributary catchments and increased in northern tributaries originating from the Richmond Ranges.
6. The updated methodology provides a more accurate representation of extreme rainfall patterns, particularly in areas of complex terrain and at higher elevations. Compared against observed rainfall records, HIRDS v4.2c demonstrates reduced bias, lower error, and improved correlation relative to HIRDS v4.
7. The majority of the differences between HIRDS v4 and HIRDS v4.2c are attributable to improvements in the underlying methodology rather than the inclusion of additional rainfall observations.
8. The updated rainfall surfaces represent Council's current best estimate of extreme rainfall across Marlborough and will inform future flood modelling, floodplain management, infrastructure planning, climate adaptation, and risk reduction activities.

Background/Context

9. The High Intensity Rainfall Design System (HIRDS) is a national tool developed by Earth Sciences New Zealand (ESNZ) that provides statistical estimates of extreme rainfall at ungauged locations throughout New Zealand. The system provides rainfall depth and intensity estimates across a range of storm durations, recurrence intervals, and climate change scenarios.
10. Rainfall frequency data from HIRDS is used to develop design events for pluvial and fluvial flood assessments and is a key input into flood protection, stormwater, infrastructure, and climate change planning.
11. The most recent public release of HIRDS (Version 4) occurred in 2018 and incorporated rainfall records up to 2016. Since then, significant improvements have been made to the underlying methodology through national flood resilience research programmes.

HIRDS Update

12. MDC commissioned ESNZ to prepare updated HIRDS rainfall surfaces for Marlborough using the improved methodology and incorporating additional rainfall records through to 2024. The updated dataset is referred to as HIRDS v4.2c.
13. The updated dataset will be utilised across Council's Floodplain Management, All-Hazards, Climate Change, and Risk Reduction work programmes. It will also be incorporated into ongoing flood frequency, hydrological, and hydraulic investigations supporting Council's review of floodplain management approaches and flood protection infrastructure.
14. The revised methodology produces significant changes in estimated rainfall magnitudes, particularly in higher elevation areas. Compared against observed rainfall records, HIRDS v4.2c demonstrates improved performance relative to HIRDS v4, with reduced bias, lower absolute error, and higher correlation.

Compared with HIRDS v4

15. Rainfall estimates are generally lower across the Inland Kaikōura, Boddington, and Raglan Ranges, particularly for longer-duration storm events. Rainfall estimates are higher across the Richmond and Bryant Ranges, Marlborough Sounds, and south-eastern coastal areas. Low-lying areas, including the Wairau Plain, show relatively little change.
16. Within the Wairau River catchment, rainfall estimates have reduced in southern tributary catchments and increased in northern tributaries draining the Richmond Ranges. These changes will be progressively incorporated into future flood modelling and flood management assessments.
17. ESNZ advises that the majority of differences between HIRDS v4 and HIRDS v4.2c are attributable to improvements in the methodology, with only minor changes resulting from the inclusion of additional rainfall data. However, the inclusion of recent rainfall observations ensures the updated dataset reflects several significant rainfall events that have occurred since 2016.
18. Council's internal Hydrological Working Group, supported by Kastor Works Ltd, reviewed the updated dataset and provided technical feedback during its development to ensure the results aligned with local observations and understanding of catchment behaviour.

Next Steps

19. ESNZ is currently developing a national update to HIRDS (Version 5), which will incorporate the updated methodology and additional rainfall records from across New Zealand. The national release is anticipated in October 2026. Until the national release of HIRDS v5, Council will utilise HIRDS v4.2c as the most up-to-date rainfall dataset available for Marlborough. The updated dataset will continue to inform floodplain management, infrastructure planning, climate adaptation assessments, and regional risk reduction initiatives.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Charlotte Tomlinson (10 minutes).

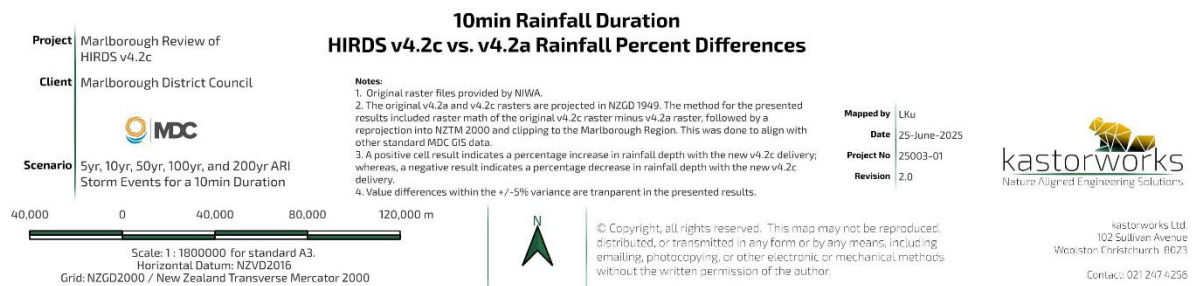
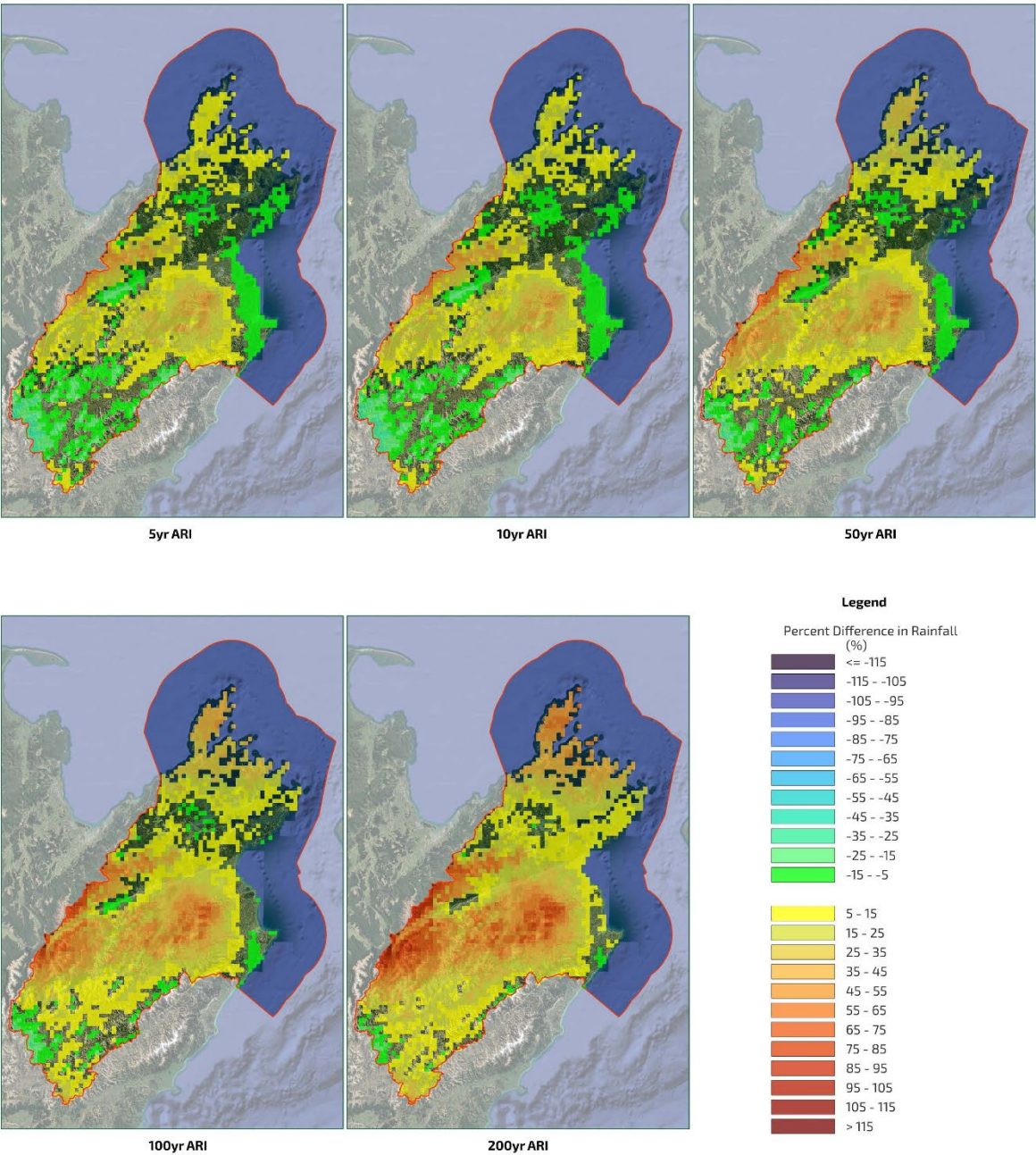
Attachments

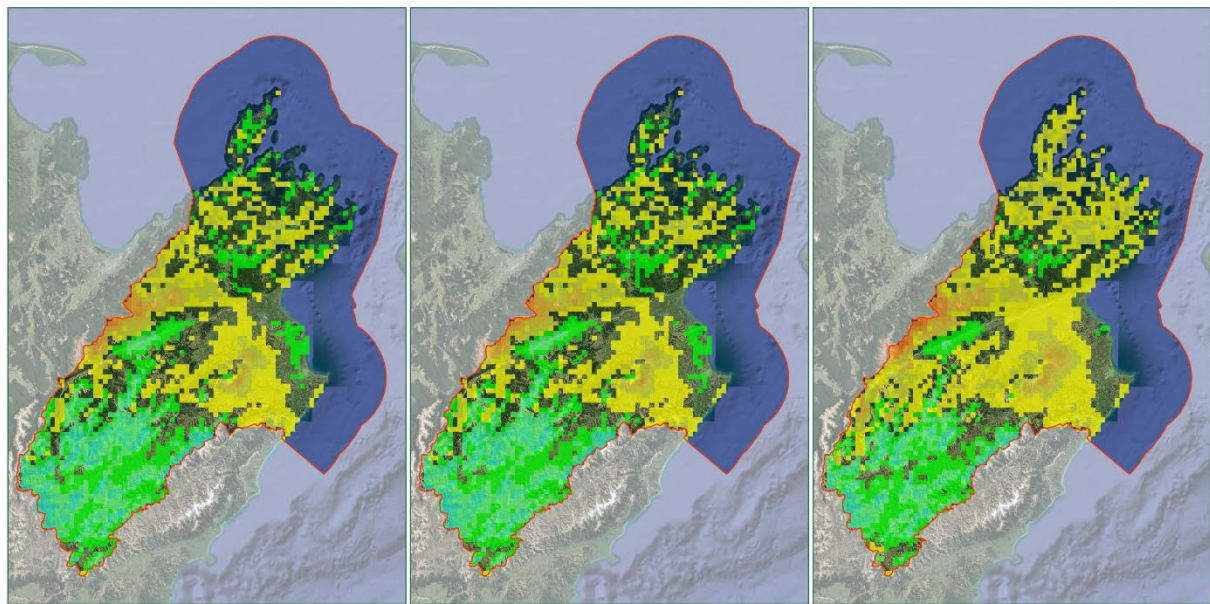
Attachment 9.1 – High Intensity Rainfall Design System (HIRDS) – 2025 Update for Marlborough District (Earth Sciences New Zealand) is available on Council's website [here](#)

Attachment 9.2 – Kastor Works Review of HIRDS v4.2c for MDC – Percent Difference Analysis page [25]

Author	Charlotte Tomlinson, Environmental Scientist - Hydrology
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Chair Climate Change Working Group, Manager Environmental Policy

Attachment 9.2

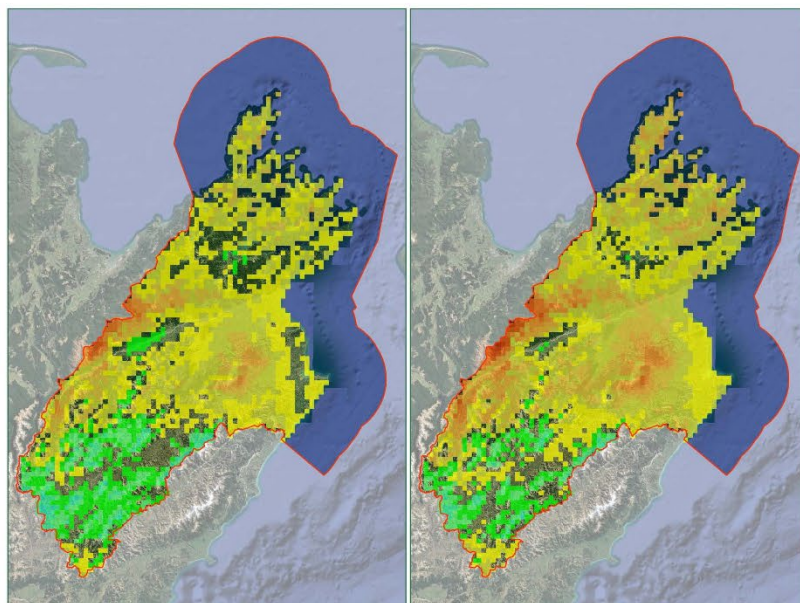




5yr ARI

10yr ARI

50yr ARI

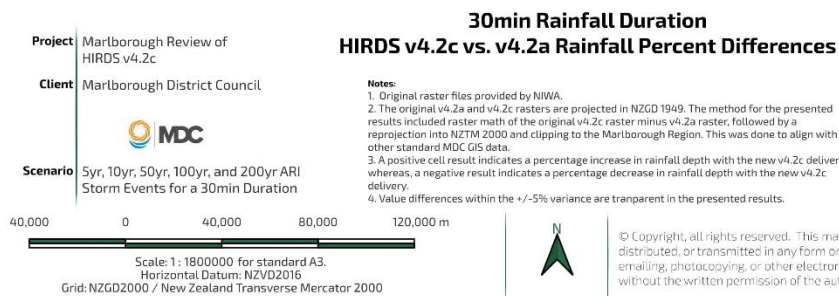
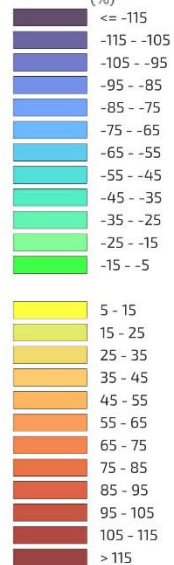


100yr ARI

200yr ARI

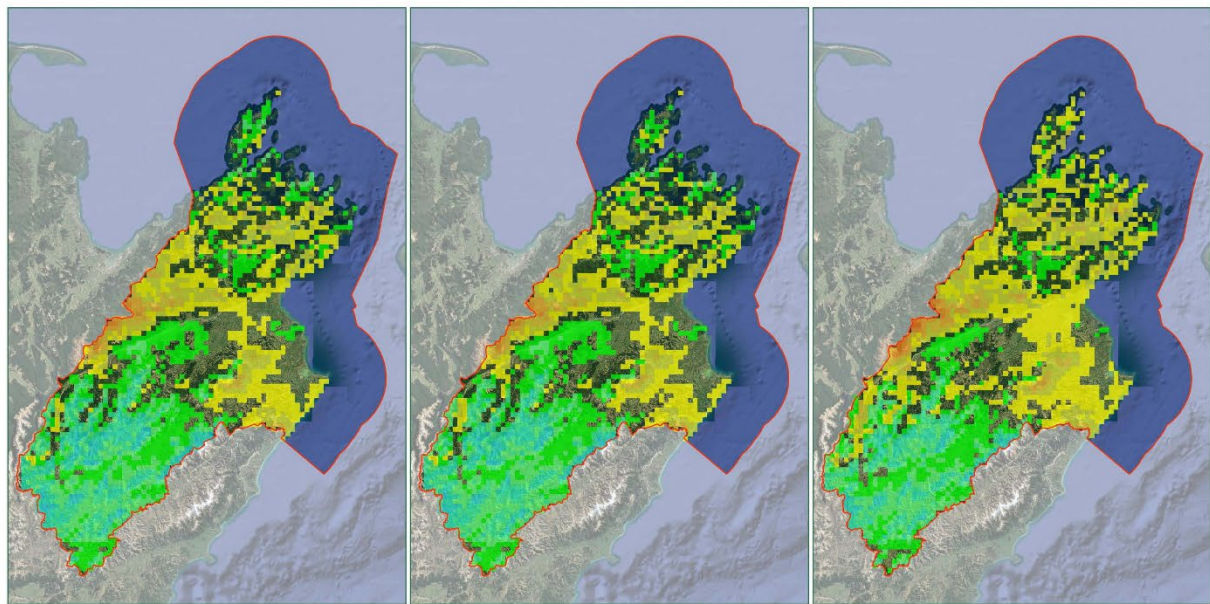
Legend

Percent Difference in Rainfall (%)



kastorworks
Nature Aligned Engineering Solutions

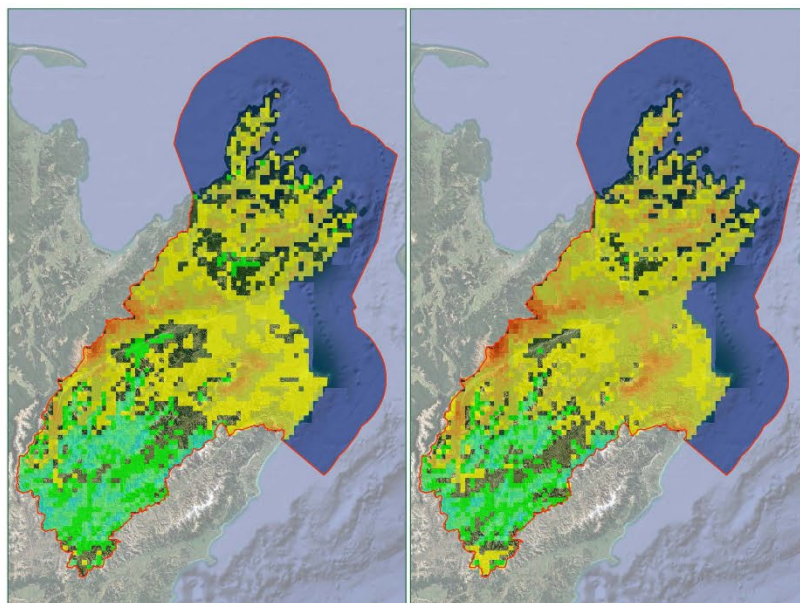
kastorworks Ltd.
102 Sullivan Avenue
Woolston Christchurch 8023
Contact: 021 247 4256



5yr ARI

10yr ARI

50yr ARI

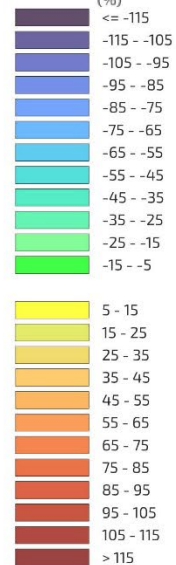


100yr ARI

200yr ARI

Legend

Percent Difference in Rainfall (%)



Project Marlborough Review of HIRDS v4.2c

Client Marlborough District Council



Scenario 5yr, 10yr, 50yr, 100yr, and 200yr ARI Storm Events for a 1hr Duration

1hr Rainfall Duration HIRDS v4.2c vs. v4.2a Rainfall Percent Differences

Notes:

1. Original raster files provided by NIWA.
2. The original v4.2a and v4.2c rasters are projected in NZGD 1949. The method for the presented results included raster math of the original v4.2c raster minus v4.2a raster, followed by a reprojection into NZTM 2000 and clipping to the Marlborough Region. This was done to align with other standard MDC GIS data.
3. A positive cell result indicates a percentage increase in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery; whereas, a negative result indicates a percentage decrease in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery.
4. Value differences within the +/-5% variance are transparent in the presented results.

Mapped by LKu
Date 25-June-2025
Project No 25003-01
Revision 2.0

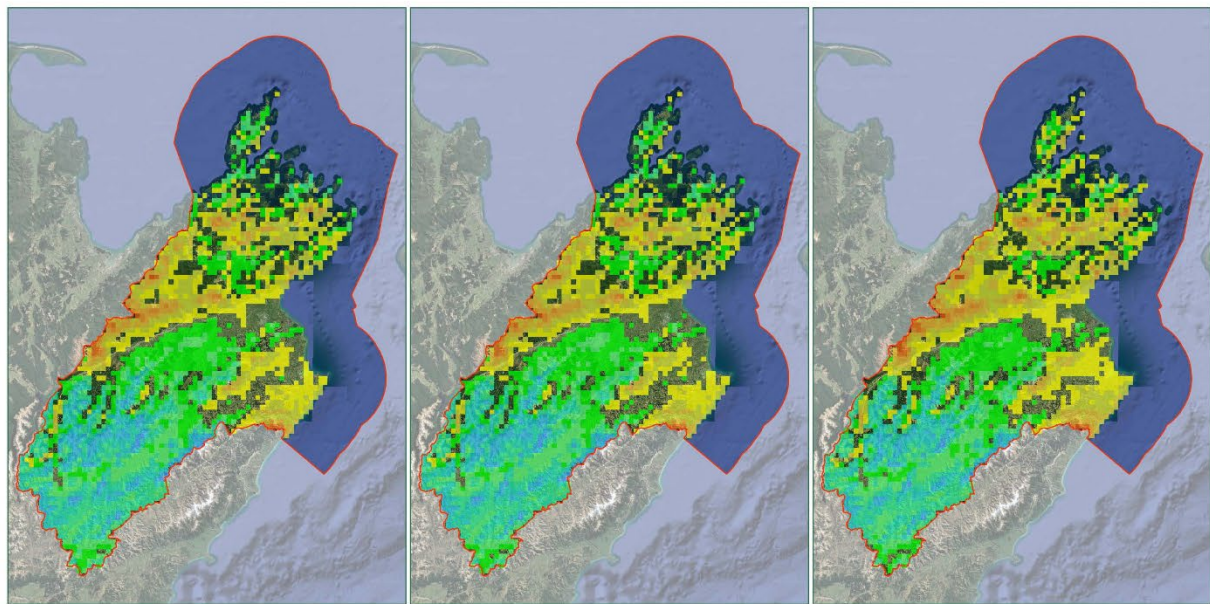


40,000 0 40,000 80,000 120,000 m
Scale: 1:1800000 for standard A3.
Horizontal Datum: NZVD2016
Grid: NZGD2000 / New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000



© Copyright, all rights reserved. This map may not be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including emailing, photocopying, or other electronic or mechanical methods without the written permission of the author.

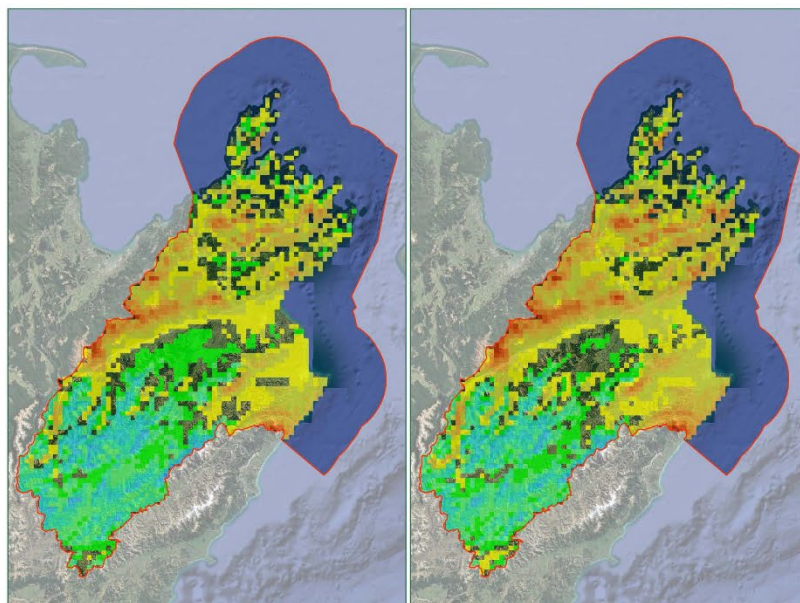
kastorworks Ltd.
102 Sullivan Avenue
Woolston Christchurch 8023
Contact: 021 247 4256



5yr ARI

10yr ARI

50yr ARI

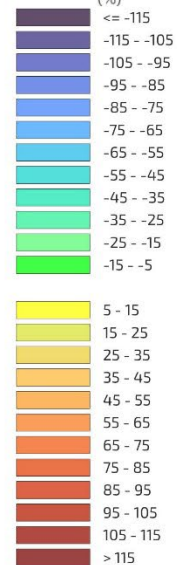


100yr ARI

200yr ARI

Legend

Percent Difference in Rainfall (%)



Project Marlborough Review of HIRDS v4.2c

Client Marlborough District Council



Scenario 5yr, 10yr, 50yr, 100yr, and 200yr ARI Storm Events for a 6hr Duration

6hr Rainfall Duration HIRDS v4.2c vs. v4.2a Rainfall Percent Differences

Notes:

1. Original raster files provided by NIWA.
2. The original v4.2a and v4.2c rasters are projected in NZGD 1949. The method for the presented results included raster math of the original v4.2c raster minus v4.2a raster, followed by a reprojection into NZTM 2000 and clipping to the Marlborough Region. This was done to align with other standard MDC GIS data.
3. A positive cell result indicates a percentage increase in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery; whereas, a negative result indicates a percentage decrease in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery.
4. Value differences within the +/-5% variance are transparent in the presented results.

Mapped by LKu
Date 25-June-2025
Project No 25003-01
Revision 2.0



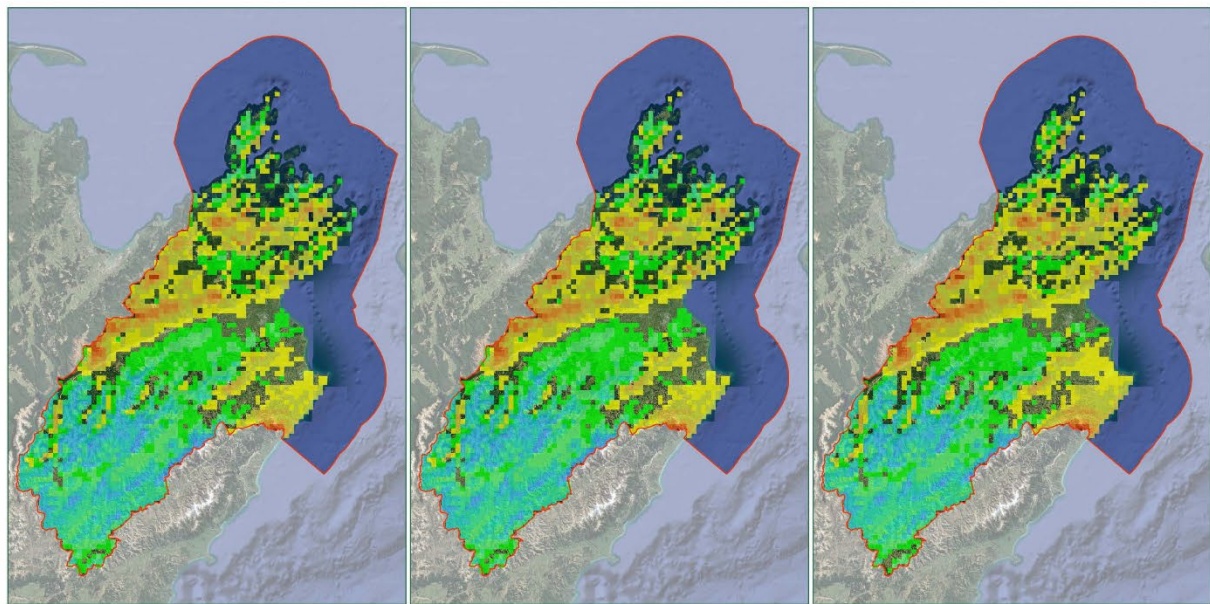
40,000 0 40,000 80,000 120,000 m

Scale: 1:1800000 for standard A3.
Horizontal Datum: NZVD2016
Grid: NZGD2000 / New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000



© Copyright, all rights reserved. This map may not be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including emailing, photocopying, or other electronic or mechanical methods without the written permission of the author.

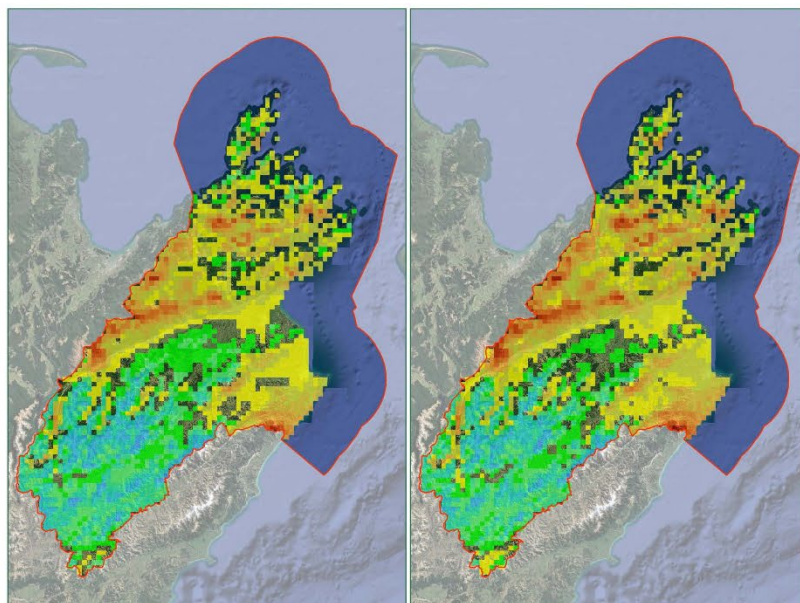
kastorworks Ltd.
102 Sullivan Avenue
Woolston Christchurch 8023
Contact: 021 247 4256



5yr ARI

10yr ARI

50yr ARI

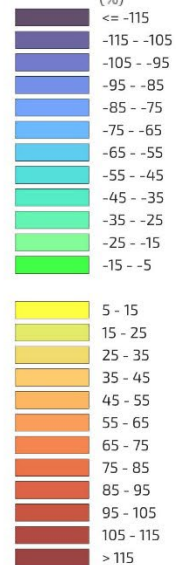


100yr ARI

200yr ARI

Legend

Percent Difference in Rainfall (%)



Project Marlborough Review of HIRDS v4.2c

Client Marlborough District Council



Scenario 5yr, 10yr, 50yr, 100yr, and 200yr ARI Storm Events for a 12hr Duration

12hr Rainfall Duration HIRDS v4.2c vs. v4.2a Rainfall Percent Differences

Notes:

1. Original raster files provided by NIWA.
2. The original v4.2a and v4.2c rasters are projected in NZGD 1949. The method for the presented results included raster math of the original v4.2c raster minus v4.2a raster, followed by a reprojection into NZTM 2000 and clipping to the Marlborough Region. This was done to align with other standard MDC GIS data.
3. A positive cell result indicates a percentage increase in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery; whereas, a negative result indicates a percentage decrease in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery.
4. Value differences within the +/-5% variance are transparent in the presented results.

Mapped by LKu
Date 25-June-2025
Project No 25003-01
Revision 2.0



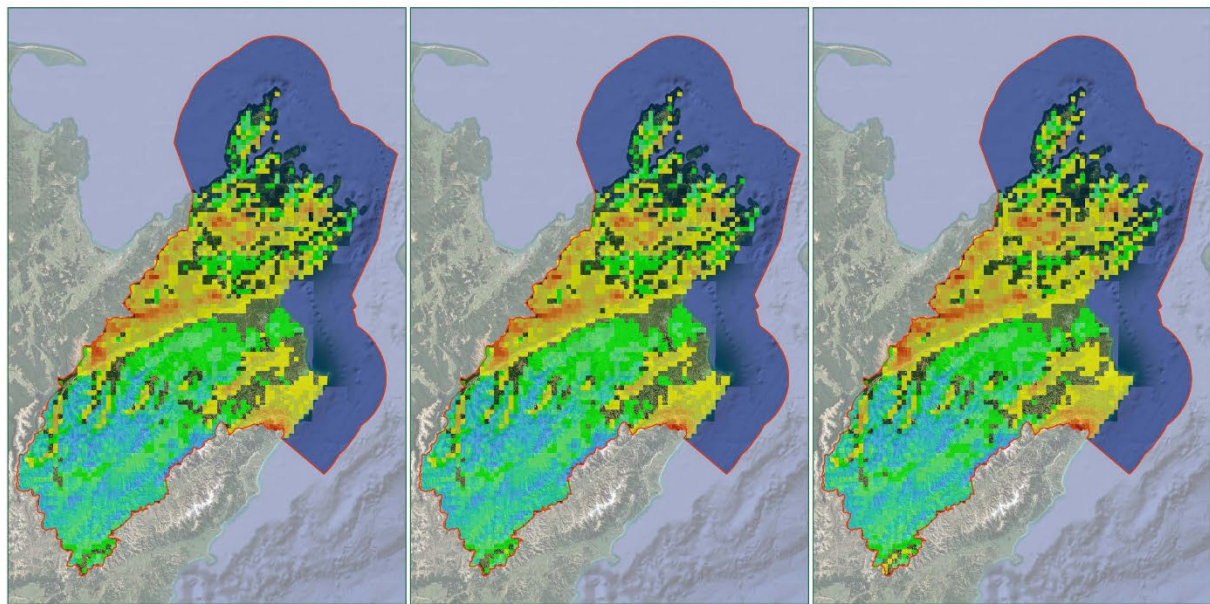
40,000 0 40,000 80,000 120,000 m

Scale: 1:1800000 for standard A3.
Horizontal Datum: NZVD2016
Grid: NZGD2000 / New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000



© Copyright, all rights reserved. This map may not be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including emailing, photocopying, or other electronic or mechanical methods without the written permission of the author.

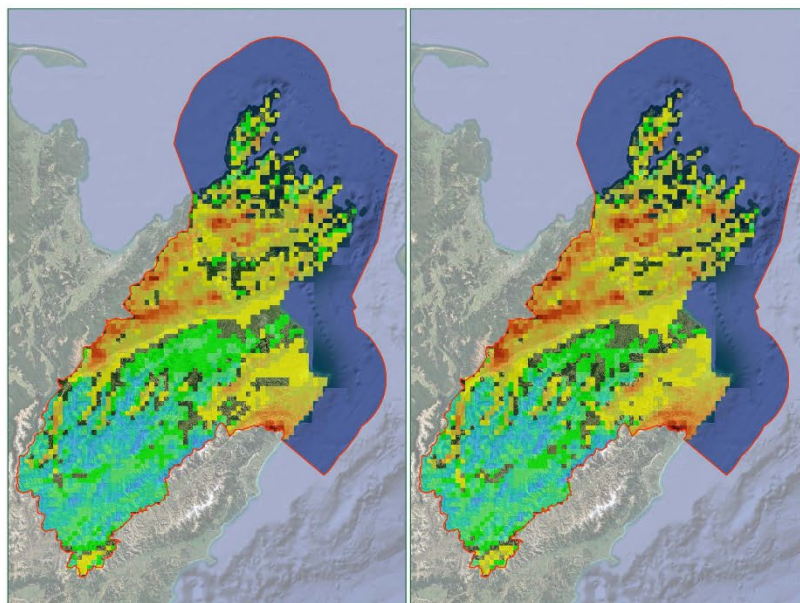
kastorworks Ltd.
102 Sullivan Avenue
Woolston Christchurch 8023
Contact: 021 247 4256



5yr ARI

10yr ARI

50yr ARI

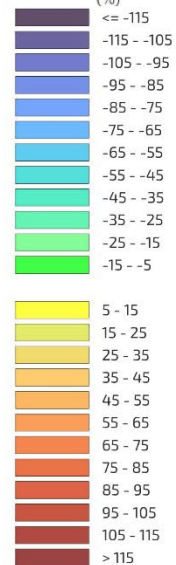


100yr ARI

200yr ARI

Legend

Percent Difference in Rainfall (%)



Project Marlborough Review of HIRDS v4.2c

Client Marlborough District Council



Scenario 5yr, 10yr, 50yr, 100yr, and 200yr ARI Storm Events for a 24hr Duration

24hr Rainfall Duration HIRDS v4.2c vs. v4.2a Rainfall Percent Differences

Notes:

1. Original raster files provided by NIWA.
2. The original v4.2a and v4.2c rasters are projected in NZGD 1949. The method for the presented results included raster math of the original v4.2c raster minus v4.2a raster, followed by a reprojection into NZTM 2000 and clipping to the Marlborough Region. This was done to align with other standard MDC GIS data.
3. A positive cell result indicates a percentage increase in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery; whereas, a negative result indicates a percentage decrease in rainfall depth with the new v4.2c delivery.
4. Value differences within the +/-5% variance are transparent in the presented results.

Mapped by LKu
Date 25-June-2025
Project No 25003-01
Revision 2.0



40,000 0 40,000 80,000 120,000 m

Scale: 1:1800000 for standard A3.
Horizontal Datum: NZVD2016
Grid: NZGD2000 / New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000



© Copyright, all rights reserved. This map may not be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including emailing, photocopying, or other electronic or mechanical methods without the written permission of the author.

kastorworks Ltd.
102 Sullivan Avenue
Woolston Christchurch 8023
Contact: 021 247 4256

10. Wairau Catchment Flood Frequency Assessment 2025

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Clr Hope) (Report prepared by Jamie Sigmund)

E320-002-001

Purpose of Report

1. To present the findings of the Wairau Catchment Flood Frequency Assessment Report 2025 (Separately attached).

Executive Summary

2. The technical report represents the first comprehensive update of flood frequency information for the Wairau River Catchment since 1993, incorporating additional river monitoring records collected over the intervening period.
 3. The assessment provides for flood frequency analysis across major sub-catchments within the wider Wairau Catchment.
 4. The technical report was delivered by Earth Sciences New Zealand, with the resultant analysis subject to internal technical review, including by members from Council's Hydrological Working Group (Science, Rivers, Policy and Infrastructure).
 5. The report provides a current and robust evidence base for understanding flood risk predictions, enabling Council to support future investment and broader planning decisions within the Wairau Catchment.
-

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Wairau Catchment Flood Frequency Assessment Report 2025 (Appendix A) be received.
 2. Endorses the specific use of the updated hydrological information within the Wairau River Scheme Review (Floodplain Management Plan), particularly as it applies to Levels of Service for @Barnetts Bank (5,850 m³/s), and @Taylor River (200 m³/s).
-

Background

6. The Wairau Catchment is Marlborough's largest river system and is central to the region's flood management framework.
7. Previous flood frequency analyses have informed decision-making for many years; however, substantial additional hydrological data has become available since the last assessment (1993), including several large flood events that have influenced the 'spread' and statistical distribution of predicted flood frequency.
8. Given the technical nature of the report, the focus of this update is not on the detailed hydrological methodology, but on the strategic significance of the work, the assurance processes undertaken, and its key messaging in its application across Council.
9. This work was contracted to Earth Sciences New Zealand (formerly NIWA) as part of a broader programme of work considering the future impact Natural Hazards and Climate Change exacerbated hazards. The Coastal Flooding - Sea Level Rise, and Rising Groundwater components have been reported to Committee. The Fluvial / Pluvial Flooding work is still in progress.
10. The next stage of this all-hazard work is to better understand the risk and cascading impact of 'all-hazards', rather than focusing Council efforts on standalone hazards. This will involve an assessment

of risk via a systematic approach, spatially considering priority locations associated with risk, of note is the creation of a Risk Reduction sub-group to help facilitate this process.

11. It is important to note that the updated FFA assessment does not account for the effects of Climate Change, even though climate change is expected to affect the frequency and intensity of rainfall events in New Zealand.

Key Findings

12. This assessment provides Council with a comprehensive update to Wairau River catchment flood frequency information, incorporating an additional three decades of river monitoring data.
13. The assessment strengthens the evidence base that underpins river management particularly as it incorporates new records of large flood events that have occurred, particularly in the last ten years of record.
14. For the first time sub-catchments within the Wairau catchment have been assessed within a consistent flood frequency framework, improving Council's understanding of flood risk across the wider catchment. The following sites are identified within the FFA assessment:
 - a. Taylor @Borough Weir
 - b. Taylor River @Hutcheson Street
 - c. Omaka @Gorge
 - d. Opawa @Blicks Lane
 - e. Wairau @Hells Gate
 - f. Wairau @Dip Flat
 - g. Wye @Thompsons Gorge
 - h. Goulter @Horsehoe Bend
 - i. Tuamarina @Para Road
 - j. Are Are Creek @Tuamarina Track
 - k. Onamalutu @Briggs Road Ford (combined)
 - l. Branch @Recorder (combined)
 - m. Waihopai @Craiglochart (combined)
 - n. Wairau @Barnetts Bank (combined)
15. The technical report provides a description of each river catchment (**a-n**), monitoring location, summary of large event history, included is a summary of maximum annual peak flow for each site, with an associated 'fitted frequency distribution' outlining the spread of flood event size. Each site also has an estimated peak flow for selected return periods using the distribution graphs presented for each site, this data is presented as a 'return period'.
16. The work has undergone a robust technical assurance process both through deliver via Earth Sciences New Zealand and an internal review by Council's Hydrological Working Group, providing confidence in its future application.

17. In most cases the statistical method of 'Generalised Extreme Value' (GEV) distribution provides the best-fit for modelling annual maximum flood peaks and their corresponding return periods at site. The technical report provides for the full range of statistical best-fit return rates (curves) and potential flood flows for all sites considered (each site has an assessment of best-fit statistical curve, and a recommendation best-fit flood curve).
18. Barnett's Bank is used by Council as the benchmark flood level of service indicator for the Wairau River. Council staff requested additional work be carried out on data associated with this site to build trust in the data presented.
19. As part of this rigorous process additional statistical tests were used by Earth Sciences and the Council team to test the data presented. A focus of this was targeted at evaluating the historical time series presented in 1993, and to understand the impact of the new data on the latest technical findings, the report documents this additional work, observations, and recommendations.

Level of Service Implications

20. The Wairau Valley Floodways Scheme was established in 1994 to provide flood protection against 1 in 100 year Annual Recurrence Interval (ARI) flood events in the Wairau and Taylor/ Ōpaoa Rivers; this continues to be the Level of Service provided for by Council's Flood Protection Scheme – an ARI not a prescribed flow.
21. The 1994 Floodways Scheme was informed by Council's 1993 Wairau River Flood Frequency Analysis which established 1 in 100 year ARI peak flows of 5,500 m³/s for the Wairau River at Barnett's Bank, and 170 m³/s for the Taylor River at Hutcheson Bridge.
22. This updated Flood Frequency Analysis, now establishes a 1 in 100 year ARI peak flow of 5,850 m³/s for the Wairau River at Barnett's Bank, this does not constitute a change in Level of Service as the measure is ARI not flow.
23. The updated Flood Frequency Analysis also establishes a 1 in 100 year ARI peak flow of 200 m³/s for the Taylor River at Hutcheson Bridge, this does not constitute a change in Level of Service as the measure is ARI not flow.
24. Design Flows adopted for the Wairau and Taylor Rivers in 1994 were equal to their respective 1 in 100 year ARI peak flows with a small additional margin for freeboard. Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that the Flood Scheme will need improvements to the level of flood protection required of it at locations along its length.
25. With Council already under way with its comprehensive review of the Wairau Valley Floodways Scheme through the Wairau River Floodplain Management Plan Project; the consequences of this change can, and will be fully assessed to ensure the ongoing viability of the scheme.
26. An assessment of effects is currently in development under the direction of Council's Chief Rivers Engineer, and will be provided to Council in the coming months, along with recommendations for immediate, interim, and longer term mitigation measures.

Next Steps

27. The updated flood frequency information will be incorporated across Council programmes to ensure a consistent hydrological foundation for future planning, investment and risk management decisions.
28. In the near term, the assessment will inform the Wairau River Scheme Review and Taylor River Flood Capacity Assessment, supporting evaluation of flood protection scheme 'system' performance, levels of service review, river flood capacity, and future design optioneering and investment requirements.
29. The updated information will also provide key hydrological inputs and boundary conditions for a future Blenheim Urban Stormwater Model ensuring stormwater planning, network performance assessments are based on the best available flood information.

30. More broadly, the FFA assessment will strengthen the evidence base used across Council's all-hazards risk and risk reduction work programme, supporting a more consistent understanding of flood risk and its implications for community resilience, infrastructure planning and future risk reduction priorities.
31. To maintain the integrity and relevance of the flood frequency information, it is recommended that the Flood Frequency Assessment be reviewed and updated on a 10-year cycle, reflecting new hydrological data, land-use changes, and evolving flood patterns across the catchment.
32. An earlier review should also be considered following any significant regional flood event, particularly where a flood with an Annual Exceedance Probability of 2% or less (1-in-50-year event) is recorded across multiple catchments, as this may indicate a material change in regional flood characteristics.
33. Future assessments should also explore seasonal flood frequency analysis, particularly to improve understanding of extreme rainfall events such as ex-tropical cyclones, and progressively incorporate climate change considerations, including trend analysis, climate-adjusted hydrological modelling, non-stationary flood frequency methods, and scenario testing.
34. Officers have also recommended that a Flood Frequency Analysis should be considered for North Marlborough and remaining South Marlborough Catchments not covered by this assessment, enabling the same insights for broader regional hazard, risk and risk-reduction work.
35. Together, these actions will help ensure that Council's flood management information remains robust, defensible and fit for purpose for long-term spatial planning, risk management, infrastructure planning, climate adaptation, and resilience decision-making.

Attachment

Attachment 10.1 - Flood Frequency for the Wairau Catchment, April 2026 is available on Council's website [here](#)

Author	Jamie Sigmund, Strategic Planner and Andy White, Chief Rivers Engineer
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy, Chair Climate Change Working Group.

11. Climate Change & Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28 Progress Report

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Clr Hope) (Report prepared by Jamie Sigmund)

E320-003-001

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Committee with the first progress report on implementation of the Marlborough Climate Change & Adaptation Action Plan (2024/25-2027/28).
 2. To present a high-level summary of delivery progress, key achievements, implementation challenges, emerging strategic opportunities, and future priorities (15min presentation).
-

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Executive Summary

3. The Marlborough Climate Change & Adaptation Action Plan (2024/25-2027/28) was adopted by Council on 13 March 2025. This report provides the first progress update at the midpoint of implementation.
4. The Action Plan contains 85 actions across four topic areas:
 - Climate Change
 - Natural Hazards Exacerbated by Climate Change
 - Adaptation, Vulnerability, Risk and Resilience
 - Emissions, Renewable Energy and Waste
5. Implementation is progressing across all programme areas, with several key foundational projects completed and many related actions either completed or on track.
6. The first two years of the programme have focused on strengthening Council's climate change capability, improving the evidence base for decision-making, supporting national policy development, and establishing the foundations required for future risk assessment and adaptation planning.
7. Significant achievements include completion of:
 - Lower Wairau Coastal Inundation and Sea-Level Rise Hydrodynamic Modelling
 - Rising Groundwater under Climate Change investigations
 - Closed Landfill Climate Risk Assessments
 - Lower Wairau Geomorphological under Climate Change conditions
 - Environmental Monitoring Resilience Improvements
8. These projects have materially improved Council's understanding of current and future climate and hazard-related risks and provide a stronger evidence base for infrastructure planning, environmental management, spatial planning, emergency management, and long-term investment decision-making.

9. Progress to date demonstrates that Council is transitioning from a programme primarily focused on information gathering and capability building toward one increasingly focused on risk assessment, resilience planning, and adaptation decision-making.
10. While implementation remains positive, several challenges continue to influence programme delivery. These include resource constraints, future funding requirements, technical dependencies between projects, and uncertainty associated with ongoing national reforms relating to climate adaptation, resource management, and local government functions.
11. A key future milestone for the programme remains the development of a comprehensive climate and natural hazard risk assessment. This work will provide the foundation for future adaptation planning, resilience investment, and strategic decision-making across Council.

Programme Delivery Overview

12. Implementation of the Action Plan is coordinated through the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), chaired by the Head of Environmental Policy. The Working Group includes representatives from across Council and provides oversight, coordination, and integration of climate-related work programmes.
13. To support programme monitoring and reporting, Attachment 11.1 includes an updated implementation schedule with the following status classification inserted (refer to attachment 11.1):
 - **Completed:** Action delivered.
 - **On Track:** Progressing as planned.
 - **Delayed / At Risk:** Progress is behind schedule or delivery risks have been identified.
 - **Yet to Start:** Work has not commenced.
14. Where the Working Group has proposed amendments to 'actions', these are shown in **red** text within the updated programme plan. New actions proposed by the Working Group are included within the relevant programme topic areas and identified in **bold**. Below are two summary tables detailing overall progress to date.

Table 1: 2024/25 Action Plan data summary

Completed	9
On Track	1
Delayed / At Risk	3
Yet to Start	0

Table 2: 2025/2026 Action Plan data summary

Completed	8
On Track	5
Delayed / At Risk	6
Yet to Start	1

15. Implementation remains aligned with the Action Plan's five strategic objectives; the following summaries are presented for the committee highlighting matters of strategic importance.

Objective 1: Accelerating Council's Climate Change Response

16. Implementation is now well underway across all programme areas. A significant focus has been placed on establishing the scientific, technical, and organisational foundations necessary to support future climate-related decision-making. Several priority projects have now been completed, providing critical information for future planning and investment decisions.
17. Key achievements include:
- Completion of Lower Wairau Coastal Inundation and Sea-Level Rise Modelling.
 - Completion of Rising Groundwater under Climate Change investigations.
 - Completion of Lower Wairau Geomorphology under Climate Change conditions.
 - Completion of Tsunami and Coastal Inundation Loss Modelling (in partnership with Rangitāne and Natural Hazards Commission).
 - Completion of Environmental Monitoring Resilience Improvements.
18. Collectively, these projects improve Council's understanding of future climate and hazard impacts while strengthening its ability to respond proactively to emerging risks.

Objective 2: Supporting Informed Decision-Making

19. Strong progress has occurred in climate science, hazard assessment, and environmental information gathering. The programme has focused on improving understanding of: Sea-level rise and coastal inundation, coastal storm flooding, rising groundwater influences, future geomorphological change, flood frequency and hydrological behaviour, high-intensity rainfall events, and Infrastructure vulnerability.
20. This work is strengthening the evidence base required for informed decision-making and helping to reduce uncertainty around future climate and hazard-related risks.
21. Several important projects remain underway, including; hydrological flood modelling, environmental monitoring improvements, and the Wairau River Scheme Review (floodplain management plan). These projects will continue to improve Council's understanding of climate and hazard risks and support future investment, planning, and management decisions.

Objective 3: Investigating Future Risks, Challenges and Opportunities

22. The Action Plan is designed to progressively improve Council's understanding of current and future exposure to climate and natural hazard (all-hazard) risks across the Marlborough region.
23. While substantial progress has been made in establishing the necessary evidence base, the programme has not yet transitioned into a comprehensive climate and natural hazard risk assessment phase. This remains a critical future milestone and a key dependency for adaptation planning, resilience investment, and long-term strategic decision-making.
24. The proposed Climate Change and Natural Hazard Risk Assessment will help Council better understand: Hazard exposure, community and infrastructure vulnerability, cascading and compounding risks, existing mitigation effectiveness, residual risk, adaptation requirements, and potential investment priorities.
25. The Risk Assessment (**Action 35**) therefore remains one of the most strategically significant projects within the Action Plan. Progress has been made through securing funding via the 2025/2026 Annual Plan and formation of a Risk Reduction Sub-Group to support programme development and integration across Council and partner organisations.

26. Procurement delays associated with specialist risk assessment software have created implementation challenges and contribute to the current "Delayed / At Risk" status. Officers continue to work through these issues.

Objective 4: Participating in National Policy Development

27. The Action Plan contributes to delivery of New Zealand's broader climate change framework at the local level and supports national adaptation and emissions reduction objectives through Council-led actions. Council continues to monitor and engage with significant national policy and legislative developments, including:
- National Adaptation Plan implementation
 - Proposed Climate Adaptation legislation
 - Emergency Management reform
 - Resource Management reform including Regional Spatial Planning
 - Emissions Reduction Plans
 - National Waste and Energy initiatives
 - Local Government reform initiatives
28. Participation in these processes helps ensure Marlborough remains informed, prepared, and responsive to future legislative requirements and strategic obligations as they emerge.

Objective 5: Collaboration, Engagement and Communication

29. Implementation of the Action Plan continues to strengthen collaboration both within Council and across external organisations.

Internal Council Coordination

- Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)
- Stormwater Action Group (SAG)
- Hydrological Working Group
- Marlborough Emergency Management (MEM) and Coordinated Emergency Group (CEG)
- Regional Land Transport Plan (Technical Advisory Group)

Regional and National Collaboration

- Climate Change and Natural Hazard Risk Management networks
 - Natural Hazards and Resilience Platform (MBIE)
 - Earth Sciences New Zealand (formerly NIWA and GNS)
 - Natural Hazards Commission (NHC)
 - Aotearoa Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP)
 - Community, Iwi and Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships
 - Climate Karanga Marlborough
30. As the programme progresses into risk assessment and adaptation planning, engagement with communities, iwi, stakeholders, infrastructure providers, and system partners will become increasingly important to ensure adaptation responses are informed, coordinated, and appropriately integrated.

Strategic Opportunities Emerging

31. Implementation to date has highlighted several strategic opportunities for Council.
32. **Climate Information Integration** - Significant volumes of new climate and hazard information are now being generated. Opportunities exist to better integrate this information into: Smart Maps, LIM processes, infrastructure planning, asset management planning, strategic planning, policy development, Long-Term Plan decision-making. Improving information integration will help ensure emerging risks are consistently considered across Council functions.
33. **Risk-Based Decision-Making** - A recurring theme emerging from completed projects is the need for a consistent organisational approach to understanding, assessing, and communicating climate and hazard risk. Future risk assessment work presents an opportunity to establish: Consistent planning assumptions, shared understanding and common language, risk tolerability settings, common assessment methodologies, adaptation triggers, investment priorities, shared organisational, system partner, and community understanding of risk.
34. **Infrastructure and Financial Strategy** - Climate and hazard information will increasingly influence: Asset management planning, infrastructure resilience, levels of service, insurance considerations, capital investment decisions, Long-Term Plan priorities. Climate and hazard considerations are now beginning to be reflected within key strategic planning instruments, including the Long-Term Plan and Regional Land Transport Plan, and Council operational values.
35. **Preparing for Future Adaptation Requirements** - National policy signals continue to indicate increasing expectations regarding climate adaptation planning. The Action Plan provides an opportunity for Council to proactively strengthen organisational capability, improve understanding of future risks, explore adaptation pathways, and identify future funding requirements. This work supports better decision-making in the future and does not pre-determine future adaptation decisions or investment commitments.
36. Other emerging issues – other climate change initiatives relating to matters such as waste minimisation, emission controls, the electrification of vehicle fleets and installation of solar energy will be address through other programmes.

Delivery Risks and Constraints

37. **Resourcing** - Programme delivery continues to rely largely on existing operational budgets and staff availability (no consequential allowances have been made for recent work). As implementation progresses from planning and investigation into risk assessment, adaptation planning, and implementation, additional funding and organisational capacity may be required to maintain programme momentum. At present, no dedicated budget exists for climate change adaptation or risk reduction activities.
38. **Technical Dependencies** - Several actions are dependent on completion of foundational investigations before subsequent work can proceed. In particular, hydrological flood modelling remains a critical prerequisite for future risk assessment, adaptation planning, and resilience investment decisions. These dependencies influence delivery timing and contribute to several actions being identified as "Delayed / At Risk".
39. **Funding Availability** - A number of future projects identified within the Action Plan currently remain unfunded and may require future consideration through Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan processes. Without additional funding, some actions will remain delayed or yet to commence.
40. **National Reform Uncertainty** - The scale and pace of legislative and institutional reform affecting local government remains significant. Relevant reforms include: Climate Adaptation, Emergency Management, Infrastructure delivery, Resource Management, Rates reform, Local Government Simplification initiatives. These reforms create uncertainty regarding statutory obligations, future responsibilities, regulatory requirements, and implementation expectations. Officers continue to monitor developments and maintain flexibility where possible.

Next Steps

41. As implementation matures, the programme focus will increasingly shift from information gathering and capability building toward risk assessment, adaptation planning, resilience outcomes, and integration into Council decision-making processes, priority next steps include:
42. Complete priority climate change and hazard investigations to address key evidence gaps (connection to HDA process).
43. Advance the Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment to improve understanding of future risks and impacts (new action).
44. Progress Wairau Catchment hydrological and flood modelling and complete flood frequency assessments for the remainder of the region.
45. Commence an all-hazards risk assessment to inform future adaptation priorities and resilience investment.
46. Identify priority adaptation locations through risk, exposure, and vulnerability assessment.
47. Advance risk-informed spatial planning through the Regional Spatial Planning process.
48. Embed climate and hazard risk and resilience considerations across long-term planning, asset management, infrastructure strategies, and transport planning to guide strategic investment decisions, support long-term service delivery, and maximise infrastructure outcomes.
49. Develop climate monitoring and reporting systems to track emerging risks and environmental change over time.
50. Identify future funding, capability, and resource requirements (LTP 2027/28).
51. Strengthen communication, engagement, and stakeholder participation.
52. Continue engagement with national policy and legislative reform programmes.
53. Shift programme reporting toward measurable resilience outcomes, risk reduction outcomes, and evidence of improved decision-making.
54. Collectively, these actions will strengthen Council's ability to understand, manage, and respond to climate and hazard risks while supporting more informed investment, planning, and resilience decisions across the Marlborough region.
55. Future reporting will increasingly focus on demonstrating measurable progress toward improved resilience, reduced risk exposure, and better long-term outcomes for communities, infrastructure, and the environment.

Attachment

Attachment 11.1 - Progress Report on the Marlborough Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan is available on Council's website [here](#)

Author	Jamie Sigmund, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy, Chair of Climate Change Working Group.

12. Proposed Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment

(Cllr Hope) (Report prepared by Jamie Sigmund)

E320-003-001

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the proposal to scope a Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment.

Executive Summary

1. Climate change is increasingly influencing decisions relating to land use, water resources, infrastructure, hazards, environmental management, and regional development, this is reflected in the critical assumptions being developed in support of Councils next Long-Term Plan.
2. While Marlborough has benefited from a range of climate-related studies, datasets, and investigations, these have generally been developed to address specific issues, sectors, or geographic areas. Council currently lacks an integrated and regionally consistent evidence base that brings together climate-related risks, impacts, and opportunities across water resources, natural hazards, infrastructure, ecosystems, communities, and economic sectors. This limits the ability to apply a consistent set of assumptions and information when making long-term planning and investment decisions.
3. The Climate Change Working Group has identified this as a strategic gap and recommended investigation of a Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment as a new priority action within the Climate Change Action Plan.
4. Earth Sciences New Zealand recently completed a Climate Change Impact Assessment for Southland. While Marlborough's environmental, economic, and planning context differs significantly, the project demonstrates how climate projections can be translated into decision-support information relevant to infrastructure, water resources, hazards, ecosystems, communities, and economic sectors. Preliminary discussions indicate a Marlborough assessment could build on this approach while reflecting local priorities, emerging science, and region-specific risks.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the proposed development of a Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment.

Background

5. Marlborough faces a range of climate-related pressures that are expected to influence the region's environment, communities, economy, and infrastructure over coming decades. These include increasing temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, growing water scarcity and drought risk, changing river flows, increased flood risk, coastal pressures, heightened wildfire risk, ecological impacts, and risks to climate-sensitive industries and infrastructure.
6. The region contains nationally significant environmental, economic, and infrastructure assets, including extensive viticulture and horticulture operations, forestry, aquaculture and marine industries, and critical transport and lifeline infrastructure networks. Many of these assets depend on specific environmental conditions and involve investment horizons extending well beyond 2050.
7. In 2021, NIWA's Climate Change Projections and Impacts for Marlborough Report (Reference 1) provided an important regional overview of anticipated climate trends and associated impacts. While

that work remains a valuable reference, it was not designed to provide the integrated systems analysis or decision-support capability increasingly required to inform long-term planning and investment decisions.

8. Council currently lacks an integrated and regionally consistent evidence base capable of bringing together climate impacts across water resources, natural hazards, infrastructure, ecosystems, communities, and economic sectors within a consistent regional framework.
9. A Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment represents the next evolution of Marlborough's climate adaptation evidence base by moving beyond climate projections and examining the implications of climate change for communities, infrastructure, ecosystems, service delivery, economic activity, and long-term investment decisions.

Strategic Value

10. A Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment would establish a regionally consistent evidence base that translates climate projections into information directly relevant to decision-making. Subject to scope and design, the assessment could support:
11. **Climate Adaptation and Resilience** - Improved understanding of future climate pressures, vulnerabilities, adaptation opportunities, and resilience challenges across communities, ecosystems, infrastructure, and economic sectors.
12. **All-Hazards and Risk Reduction** - Improved understanding of future flood, drought, wildfire, coastal, and compound hazard risks, supporting risk-informed decision-making and long-term risk reduction initiatives.
13. **Water Resource Management** - Better information regarding future water availability and reliability under changing climatic conditions, supporting freshwater management, water security initiatives, water storage investigations, and drought resilience planning.
14. **Infrastructure and Asset Stewardship** - Evidence to support planning and investment decisions relating to transport, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and other critical infrastructure assets, improving long-term resilience and asset management outcomes.
15. **Spatial Planning and Regional Development** - Information to support future settlement planning, growth management, land-use planning, and consideration of climate risks and opportunities across key economic sectors.
16. **Risk Governance and Decision-Making** - A shared evidence foundation that supports transparent and consistent decision-making under conditions of uncertainty, while improving alignment across Council, Iwi, government agencies, infrastructure providers, industry organisations, and communities.
17. The primary strategic benefit would be the creation of a single, authoritative evidence base that can support multiple planning, policy, regulatory, operational, and investment functions across the organisation.

Strategic Risks of Not Proceeding

18. Without a regionally consistent climate change impact assessment, Council may continue to rely on fragmented datasets, differing assumptions, and project-specific investigations when making long-term decisions.
19. This creates a risk of inconsistent planning outcomes, duplication of effort, reduced confidence in investment decisions, and missed opportunities to proactively identify and manage emerging climate-related risks.
20. Over time, these challenges may limit Council's ability to respond effectively to increasing adaptation pressures, infrastructure investment needs, natural hazard risks, and evolving statutory expectations.

Next Steps

21. Officers will continue discussions with national science providers and relevant stakeholders to further investigate the feasibility and potential value of a Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment.
22. This work will include consideration of the potential scope and objectives, methodology and technical requirements, governance and partnership opportunities, delivery models, programme timing, indicative costs and funding opportunities, and expected strategic benefits and applications.
23. A subsequent report will be presented for Council consideration outlining the findings of this investigation, including potential options, associated costs, funding opportunities, governance considerations, anticipated benefits, and recommended next steps.
24. As required longer term financial implications will be addressed through the Long Term Plan process.

References

https://niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/Marlborough_CC_Report_Final.pdf (Climate Change projections and impacts for Marlborough, 2021)

Author	Jamie Sigmund, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy, Chair Climate Change Working Group.

13. Making Further PMEP Provisions Operative

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Kim Lawson)

M100-12-01

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of progress with resolving appeals made to the Environment Court on the PMEP.
2. To recommend adopting further regional coastal plan provisions that are no longer subject to appeal and referring these provisions to the Minister of Conservation for approval.
3. To recommend approval of further non-regional coastal plan provisions that are no longer subject to appeal.

Executive Summary

4. Further progress has been made in resolving outstanding appeals on PMEP provisions. There have also been withdrawals of appeals.
 5. The steps to make these provisions operative in accordance with Clauses 17 to 20 of the First Schedule of the RMA can now commence.
 6. Provisions of the PMEP that are regional coastal plan provisions beyond challenge can be adopted in accordance with Clause 18 of the First Schedule and then be forwarded to the Minister of Conservation for his approval.
 7. Provisions of the PMEP that are beyond challenge can be approved in accordance with Clause 17 of the First Schedule.
-

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.
 2. That the regional coastal plan provisions of the PMEP appended to this report be adopted and that the adopted provisions be sent to the Minister of Conservation for his approval.
 3. That the non-regional coastal plan provisions of the PMEP appended to this report be approved.
-

Background/Context

8. Except for regional coastal plan provisions, the majority of the PMEP was made operative on 9 July 2025.
9. Most the regional coastal plan provisions of the PMEP were then made operative on 11 December 2025, after approval by the Minister of Conservation.
10. The provisions of Variation 1: Marine Farming that were not regional coastal plan provisions were made operative on 2 April 2026. The regional coastal plan provisions of Variation 1: Marine Farming were made operative on 26 June 2026, after approval by the Minister of Conservation.
11. After the above steps, a small number of PMEP and Variation 1 provisions remained subject to appeal.

Progress with resolution of appeals

12. Progress with the resolution of outstanding appeals has been regularly report to the Committee and, prior to that, to the Planning, Finance and Community Committee.
13. Since the last update to Committee, appeals on the following provisions were resolved by consent following further informal mediation:
 - Volume 1, Policy 10.3.2*
 - Volume 1, Policy 14.3.4*
 - Volume 1, Policy 14.21.7
 - Volume 1, Policy 14.21.11
 - Volume 2, New rule for commercial forestry afforestation
 - Volume 2, Rule 16.5.4*
 - Volume 3, Appendix 1: Landscape Schedule of Values (except for Port Hardy)*
 - Volume 3, Appendix 2: Coastal Natural Character Schedule of Values (except for Port Hardy)*
 - Volume 3, Appendix 27, Schedule 1, and Schedule 4 Catherine Cove CMU*
 - Volume 4, ONFL overlay in East Bay*
14. Consent Orders were issued for all of the above in early July, with the exception of the afforestation rule appeal.
15. The provisions marked with an asterisk are regional coastal plan provisions.
16. A number of appeals have also been withdrawn, as set out below.
 - Volume 4, ONFL overlay in Outer Admiralty Bay*
 - Volume 4, ONFL overlay in Ruakākā Bay*
 - Volume 4, High Natural Character overlay in Ruakākā Bay*
 - Volume 4, High Natural Character overlay in Okuri Bay*
 - Volume 4, High Natural Character overlay in Onapua Bay*
 - Aquaculture Management Area (AMA) for Marine Farm 8164 in Guards Bay, Outer Sounds*
 - AMA for Marine Farm 8645, Squally Cove, Croisilles Harbour*
 - AMAs for new marine farms in Onapua Bay, Tory Channel*⁸
17. The previous approval of the landscape and natural character overlays did not apply to these discrete locations.
18. Again, the provisions marked with an asterisk are regional coastal plan provisions.
19. As previously reported, the appeal by Clova Bay Residents Association with respect to AMAs in Clova Bay was heard by the Environment Court in the Nelson District Court on 4-8 May 2026. The parties await a Court decision.
20. The appeal by Talley's Group Limited with respect to the natural character and outstanding natural feature and landscape overlays was heard by the Environment Court in the Nelson District Court on 3-6 August 2026. The parties now await a Court decision.

⁸ Apex Marine Farm Limited has withdrawn its PMEP and Variation 1 appeals in relation to Onapua Bay. Those appeals are now only live as to determination of a costs issue as between Apex and Friends of Onapua Bay. Parties are awaiting a Court decision.

21. The appeal by Talley's Group Limited on the non-provision of an AMA for MF8013 in Port Hardy, Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island was heard by the Environment Court in the Nelson District Court concurrent to the appeal in the paragraph above. The parties now await a Court decision.
22. There remain a very limited number of outstanding appeals on the PMEP. These are set out below:
 - a) Appeal by Transpower seeking a non-complying activity status (as opposed to discretionary activity) for activities occurring in the National Grid corridor.

This group of appeal points is on hold pending the release of amendments to national direction that may provide for the relief sought.
 - b) Appeal by Marlborough Aquaculture Ltd seeking an AMA in Port Underwood.

This appeal is on hold pending the outcome of a coastal permit application.
 - c) Appeal by Talley's Group Ltd and Clearwater Mussels Ltd to establish AMA in Okuri Bay to act as replacement space for the relocation of inappropriate marine farms.

This appeal is on hold pending the outcome of the Appellants' other appeals so that the quantum of replacement space required is known.
 - d) Appeal by Mr George Elkington against Variation 2 to the PMEP in respect of specific Ecologically Significant Marine Sites near Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island.

Mr Elkington is currently unwell, and the appeal is on hold pending his availability. A report back to the Court is due later next month.

Making further PMEP provisions operative

23. The final stage of the First Schedule process plan process is to make the PMEP provisions operative. That involves key steps as follows:
 - Consideration of provisions (other than regional coastal plan provisions) that are not subject to appeal and Council approval of these provisions (Clause 17);
 - Consideration of regional coastal plan provisions that are not subject to appeal and Council adoption of these provisions (Clause 18);
 - Provision of adopted regional coastal plan provisions to the Minister of Conservation for his approval (Clause 18);
 - Ministerial approval of regional coastal plan provisions (Clause 19);
 - Public notice of operative date of provisions (Clause 20).
24. As set out in the background, the majority of PMEP provisions have already gone through the above process. The steps above now need to be applied to the provisions identified in paras 13 and 16.
25. Most of the provisions are regional coastal plan provisions. It is recommended that these provisions be adopted and provided to the Minister of Conservation for approval. All regional coastal plan provisions are coded with a C and the C highlighted green.⁹ The adoption is effected by affixing the seal of the Council to the PMEP.
26. The relevant provisions are appended to this report.
27. It is recommended that the non-regional coastal plan provisions be approved. The approval is effected by affixing the seal of the Council to the provision.

⁹ Regional coastal plan provisions can also be an RPS, regional or district plan provision. Where this is the case, the provision can still only be made operative after the Minister of Conservation approves the regional coastal plan component of the provision.

28. The relevant provisions are appended to this report.
29. The provisions of the PMEP still subject to appeal are clearly identified within the text of the PMEP by purple highlighting and on the overlay maps via cross hatching.¹⁰

Next steps

30. Pending adoption of the regional coastal plan provisions, the provisions should be forwarded to the Minister of Conservation for the Clause 19 approval process. The period for approving the regional coastal plan provisions is not known. A briefing for the Minister of Conservation will be provided to set out background information on the plan's development, pre and post notification. The Minister's approval is given effect by the Minister of Conservation signing the regional coastal plan provisions.
31. Pending Council's approval of the non-regional coastal plan provisions, a public notice of an operative date for those provisions will need to be prepared. However, for reasons of efficiency, it is recommended that public notice of the non-regional coastal provisions be delayed until Ministerial approval of the regional coastal provisions is received. In that way all the provisions subject to this report can be made operative via public notice at the same time.
32. Once Ministerial approval has been received, a further report will be made to Council seeking that all the provisions subject to this report be made operative via public notice as soon as practicable.

Attachments

Attachment 13.1 – Regional Coastal Plan Provisions

Attachment 13.2 – Non-regional Coastal Plan Provisions

The above reports are available on Council's website [here](#)

Author	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy
Authoriser	Hans Versteegh, Manager of Environmental Policy, Science and Monitoring

¹⁰ There are no outstanding appeals on the zoning maps.

14. Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024 – Changes to Alcohol Control Areas

(Cllr Burgess) (Report prepared by Karen Winter)

L150-019-78-01

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the outcome of the special consultative procedure undertaken on proposed changes to the Alcohol Control Areas.
2. To inform the Committee on the deliberations of the sub-committee.
3. Provide a recommendation on the adoption of the proposed changes.

Executive Summary

4. The special consultative procedure has been undertaken for the proposed changes to the Alcohol Control Areas under the Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024.
5. The sub-committee deliberated on the one submission received and determined that the proposed changes and additions to the alcohol control areas should be made.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the sub-committee decision to adopt the proposed changes and additions to the alcohol control areas under the Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024 to come into effect on 1 October 2026.

Background/Context

6. Under Clause 1.1 of the Marlborough District Council Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024, Council may specify, by resolution, the public places in which the prohibitions and controls in that Bylaw will apply.
7. The Marlborough Policing Team has requested that the current Alcohol Control Areas are extended and added to, for assisting the minimisation of alcohol related harm, and the level of crime and disorder related to alcohol consumption, in these areas.
8. At the Environment & Planning Committee on 22 January 2026, the Committee agreed to undertake the Special Consultative Procedure on the proposed changes and have a sub-committee of Mayor Taylor (Chair) and Councillors Faulls and Burgess to hear and deliberate on submissions.
9. Full Council ratified this decision on 19 February 2026.
10. A Statement of Proposal was advertised detailing the proposed changes and additions through the Council website, newspapers, Facebook and Antenna.
11. The submission period was from 20 April 2026 to 21 May 2026.
12. One submission from Public Health was received with them not wishing to be heard at a hearing. This submission was in support of the proposed changes while also discussing matters that were outside of the scope of this consultation.
13. The sub-committee of Mayor Taylor (Chair), Councillors Faulls and Burgess deliberated on the new and altered alcohol control areas, taking into consideration the submission received.

14. The sub-committee determined to accept the proposed addition and changes to these areas as proposed in the consultation document.

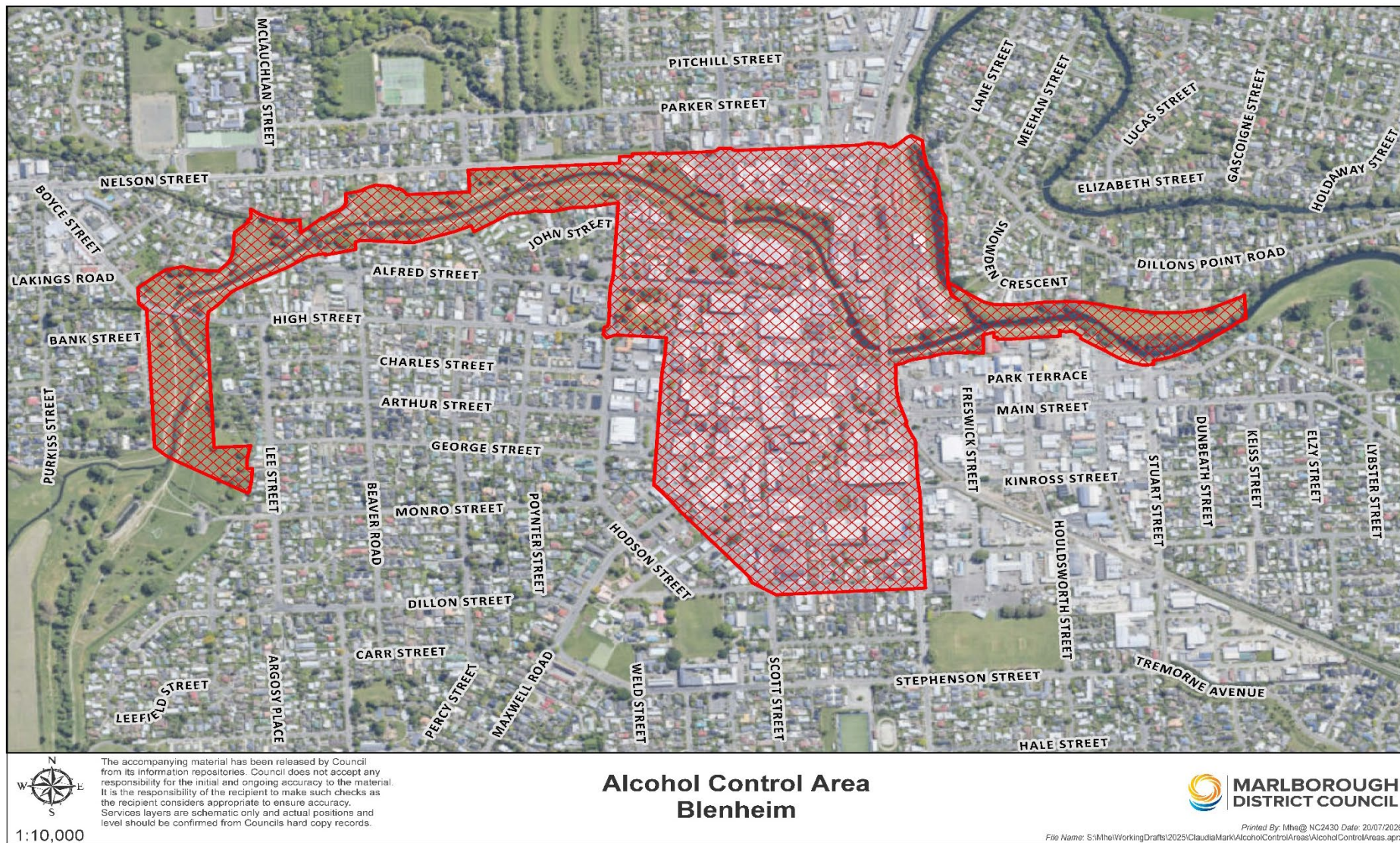
Attachment

Attachment 14.1 – New Alcohol Control Areas in Blenheim, Picton and Renwick

page [50]

Author	Karen Winter, Team Leader Environmental Health
Authoriser	Gina Ferguson, Group Manager Consents & Compliance

Attachment 14.1







1:3,000

The accompanying material has been released by Council from its information repositories. Council does not accept any responsibility for the initial and ongoing accuracy to the material. It is the responsibility of the recipient to make such checks as the recipient considers appropriate to ensure accuracy. Services layers are schematic only and actual positions and level should be confirmed from Council's hard copy records.

Alcohol Control Area Renwick



Printed By: Mne@ NC2430 Date: 20/07/2026
File Name: S:\Mne\Working Drafts\2025\Claudia\Mark\Alcohol Control Areas\Alcohol Control Areas.aprx

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government			
The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies			
	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	☐	☐	X
Financial Strategy	☐	☐	X
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	X
Social well-being	X	☐	☐
Economic development	☐	☐	X
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	X
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	X
3 Waters	☐	☐	X
Land transport	☐	☐	X
Parks and reserves	X	☐	☐
This proposal contributes to the social wellbeing of residents and visitors to Marlborough by having the aim of minimising alcohol related harm in Marlborough.			
Nature of the decision to be made			
The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.			
Financial considerations			
There are no known financial implications.			
Significance			
The decision is considered significant under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. This states that a matter will be considered significant if the decision will affect a large proportion of the community. Special Consultative processes have been followed with the community.			
Engagement			
Engagement has occurred with the Marlborough community through special consultative procedures.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc			
There are no known significant risks or legal implications as consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 and Council's Legal team has had oversight of the development of this consultation.			
Climate Change Implications			
There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

15. Environmental Health Activity Summary 2025/2026 and Review of Survey Results

(Cllr Burgess) (Report prepared by Mary Ann Douthett)

E350-004-009-02

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the activities undertaken by the Environmental Health Team for the 2025/2026 registration year and detail the outcome of our customer survey results.

Executive Summary

2. The Environmental Health Team continues to provide assurance to Marlborough residents and visitors that the district is a safe and healthy place to live, work, and visit by ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and proactively monitoring conditions that may be injurious to public health.
3. Quality of the inspections, audits and reports are managed through consistency of the inspectors and on-going professional development.
4. The Environmental Health Team has achieved all performance targets for the 2025/2026 year.
5. Survey results reflected the customer focused approach of the Environmental Health Team to build relationships while ensuring compliance.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

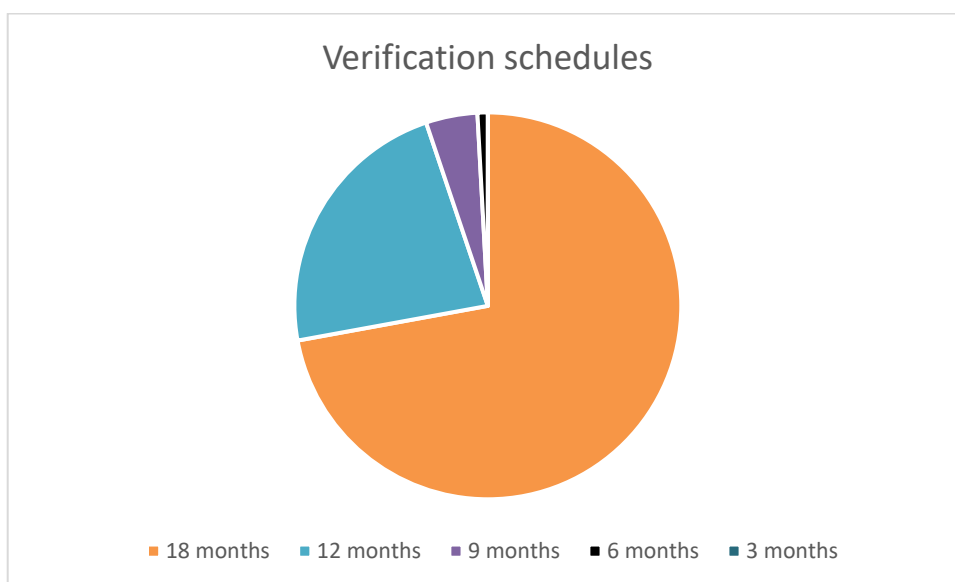
Background/Context

6. The Environmental Health Team protects public health through a number of activities including:
 - Register, inspect and verify food businesses under the Food Act 2014.
 - Inspect events and markets to ensure compliance with food safety requirements and alcohol legislation.
 - Undertake statutory functions as Food Safety Officers under the Food Act 2014.
 - Report on alcohol licences applications and monitor and investigate compliance with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
 - Issue Class 4 gambling venues Licences under the Gambling Act 2003
 - Register and Inspect premises under the Health Act 1956
 - Investigate complaints under the Health Act 1956
 - Respond to complaints of excessive and unreasonable noise and undertake investigations in accordance with the Resource management Act 1991 and Health Act 1956.
 - Undertake the role of Enforcement Officers under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.
 - Undertake monitoring and auditing of public swimming pools including Stadium
 - Actively promote educational activities and information to the public.

Comments

Registration and Verification of businesses registered under the Food Act 2014

7. Council are the registration authority of businesses operating in Marlborough under a s39 template Food Control Plan and National Programmes.
8. Council Environmental Health officers are the Food Act verifiers for operators who have a registered template Food Control Plan, and we ensure compliance with the Food Act 2014, Food Regulations 2015 and Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. As a verifier we ensure that all food sold is safe and suitable.
9. Marlborough currently has 393 registered food control plan sites and 74 registered National Programme Sites
10. Council's Environmental Health Officers conducted 303 verifications under the Food Act 2014 in the 2025/2026 registration year.
11. Each business has its own verification schedule depending on how the operator is performing and knowledge on the main food safety hazards. Most operators are verified every 18 months, though frequencies may shorten to 12, 9, 6 or 3 months depending on risks and compliance.



12. National Programme operators are verified by 3rd party verifiers.
13. Each topic within a verification is assessed with an outcome; Performing, Conforming, Non-Conforming, Critical Non-Compliance or Not Applicable.
14. Corrective actions requests can be issued if there is evidence of medium to high risk that results in food not being safe or suitable, or if an issue is repetitively occurring. A timeframe is given for the operator to show improvement has been completed.
15. Areas for improvement are issues that are lower risk and should be implemented by the time of the next verification.
16. Outcomes of overall verification result in either Acceptable or Non-Acceptable and this will result in the verification schedule. A business that has received two consecutive acceptable outcomes is verified less often; however, an unacceptable verification outcome will result in more frequent verifications, and therefore further business costs. Out of the 303 completed verifications, 288 were Acceptable and 15 were Unacceptable.

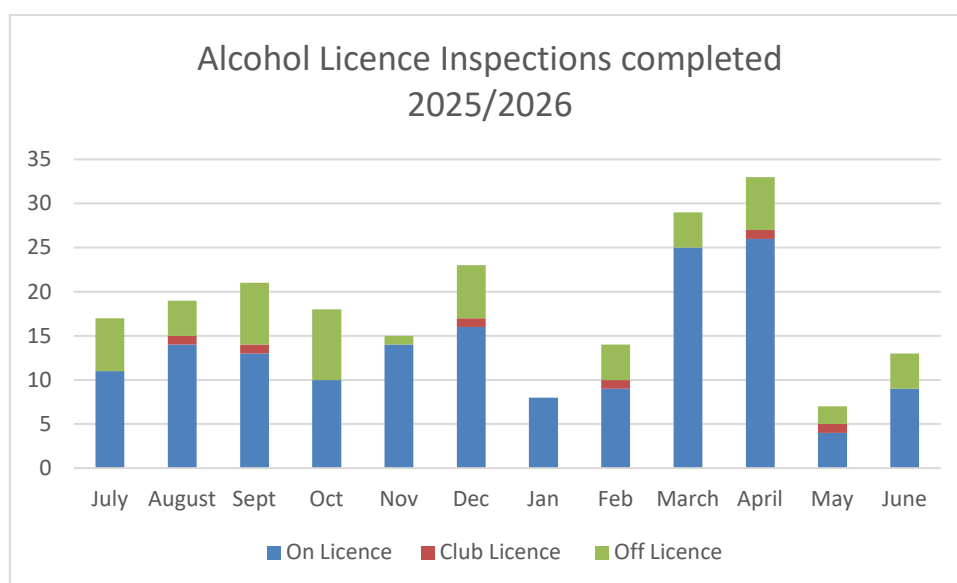
17. Food verifiers are required to complete annual professional development to ensure their skills remain current to conduct food verifications.
18. Quarterly newsletters are provided to our food businesses providing best practice information regarding food safety and to keep them up to date on regulatory trends or changes.
19. As part of a proactive approach, we provide basic food hygiene talks and education to premises that cater to vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, retirement villages and community organisations.

Event/Market Inspections

20. Markets and Events are inspected to ensure that these sporadic events are providing safe and suitable food as well as being appropriately licenced if alcohol is being sold.
21. The Annual Plan 2025/2026 performance target is for 13 or more market and events to be inspected annually. The performance target has been met. These markets/events included Marlborough Wine and Food Festival, Farmers Market, Multicultural Festival, Garden Fete and others.

Alcohol Licensing

22. Alcohol Licensing Inspectors are required to investigate and report on all licence applications as well as monitor and investigate compliance with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 and our Local Alcohol policy.
23. When undertaking our inspections, we check that the premises has a duty manager on site, has the food available, free water, low and no alcohol and transport options and complies within their licence conditions and licensed area.
24. In 2025/2026 Alcohol licensing inspectors carried out 217 compliance checks for On, Club and Off Licences.



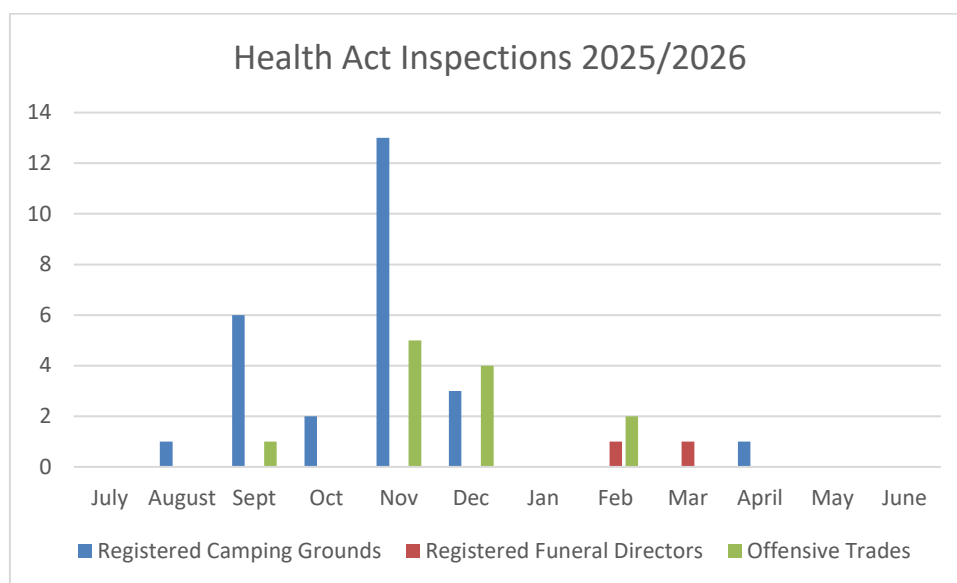
25. In accordance with the Annual Plan, we are required to monitor 93% of our On licences. This target has been met.
26. We investigated and reported into 146 premises licences, 162 special licences, 20 temporary authority applications and 452 manager applications.
27. Licensing inspectors in conjunction with the Blenheim Policing Team and Public Health Officers carried out three control purchase operations in the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. These

operations use volunteers to test licensed premises on their procedures and practices to ensure alcohol is not sold to those under the age of 18. Four premises failed during these operations.

28. Alcohol licensing Inspectors attend regular tri-agency meetings and any training offered, to ensure their skills and knowledge remain current. We work collaboratively with other agencies to ultimately reduce alcohol harm within our community.

Health Act Inspections

29. Environmental Health Officers carry out annual inspections of camping grounds, offensive trades and funeral homes which are required to be registered under the Health Act 1956. Inspections of campgrounds and offensive trades are generally conducted without prior notice to ensure an accurate assessment of everyday operating conditions.



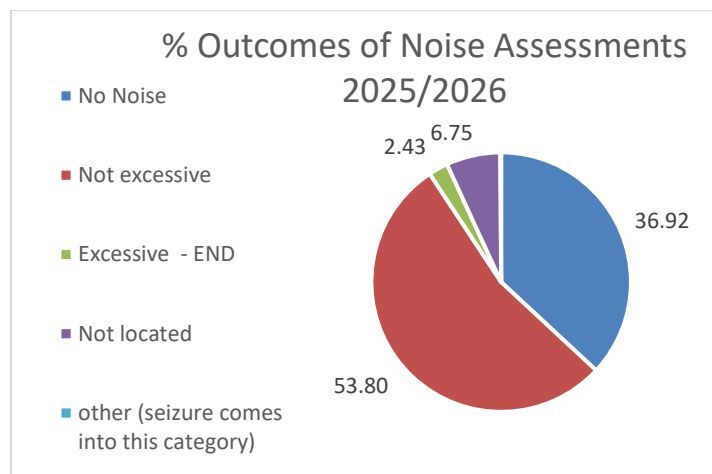
30. We completed 26 Camping Grounds, 2 Funeral Director and 12 Offensive Trade inspections during the 2025/2026 year.
31. The Annual Plan 2025/2026 performance target is that 100% of other registered premises are inspected at least once per annum. This performance target was achieved.

Complaints

32. The Environmental Health team investigates complaints regarding food, food premises, unsanitary/unsuitable housing, vermin, beauty, hazardous substances management and noise or anything that is injurious to health.
33. We have received 88 complaints within 2025/2026 period (excluding excessive noise complaints).

Noise

34. Environmental Health Officers address Excessive and Unreasonable Noise under the Resource management Act 1991.
35. Excessive noise, which is temporary noise under human control, is actioned and subjectively assessed by a contractor. If the noise is deemed excessive, an Excessive Noise Direction is issued which remains in place for 8 days. If during the notice period there is further incidence of excessive noise, the sound making equipment can be seized and/or infringement issued.



36. In The year 2025/2026 Council received 948 noise complaints. Out of these, 23 (2.43%) Excessive Noise Directions were issued.
37. Unreasonable noise requires Environmental Health Officers to measure the levels of noise in accordance with NZS6801:2008 and NZS6802:2008 against resource consent conditions or the permitted levels in the Marlborough Environment Plan.

Emergency Response

38. The Environmental Health team plays a vital role in emergency response, particularly during the recovery phase following an event. We provide guidance and support on key public health concerns such as ensuring access to safe drinking water and safe clean up practices. Following the July floods, our team was actively involved in support and advice on entering and cleaning affected habitable structures.

Swimming Pools

39. Annually we have undertaken the Stadium 2000 swimming pool audit, and this year have proactively begun monitoring and testing Motel and Hotel Swimming pools. We support compliance with NZS 5826:2010 which maintains high water quality through effective treatment to minimise public health risks.

Survey results

40. Surveys have continued to be undertaken in the 2025/2026 registration year. The survey information is used to help improve our systems and communication with customers.
41. We received 30 survey responses from our Food Act verifications and the feedback provided was very positive. We received a score of 9.8/10 for how satisfied the respondents were on how the verification was conducted, and 9.9/10 for overall how satisfied they were on the services of the Environmental Health Team.
42. We only received 3 Health Act inspection survey responses. We received an 8.3/10 for how the respondents were satisfied with the services of the Environmental Health Team, one operator was unhappy about unannounced visits. To ensure that operators are aware of our requirements to not announce our visits we are pro-actively contacting registered operators prior to commencing inspections this year. We will explain that we need to inspect normal day-to-day conditions to ensure standards are being maintained at all times and not just when an inspection is expected.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Mary Ann Douthett (10 minutes).

Author	Mary Ann Douthett, Environmental Health Officer
Authoriser	Karen Winter, Team Leader Environmental Health

16. Environmental Protection Enforcement Activity Summary for 2025/2026

(Cllr Arbuckle) (Report prepared by Melanie Burke)

E360-005-002-01

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Environment and Planning Committee with a brief overview of the compliance activities undertaken by the Incident and Response team for the 2025/2026 year.
2. To provide an overview of complaint response and enforcement activities undertaken by the Incident and Response team.
3. To provide an overview of how the team conducts enforcement and recent innovations undertaken by the team to enhance the enforcement process.

Executive Summary

4. The Incident and Response team of Marlborough District Council (MDC) supports the sustainable management of Marlborough's natural and physical resources while ensuring the Council meets its statutory obligations. The team investigates and monitors activities across the region to ensure compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), relevant regulations, and Council bylaws.
5. The Incident and Response team, while being the regulator and undertaking formal enforcement action, also has an important role in education.
6. The team proactively engages with Marlborough's communities and industries to increase knowledge and understanding of environmental matters and regulatory requirements, with the goal of reducing incidents of non-compliance and avoiding environmental harm.
7. The Incident and Response team delivered on the level of service performance measure for responsiveness to incidents and complaints.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background/Context

8. Some of the core activities of the team are:
 - a) **Incident and Response** – Investigates alleged breaches of RMA, the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP), resource consent conditions, and MDC bylaws. The team works to identify, manage, and mitigate adverse environmental effects arising from non-compliant activities. All complaints received are logged, assessed, and responded to. The follow-up required to resolve a complaint can range from a straightforward desktop assessment to a complex investigation that may result in formal enforcement action.
 - b) **Education** – Education and engagement with landowners, consent holders, industry, and the community. Education is an effective way of bringing about a long-term change in environmental behaviour and allows Council, the community, and industry to foster good relationships and proactively reduce the occurrence of non-compliance.
 - c) **Enforcement** – Undertake appropriate enforcement action response for breaches of the RMA and Marlborough District Council bylaws.

Staff Resources

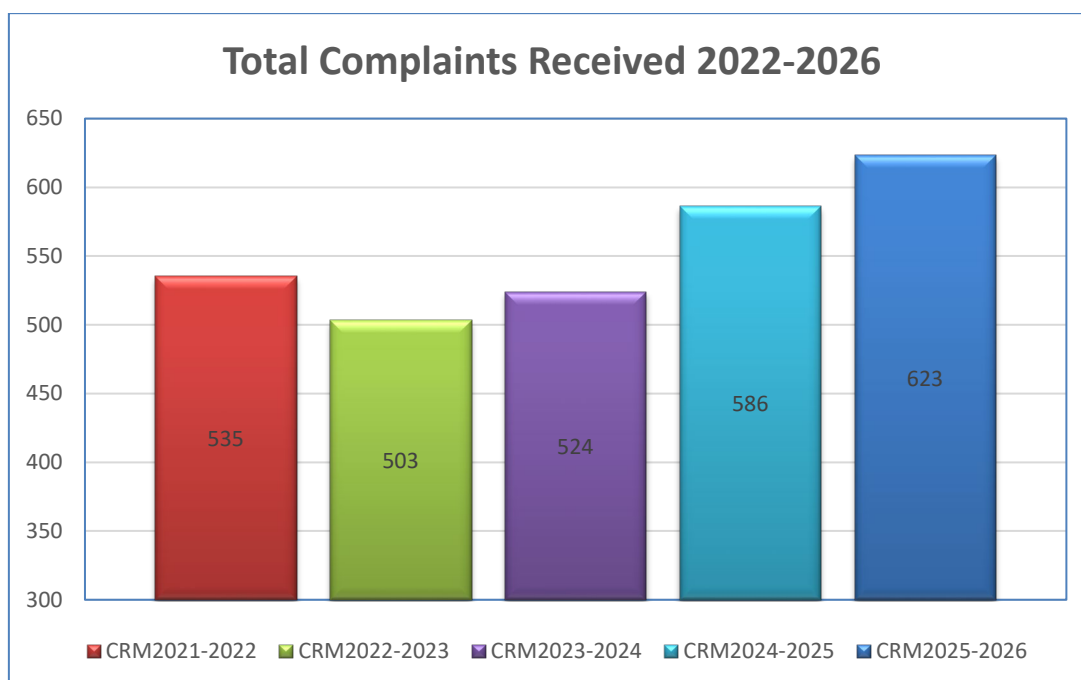
9. The Incident and Response Team consists of a Team Leader, four full-time Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs), and one officer who undertakes a shared role as an Environmental Protection Officer and Animal Control Contract Manager.
10. The Animal Control activity will be covered in a separate report to the Environment and Planning Committee.

Legislative Requirements

11. As a unitary authority the team has both regional and district functions.
12. Under section 84(1) of the RMA: *"While a policy statement or a plan is operative, the regional council or territorial authority concerned, and every consent authority, shall observe and, to the extent of its authority, enforce the observance of the policy statement or plan."*
13. Under section 35 of the RMA the local authority has statutory requirements involving gathering information, monitoring the state of the environment including efficiency and effectiveness of policies, rules, or other methods in its policy statement or its plan, and various record keeping requirements.
14. In relation to enforcement under the Local Government Act 2002, the Incident and Response Team investigates complaints concerning breaches of MDC bylaws and, where appropriate, provides education, guidance, or enforcement action to achieve compliance.

Activity Summary

15. There were 623 complaints received and responded to in the 2025/2026 year compared to 586 in the 2024/2025 year. Of these 623, 28 were for contravention of a bylaw (the majority being against the Animals Bylaw 2017).
16. The graph below sets out the total complaint numbers over the last 5 years.

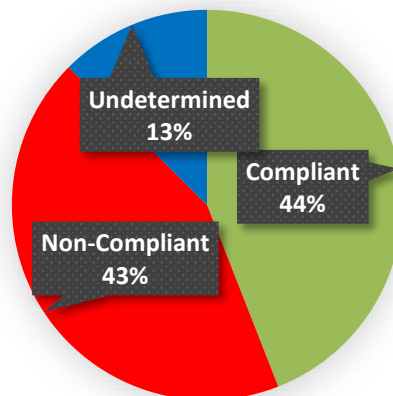


17. The number of complaints for each RMA category were as follows:

Type of complaints 2025/2026 YTD	YTD Total	%
Coastal	37	5.94
Contravene Bylaw	28	4.49
Discharge to Air	167	26.81
Discharge to Freshwater	27	4.33
Discharge to Land	99	15.89
Discharge to Marine	14	2.25
Disturbance of Land	39	6.26
Disturbance Waterway	23	3.69
Land Use	187	30.02
Water Take	2	0.32
Total	623	100.00

18. Initial compliance status is assessed for all complaints received; this provides an opportunity to analyse areas of complaints initiated by compliant activities to policy and education for frequently identified non-compliant activities.
19. 44% of complaints received were initially assessed as being compliant, 43% were non-compliant and 13% were undetermined. Undetermined means when the complaint is investigated the activity has since ceased or there is insufficient evidence to determine whether there was a breach.

Initial Compliance Status Percentage 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026



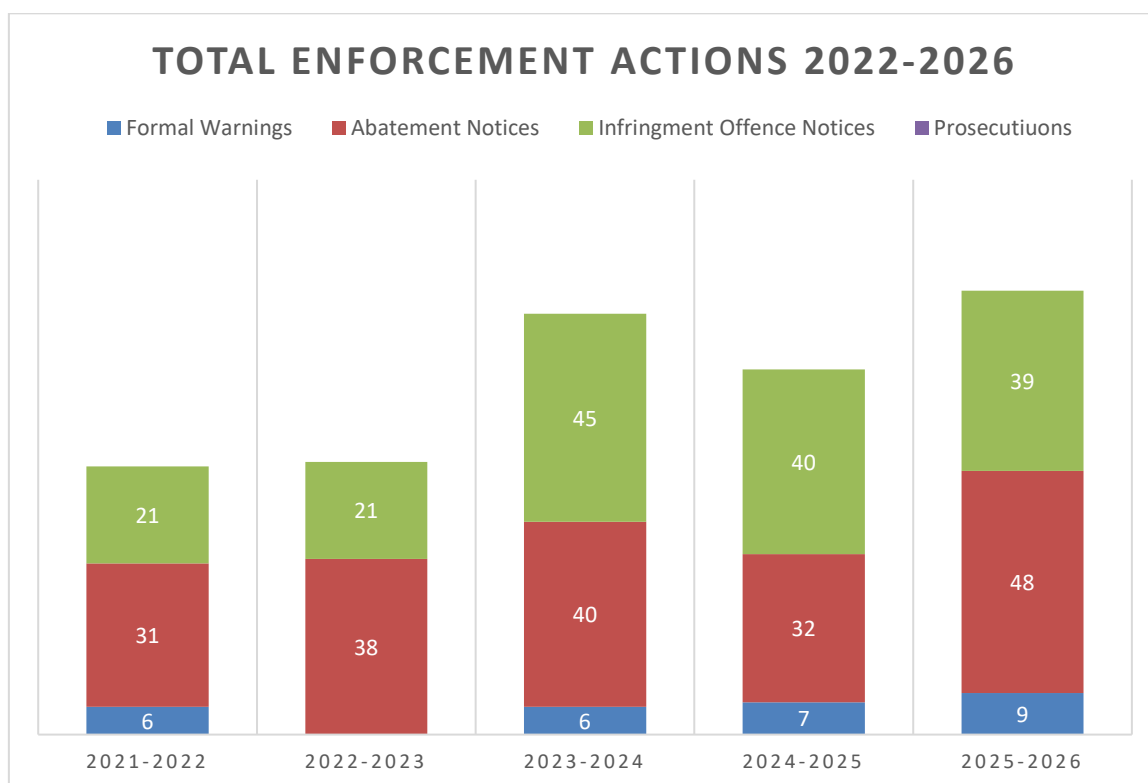
Enforcement Options

20. The team applies a graduated enforcement approach, with a range of potential enforcement options available.
21. Directive options include abatement notices and enforcement orders.
22. Punitive options include infringement notice and prosecution. Formal warnings may also be issued.
23. There are appeal rights for enforcement actions.
24. Formal warnings, prosecutions and enforcement are undertaken in alignment with the Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines.

25. From 4 September 2025 the infringement fee for contravening various sections of the RMA increased under the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025. For example, a company who commits an unlawful discharge to water increased from \$750 to \$3000.

Enforcement Activity

26. In the 2025/2026 year, the team issued 96 formal enforcement actions, comprising of 39 infringement notices, 48 abatement notices, and 9 formal warnings. There were no enforcement orders or prosecutions commenced in the 2025/2026 financial year. The highest number of infringements were issued for discharges of contaminants (53.8%).
27. The graph below shows the total enforcement actions over the last 5 years.



The Decision-Making Process

28. Decision making and enforcement is undertaken in accordance with Council's RMA Compliance Strategy and Enforcement Policy.
29. Regardless of whether an enforcement option is pursued or not, it is important that a fair and consistent decision-making process is followed for identified non-compliance.
30. In determining enforcement, consideration is given but not limited to the following factors: actual or potential adverse environmental effects, alleged offender's culpability, evidential sufficiency, public interest, cooperation of the alleged offender and compliance history.
31. Advice is often sought from Council's environmental scientists on actual or potential adverse effects.
32. An enforcement decision template has been developed reflecting the above factors. Each factor is considered and linked to specific evidence. It follows a similar structure to the compliance rating traffic light system.
33. Incidents of non-compliance and further actions are determined at regular QA Panel meetings.

34. The QA Panel consists of EPOs and compliance management. It is important that enforcement decisions are not undertaken in isolation to ensure consistency and transparency.
35. Any recommendation for escalated enforcement actions, such as an enforcement order or prosecution, are referred to Council's Enforcement and Prosecution Panel.
36. The team follows the Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines when considering the appropriate enforcement response.
37. Training is critical to the successful delivery of the team's functions; investigations are often complex and cross multiple disciplines. Training opportunities are regularly sought and provided both internally and externally.
38. The team is actively involved in the regional sector network, including the Compliance and Enforcement Special Interest Group (CESIG), for regional and unitary authorities. The primary purpose of this group is to support best practice in compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) delivery, providing consistency while recognising community and regional differences.
39. Work programmes outputs and contributions include:
 - a) Annual reporting on Compliance and Enforcement Metrics,
 - b) Submissions on proposed legislation,
 - c) Regional Sector Strategic Compliance Framework,
 - d) Ministry for the Environment CME best practice.

Education

40. The team operates under the 4Es model which is detailed in MDC's Enforcement Policy. The 4Es are: Engage, Educate, Enable and Enforce. They are not exclusive of each other. It is recognised that multiple components of the model may be applied to any single incident.
41. To engage and build a closer working relationship with industry and the community, the team attend regular meetings with the industry groups, public meetings, publish educational material and contribute to industry publications.
42. Regular analysis of complaints is undertaken to identify areas for education and engagement. Recent examples include letters and communications sent out regarding structures in the Opaoa River Loop and white bait stands.
43. Last year the focus was on strategic delivery through:
 - Development of an RMA Compliance Strategy to provide public confidence and visibility of Council's regulatory framework.
 - Incorporating best practice amendments for CME into current systems and responding to reforms.
 - Continuing to identify opportunities to educate industry and public about environmental protection.
 - Updating the website information to ensure legislative changes are reflected in publicly available information (e.g., on 4 September 2025 new infringement charges came into effect,).
 - Review enforcement activity in achieving deterrence, reduction of non-compliance and improved environmental outcomes.
44. The Environmental Protection webpage of Council's website has been updated to ensure that information is current, informative and easy to access.
45. Available educational material has increased.
46. The Incident and Response team sent out customer satisfaction surveys to both the complainant and the alleged offender.
47. In total there were 92 responses.

48. In response to the final survey question “**Overall how would you rate your experience in dealing with the incident and response team?**” 17.4% rated their interaction at 5/10 or below. 76.1% rated their experience 8/10 or higher and 53.3% of these rated their interaction 10/10. Achieving a high rating in customer satisfaction has its challenges for regulatory functions, however this is a positive overall rating and a vast improvement on the percentages from the previous year.
49. The team will continue to analyse complaints and customer survey responses, for areas of continuous improvement and opportunities for education and engagement to contribute to the wider system of environmental management known as the Plan-Do-Monitor-Review cycle.

Future Focus

50. Upcoming RMA reform. As the proposed legislation progresses, there may be implications for compliance, monitoring, and enforcement functions, including potential changes to regulatory frameworks, statutory responsibilities, and enforcement processes. Council will continue to review these developments to ensure enforcement practices remain aligned with legislative requirements and best practice.
51. From 1 July 2026, Council implemented a compliance cost recovery framework under the RMA. This enables the recovery of actual and reasonable costs associated with compliance investigations, monitoring, and enforcement activities where non-compliance has been identified. The framework supports a user-pays approach, ensuring that the costs of regulatory action are borne by those responsible for generating the work rather than by ratepayers. It is expected to improve cost recovery, accountability, and the efficient use of Council resources while supporting positive environmental outcomes. The website will be updated to ensure these legislative changes are reflected in publicly available information.
52. Continue to identify opportunities to educate industry and public about environmental protection.
53. Review enforcement activity in achieving deterrence, reduction of non-compliance and improved environmental outcomes.

Level of Service:

54. The team achieved its levels of service for the 2025/2026 year.

Indicator	Target	Result
% of complaints assessed within one working day.	≥ 90%	96.56%
		The baseline was established at 90%. Continued improvements in processes and regular reviews of investigation best practices have enabled us to perform above this target. The outstanding 3.44% did not result in any adverse impact on service delivery.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Melanie Burke (15 minutes).

Author	Melanie Burke, Team Leader – RMA Enforcement and Investigation
Authoriser	Rachael Williams, Compliance Manager

17. Compliance Monitoring Summary 2025/2026

(Cllr Arbuckle) (Report prepared by Claire Frooms)

E360-006-02

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Council with an overview of the activity undertaken by Council's Compliance Monitoring Team during the 2025/2026 monitoring period.

Executive Summary

2. The Compliance Monitoring team operates under a strategic monitoring programme that prioritises resources based on risk. Proactive monitoring activities are prioritised and ranked according to the potential risk of harm to the environment; state of environment trends; previous compliance issues, lwi interest, and public interest.
3. The Compliance Monitoring Team monitored 4,112 separate resource consents or permitted activities, in the 2025/2026 year. This involved 5,592 individual monitoring events.
4. Compliance levels overall for each instance of monitoring during the monitoring period were: 63% compliance, 14% technically non-compliant, 22% non-compliant and 0% significant non-compliance. 1% of monitoring was unable to determine a compliance rating, for example further information had to be requested.
5. The Compliance Monitoring Team issued 37 formal enforcement notices in response to non-compliance identified as part of the strategic monitoring programmes during the monitoring period.

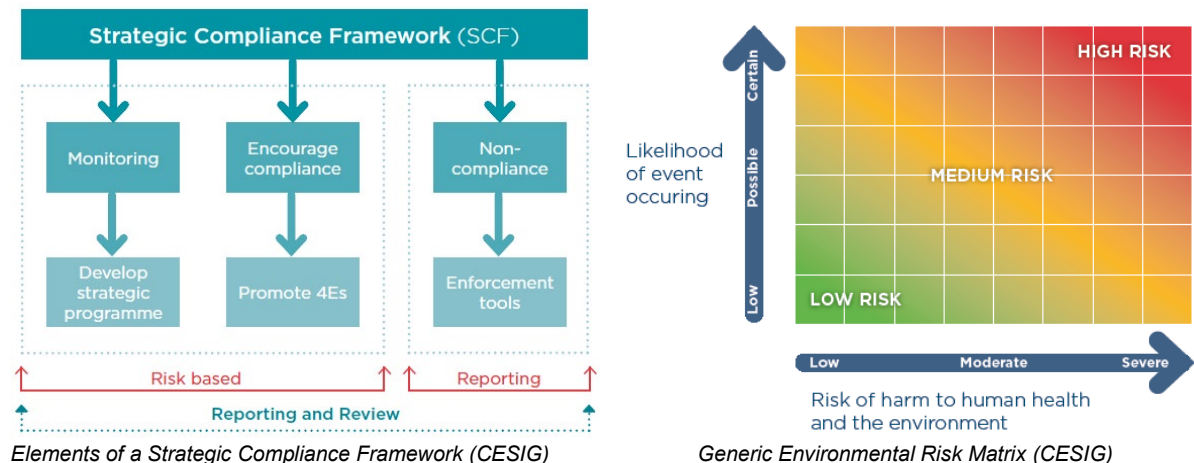
RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Background/Context

6. Council's Compliance Monitoring Team is responsible for monitoring a range of activities undertaken in the Marlborough region, both those undertaken as permitted activities and those governed by resource consents.
7. The team's objectives are:
 - a) Objective 1: To provide an active compliance monitoring and enforcement regime to sustainably manage Marlborough's natural and physical resources.
 - b) Objective 2: To provide feedback and information on resource use and sufficient environmental information to enable other objectives to be met.
8. During the 2025/2026 monitoring period there were 45,042 active resource consents. Of these, many have been previously monitored and do not require further monitoring or have no conditions requiring active monitoring for example where the activity is complete.
9. In addition to resource consents, a number of activities are undertaken as permitted activities under either the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) rules or National Environmental Standards (NES) regulations. Many of these activities are also monitored by the Compliance Monitoring Team. These include the discharge dairy effluent and winery wastewater to land, forestry harvesting and earthworks, and the application of synthetic nitrogen.

10. The Compliance Monitoring team consists of one Team Leader (0.5 FTE), four Environmental Protection Officers (EPO) (4.0 FTE), one Water Monitoring Administration Officer with EPO and Administration responsibilities (1.0 FTE) and one Monitoring Administration Officer (1.0 FTE).
11. The Regional Sector Compliance and Enforcement Special Interest Group (CESIG) have created a Regional Sector Strategic Compliance Framework. The framework outlines the purpose of strategic compliance monitoring, the principles to guide compliance, guidelines for developing a strategic compliance monitoring program, how to encourage compliance and how to deal with non-compliance.

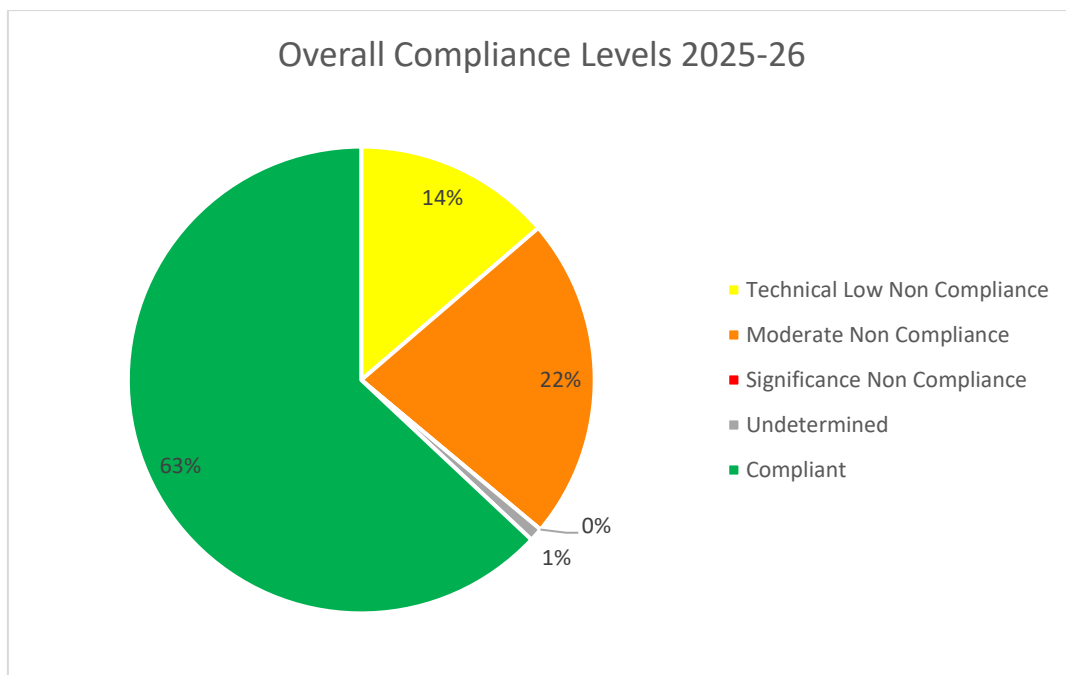


12. Given the large number of active consents and the relatively small number of monitoring officers, it is important the group adopts a risk-based monitoring approach to monitoring and utilises efficient monitoring methods to achieve the greatest environmental benefit.
13. The team's strategic monitoring programme identifies which activities will be proactively monitored and which will be monitored by complaint. Those identified as requiring proactive monitoring include:
 - a) Forestry
 - b) Water takes
 - c) Winery waste
 - d) New Zealand King Salmon
 - e) Dairy effluent disposal
 - f) Industrial discharges
 - g) Commercial wastewater
 - h) MDC resource consents
 - i) River diversion and disturbance
 - j) Marine farms
 - k) Large earthworks
 - l) Quarries and cleanfills
 - m) Moorings
 - n) Coastal structures
 - o) Domestic wastewater
14. Those activities which are monitored on a complaint basis include:
 - a) Second dwellings
 - b) Bird scaring devices
 - c) Frost fans

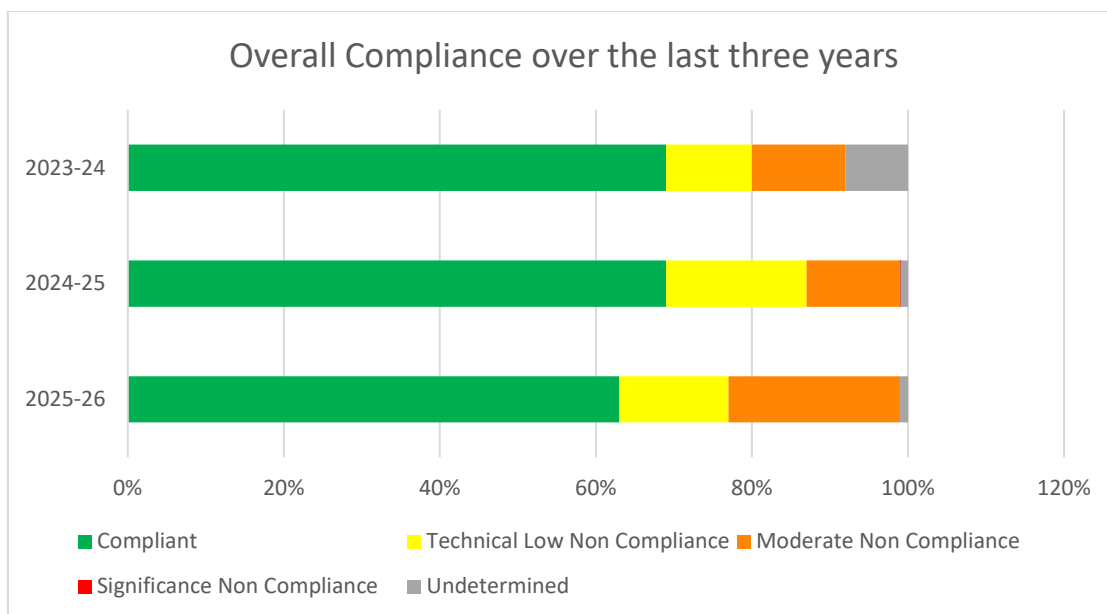
- d) Odour discharges
 - e) Signs
 - f) Small earthworks
15. The majority of our monitoring activities are cost recoverable, either through direct cost recovery for time taken conducting monitoring or through annual monitoring charges for water and mooring resource consents. This is in accordance with the user pays model in which the resource consent holder pays for the monitoring costs associated with their own resource consent.
 16. The annual charges for moorings and water take consent holders cover the costs of most anticipated monitoring however, when non-compliance is identified the officer's time spent dealing with the non-compliance is chargeable in addition to the annual fixed charge.
 17. Most other resource consent types incur an annual administration charge that covers the maintenance of monitoring systems and other overhead costs. However, officer time spent monitoring the consent is charged separately, regardless of the level of compliance achieved.
 18. Monitoring of permitted activities under plan rules was not chargeable during the 2025-2026 monitoring period. This includes the discharge of dairy effluent and winery wastewater where a resource consent is not required. Consequently, the cost of monitoring these activities was borne by the general ratepayer. Following amendments to section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), councils now have an expanded ability to recover the costs of compliance and enforcement activities from those responsible, rather than relying on general rates funding. As a result, from 1 July 2026, monitoring undertaken in response to a complaint relating to these activities will become chargeable.
 19. Some activities under NES permitted activity regulations do provide the ability for Council to charge for the monitoring of these activities. These include forestry earthworks and harvesting (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry 2023) and application of nitrogen (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020).

Monitoring Undertaken

20. Each activity requiring proactive monitoring has a project plan which identifies the extent of the monitoring required. The intensity and frequency of the monitoring undertaken is outlined in the project specific strategies which have been developed in accordance with information about the activity undertaken. For example, dairy farm inspections are undertaken annually in accordance with the National Dairy Farm Audit protocols.
21. Some activities require monitoring in the form of a site visit, for example forestry earthworks and harvesting. Whilst other activities generally require more desktop monitoring, for example water takes which largely provide telemetry data of the water abstraction.
22. The monitoring period ran from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. There were 5,592 individual records of monitoring undertaken during the 2025/2026 monitoring period. This includes monitoring of 4,112 separate resource consents or permitted activities.
23. Compliance levels overall for each instance of monitoring during the monitoring period were: 63% compliance, 14% technically non-compliant, 22% non-compliant and 0% significant non-compliance. 1% of monitoring was unable to determine a compliance rating, for example further information had to be requested.



24. Compliance trends over the last three years are shown in the graph below:



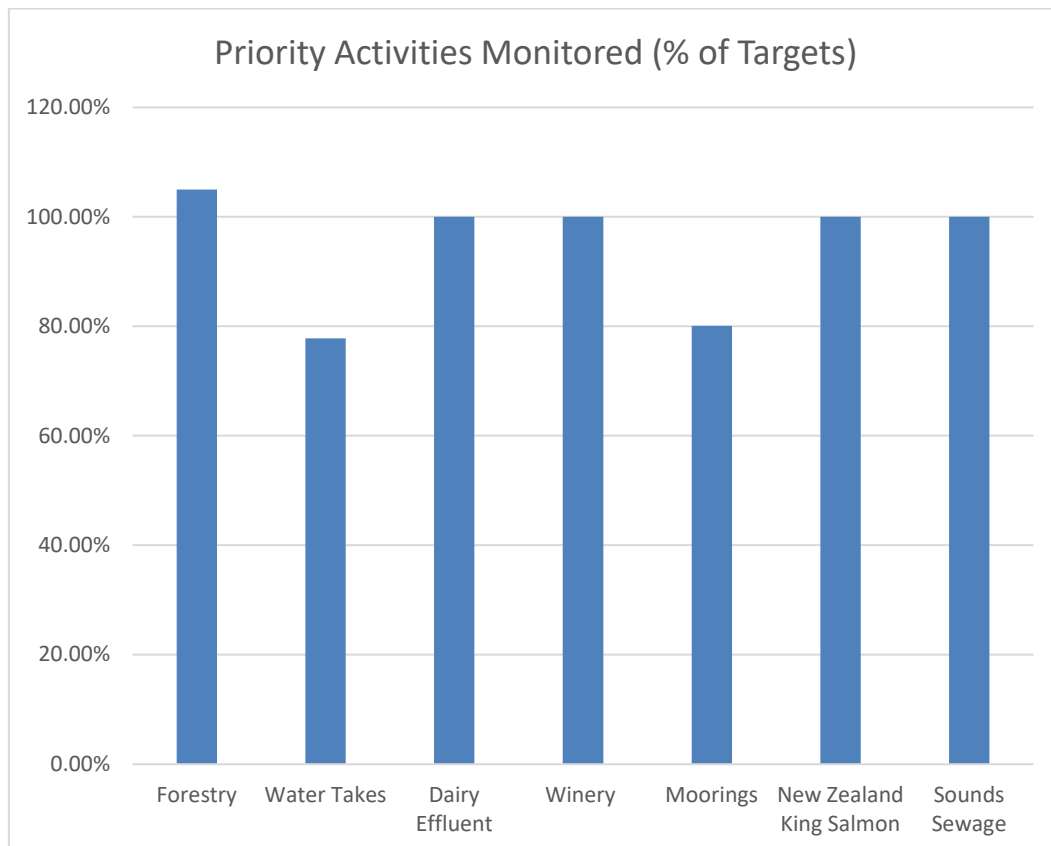
25. The increase in overall non-compliance recorded during the latest monitoring period was largely attributable to moorings. However, this increase primarily reflects changes monitoring processes and reporting methods, rather than an actual substantive change in mooring compliance levels.

Priority Programmes

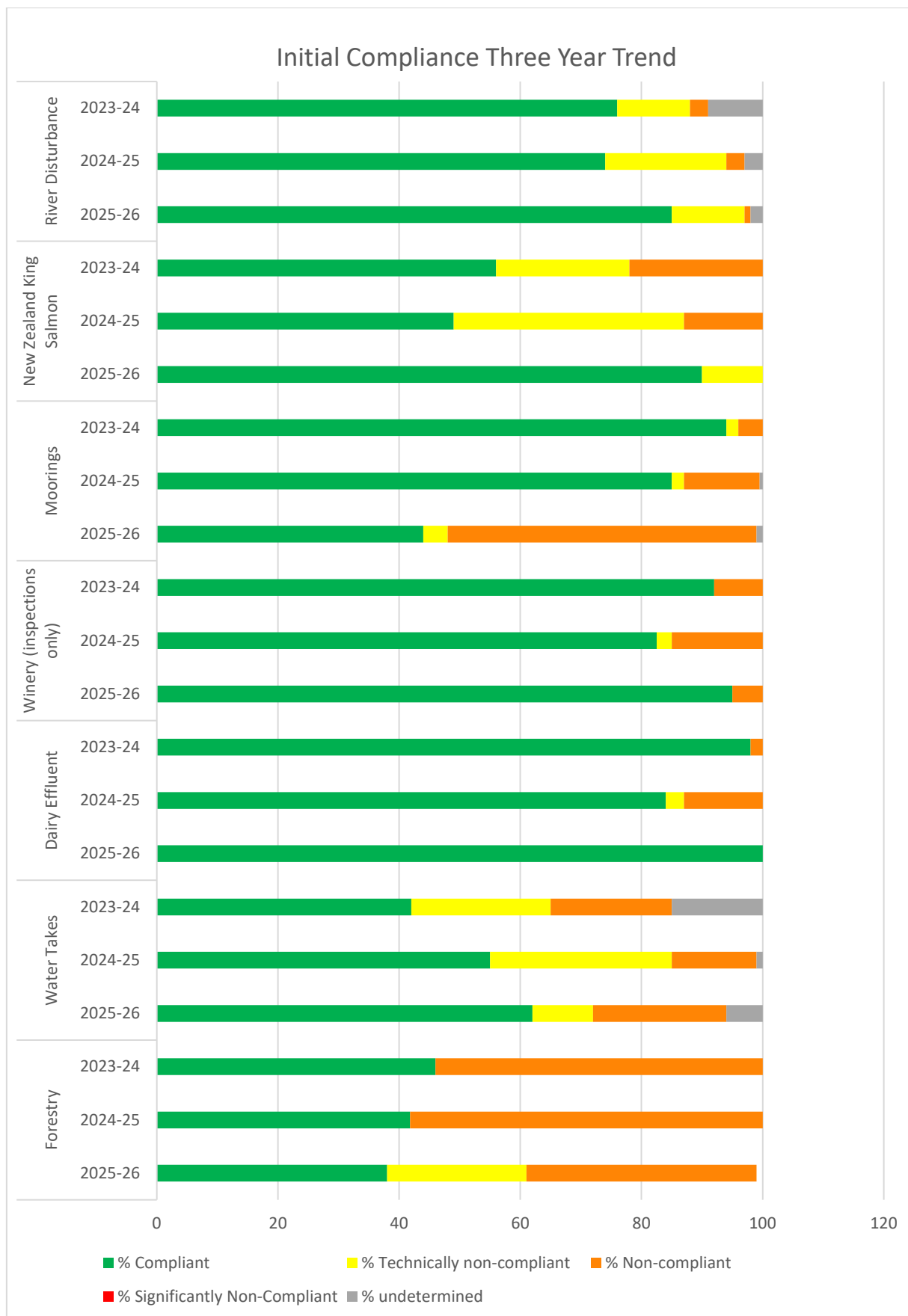
26. For the 2025/2026 reporting period, MDC had approximately 45,042 active resource consents. Of these, 3,567 required monitoring under MDC's main priority monitoring programmes. 1,756 were water take consents and 3,099 were mooring consents which are required to provide an inspection report every two years (so approximately 1,550 were required this monitoring period).
27. During the 2025/2026 period, MDC proactively monitored 81% of the resource consents and permitted activities that required monitoring (2,886 of the 3,567). In addition, a further 1,226 resource consents

or permitted activities were monitored, due to receipt of a report or notification as a condition of consent.

28. Most of the highest priority compliance portfolios achieved the required monitoring targets, including forestry, winery waste and dairy effluent activities.
29. There were challenges associated with monitoring the large numbers of water take permits and mooring permits in the district due to the compliance levels with data provided. Dealing with non-compliance is more time consuming and therefore when low compliance levels are identified, the ability to monitor all consents is compromised.



30. All compliance reports have the consent condition, a comment regarding the compliance and the compliance status colour coded using the traffic light system.
 - **Green** are compliant and no action is required;
 - **Yellow** are technically non-compliant with no-adverse environmental effects
 - **Orange** are assigned for relatively minor breaches requiring some corrective action;
 - **Red** are significantly non-compliant;
31. A summary of overall compliance for the main priority programmes is shown in the graph below:



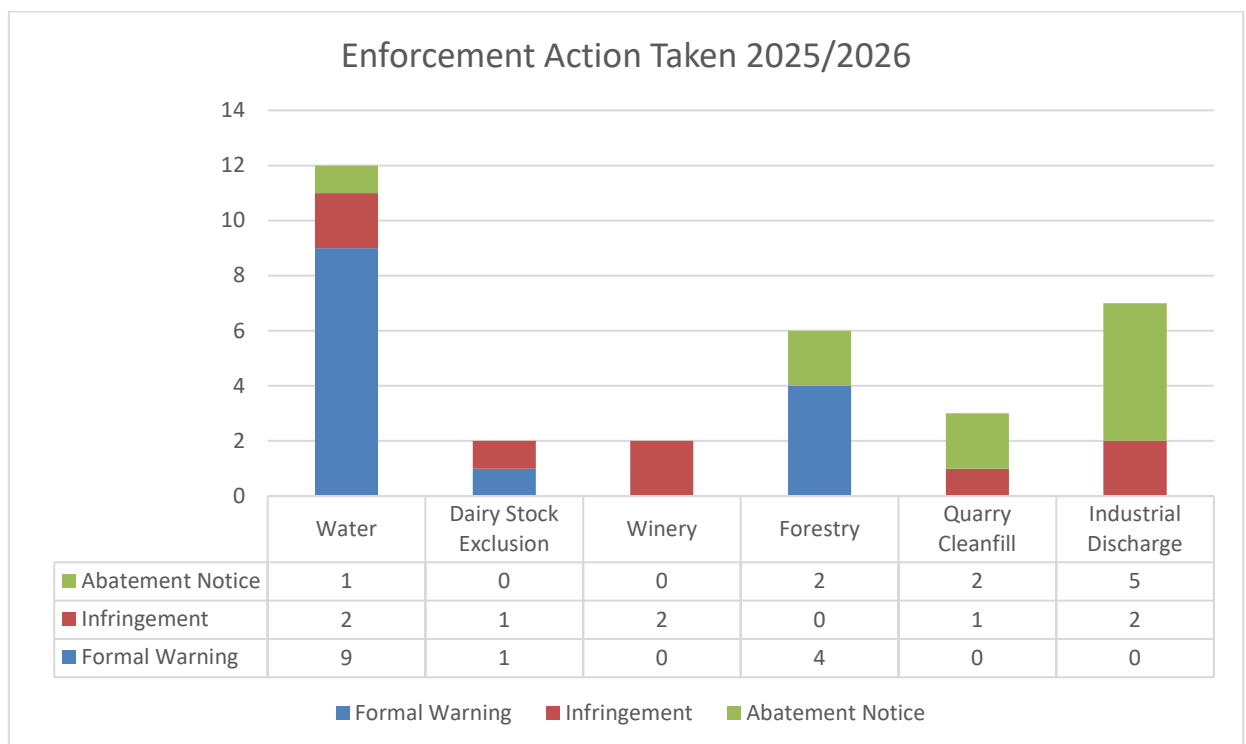
32. For most of the high priority programmes an increase in overall compliance was identified, which is very pleasing to see and can be attributed in part to the consistent approach taken by the team to

monitoring and enforcement. Most notably water takes, dairy effluent and winery waste, where Council puts considerable monitoring efforts and regulations have remained consistent over the last three years, an improved compliance rating has been observed. The consistency of expectations by Council creates an improved understanding for the consent holder and this is helping us to see the desired outcomes.

33. Forestry recorded a decrease in both compliance and non-compliance during the reporting period. However, there was an increase in low-level non-compliance, where there was limited potential for adverse environmental effects. These changes were partly attributed to amendments to regulations and changes in Council's monitoring assessment framework, which were implemented to support a more standardised national approach to compliance monitoring and reporting.
34. The highest priority monitoring programmes have been, or will be, reported on in more detail throughout the year by the officers responsible for each of those programmes.
35. The Environmental Protection Team generates Compliance Snapshots, for most monitoring programs, as they are completed for the reported year. These are completed to get key information to the public in an easy-to-read format and provide background information regarding how compliance is carried out and how compliance is assessed. These are available via the Council website.

Enforcement Action Taken

36. As a result of monitoring activities, a range of enforcement tools are used to address non-compliance in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy. During the 2025/2026 monitoring period 14 formal warnings, 8 infringements and 10 abatement notices were issued as part of strategic monitoring programmes. Other actions taken included numerous letters of direction and letters of education.



Changes made during 2025/2026

37. Mooring monitoring transitioned from a manual paper-based monitoring process to a more automated process. The transition created a backlog in work which is being worked through. Going forward the process will be much more efficient for both Council staff and consent holders.

Upcoming changes

38. The current compliance monitoring database is limited in functionality and not considered fit for purpose, this impacts efficiency of administration tasks when carrying out monitoring functions. Council is currently developing a replacement database in order to make changes and further improve the team's performance and assist resource consent holders with meeting their resource consent obligations. This new database is expected to be brought into production before the end of the year.
39. The EPO responsible for the forestry monitoring portfolio will be leaving the organisation shortly. As forestry is the highest-priority monitoring portfolio, there will be a period of transition while a replacement is recruited and trained. Measures will be implemented to minimise any disruption to monitoring activities and maintain delivery of the forestry monitoring programme.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Claire Frooms (15 minutes).

Author	Claire Frooms, Team Leader Compliance Monitoring Programme Coordinator
Authoriser	Rachael Williams, Compliance Manager

18. Forestry Monitoring Report

(Clr Arbuckle) (Report prepared by Savannah Boere)

E335-003-002-01

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Compliance Group's ongoing monitoring programme of forestry activities for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Executive Summary

2. This report provides an overview of where the Compliance Group monitored, how monitoring is undertaken and the rating system used to determine compliance status with the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**), Plan Rules, the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (**NES-CF**) and Resource Consents.
3. It discusses the results of the monitoring programme and outlines any observations or improvements noticed during monitoring inspections.
4. The report also outlines developments and changes to the forestry monitoring programme and strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Background

5. The NES-CF came into force during the 2017/2018 monitoring period on 1 May 2018. The NES-CF provides national regulation for forestry activity. The NES-CF separates forestry into the following activities:
 - a) Afforestation;
 - b) Pruning and thinning to waste;
 - c) Earthworks;
 - d) River crossings;
 - e) Forestry quarrying;
 - f) Harvesting;
 - g) Mechanical land preparation;
 - h) Replanting;
 - i) Ancillary activities, slash traps, indigenous vegetation clearance, non-indigenous vegetation clearance; and
 - j) General provisions, discharges, disturbances, diversions, noise, vibration, dust, indigenous bird nesting, fuel storage and refuelling.
6. Most of these activities can be carried out as permitted activities under the NES-CF in Marlborough, excluding where Council has applied more stringency than the NES-CF. Compliance's role is to assess the forestry activities being carried out against the NES-CF permitted activity regulations or any resource consents required if the permitted activity regulations cannot be met

7. On 4 June 2026, amendments to NES-CF came into effect with the aim of improving national consistency, reducing compliance costs, and focusing regulatory effort on higher-risk forestry activities. Key changes include narrowing the circumstances in which councils can apply rules that are more stringent than the NES-CF, replacing prescriptive slash management requirements with a risk-based Slash Mobilisation Risk Assessment approach, removing the requirement for replanting plans, streamlining afforestation plan requirements and clarifying several provisions that had created uncertainty in the regulations. The amendments are intended to provide greater certainty for forestry operators while maintaining environmental safeguards for erosion-prone and other high-risk sites.
8. On 25 June 2026, an updated Wilding Tree Risk Calculator came into effect and must now be used for all assessments required under the NES-CF. The revised calculator provides an updated methodology for assessing the risk of wilding tree spread and supports more consistent and evidence-based decision-making. Forestry operators are required to use the updated calculator when undertaking wilding tree risk assessments and providing the associated documentation to councils as part of NES-CF compliance requirements.
9. In August 2019, Council signed a contract with Spencer Consulting to carry out forestry monitoring as a contractor. The monitoring carried out by Spencer Consulting is carried out predominately by use of drone. High-quality orthomosaic (aerial imagery), 3D imagery and 360-degree images are provided to Compliance staff to carry out a desktop compliance assessment of forestry activities:
 - **25** inspections were carried out by the contractor during the 2019/2020 monitoring period;
 - **30** inspections were carried out during the 2020/2021 period;
 - **18** inspections were carried out in the 2021/2022;
 - **27** inspections were undertaken in 2023/2024;
 - **25** inspections were undertaken in 2024/2025; and
 - **27** inspections were carried out during the 2025-2026 monitoring period by the contractor.

This has assisted with Council's capacity to monitor more forestry operations in the Marlborough District.

Where monitoring occurred

10. Forestry is included in the Compliance Group's active strategic monitoring programme.
11. Council officers undertook **14** monitoring inspections, Spencer Consulting undertook **27** and there was **1** occasion where both Council officers and Spencer Consulting inspected. Therefore, a total of **42** monitoring inspections were carried out on **42** forestry blocks during the 12-month reporting period. This is **1** less inspection than the previous reporting period, and **4** more than the 2022/2023 period.

How monitoring is undertaken

12. Forestry related land disturbance and harvesting consents and forestry related activities permitted under the NES-CF were monitored.
13. The resource consent conditions and permitted activity standards monitored in each forestry block included:
 - a) Harvest plans for skid sites (harvest processing areas), road and track placement;
 - b) Water control (culverts, water tables) installation and effectiveness;
 - c) Erosion and sediment controls;
 - d) Land stability (slash placement and recovery, skid benching and drainage);
 - e) Waterway blockages (woody debris in waterways and setbacks); and
 - f) Stream crossings.

14. The number of monitoring inspections required in each forestry block depends on the size and duration of the harvesting operation and whether significant issues that require ongoing monitoring are detected. Council also carries out inspections as a result of complaints.
15. Compliance staff encourage the involvement of forestry owners/managers during the monitoring process. The owners/managers are invited to accompany Compliance staff during inspections for effective monitoring outcomes.
16. Forestry blocks are inspected against a set of parameters that align with resource consent conditions and NES-CF regulations. Each skid site is individually inspected for remedial works. All inspected aspects (including the skid sites, roading, tracking, waterway setbacks, and stream crossings etc.) are combined and the forestry block is assigned a compliance status. Effectively, a block may have several compliant skid sites but could still require remedial action due to issues such as a blocked culvert, tension cracking, lack of water controls etc.
17. All Spencer Consulting inspections generate electronic data which is viewable on their website: www.remotehq.co.nz. Data is initially only visible by Council compliance staff through a secure login. That information is then assessed for compliance against the relevant resource consent(s) and/or NES-CF regulations and a PDF report generated. Once the report is finalised the information becomes available for the forest manager/public to view through the RemoteHQ website. A copy of the PDF report which includes details of any required remedial works is then emailed to the forest manager/owner.
18. During Council inspections, staff record their travel routes along roads and tracks using GPS applications on iPhones or iPads, which are then compared against approved harvest plans or the most recent Google Earth imagery. The RemoteHQ application is also used to document and photograph all skid sites utilised during harvesting operations. This platform provides Council staff with access to many of the same tools and reporting features as Spencer Consulting, enabling inspection data to be uploaded to the same portal and formatted consistently. As a result, the forestry industry receives uniform and standardised reports, regardless of whether the inspection is conducted by Council personnel or Spencer Consulting.
19. A traffic light system is used for determining the compliance status of a forestry operation after our initial monitoring inspection. **Green** is compliant and no action is required, **Yellow** indicates a technical or low-risk non-compliance. Technical non-compliances relate to administrative or reporting requirements (such as missing a deadline for providing information), while low-risk non-compliances involve minor environmental effects and a low level of environmental risk; **Orange** means non-compliance where corrective actions are required to achieve compliance and address minor environmental effects and **Red** is significantly non-compliant i.e. significant remedial actions are required or non-compliance has resulted in significant adverse environmental effects. The traffic light system is further described and displayed in the following table with examples of each type of non-compliance.

Fully compliant	Technical/low risk non-compliance	Non-compliant	Significantly non-compliant
100% compliance with All permitted activity regulations or consent conditions assessed.	Non-compliance with Regulations which are considered to have no adverse environmental effects e.g. failure to notify a material amendment, or meet a timeframe.	Breach of effects based/best practice regulations that cause minor actual or potential environmental effects e.g. minor issues with unstable fill, slash management, water controls, stream crossings, or erosion and sediment controls that can be easily remedied through corrective works.	Significant breach of effects based regulations that cause actual or potential environmental effects e.g. skid site road failures caused by failures to install adequate water controls, large volumes of wood left in streams or rivers, significant discharges of sediment.

Figure 1 Traffic light system used for determining the compliance status of a forestry operation.

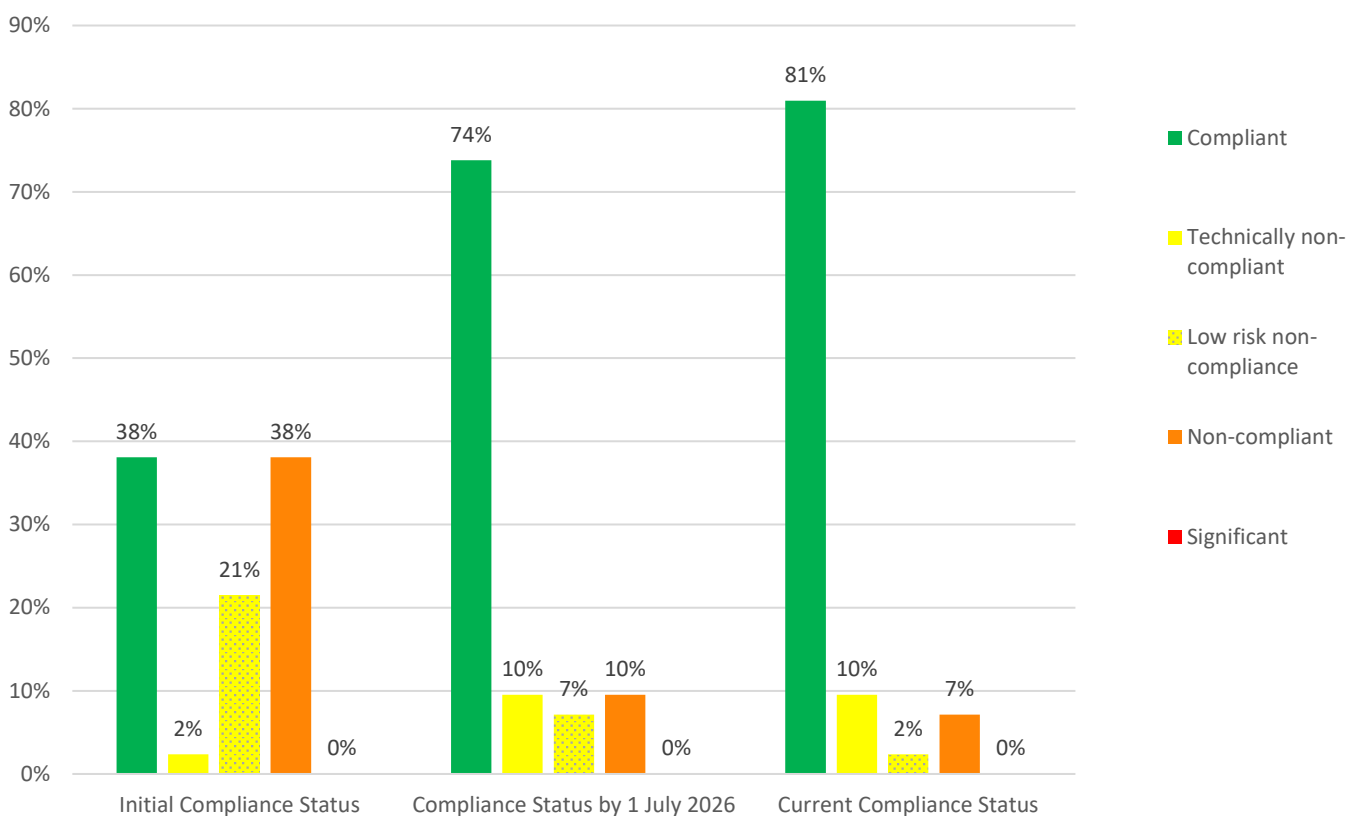
20. A snapshot report for forestry monitoring is also completed each year and is provided below.

Monitoring results

21. Of the **42** inspections, **10** were monitored under a resource consent, **6** were monitored under both a resource consent and permitted activity (NES-CF), while the other **26** were monitored under the permitted activity (NES-CF) conditions. Of the blocks monitored:

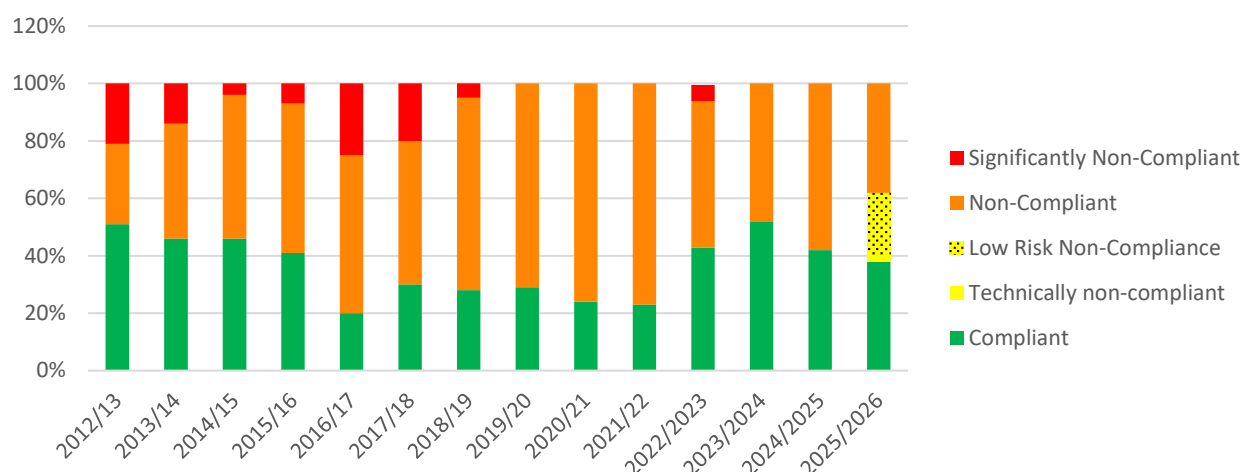
- **16 (38%)** were **fully compliant** after the first monitoring visit and required no remedial works or further inspections
- **1 (2%)** block was found to be **technically non-compliant**
- **9 (21%)** blocks were **low risk non-compliant**
- **16 (38%)** of the forestry blocks were rated **non-compliant**
- **0** of the forestry blocks were assessed as being **significantly non-compliant**

Of the low-risk non-compliance and non-compliant blocks, **18** had achieved compliance by the end of the monitoring period, **4** blocks were remaining with non-compliant status. The following graph shows the percentage of forestry blocks with each **current** compliance status as monitored in 2025/2026.



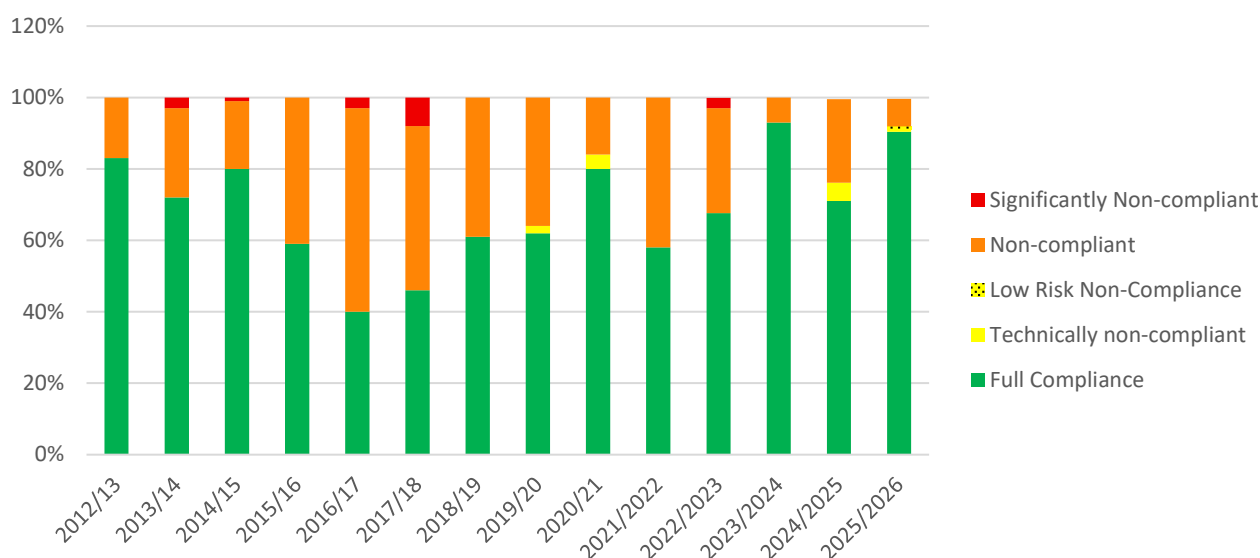
22. The 2025/2026 monitoring period resulted in a **4% decrease** in the number of blocks being assessed as Compliant at the first inspection. No blocks were assessed as significantly non-compliant during the 2025/2026 monitoring period, which is the same from the year before. The following graph shows the trend of compliance status results for the last thirteen years of monitoring.

Forestry Block Compliance (Initial Visit) - 14 Year Trend



23. During this reporting period, a total of 156 skid site inspections were undertaken within the 42 forestry blocks. Some skid sites were monitored more than once if remedial works were required to bring them into a compliant state. A total of:
- **141 (90.4%)** of skid site inspections were assessed as **compliant**
 - **12 (7.7%)** were assessed as **non-compliant**
 - **1 (1%)** was assessed as **technical non-compliance**
 - **2 (1%)** was assessed as low-risk non-compliance
 - **0** as **significant non-compliance**
24. Skid site compliance increased by 19% compared with the previous monitoring period. Compliance has shown a generally upward trend since the 2021/2022 period. Following the exceptionally wet conditions experienced during June, July, and August in 2021 and 2022, increased emphasis has been placed on skid site monitoring over the last three monitoring periods, contributing to continued improvements in compliance performance.

Skid site Compliance Levels - 14 Year Trend



25. A new compliance category, **Low Risk Non-compliance**, has been introduced to better reflect the nature and severity of issues identified during inspections. This category is typically applied where environmental controls have been installed but require minor maintenance or remedial work, such as clearing accumulated sediment from a sediment trap or reinstating a cut-off. The addition of this category provides a more accurate representation of on-site compliance and aligns more appropriately with the corresponding enforcement response. Many of the issues identified during the monitoring period related to water and sediment controls and were assessed as low risk, reflecting the need for ongoing maintenance rather than a failure to implement controls.
26. During the monitoring period, enforcement action was taken in the form of **4** Formal Warnings and **1** Abatement Notice. An additional Abatement Notice was issued in relation to works monitored in the previous monitoring period. In addition, remedial work orders were routinely issued following non-compliant monitoring inspections, with corrective actions required to be completed within a four-week timeframe. Most non-compliances identified were minor to moderate in nature and were resolved within four weeks of the forestry company being notified. For blocks with minor non-compliance, Council provided educational follow-up through Letters of Education, with **10** letters sent. All remaining non-compliances continue to be actively monitored and progressed toward resolution.

Observations and examples

27. Another significant rainfall event during the 2026 calendar year provided a valuable test of post-harvest site resilience and the effectiveness of erosion and sediment controls. Overall, forestry blocks generally performed well, demonstrating continued improvements in post-harvest management practices and environmental awareness across the industry. Ongoing compliance monitoring and engagement with operators continue to contribute to improved environmental outcomes.
28. Analysis of corrective actions and Areas of Recognised Compliance (AORC) indicates that, where non-compliance was identified, the typical number of corrective works required was relatively low. The median number of corrective works required on non-compliant sites was 5, while the median number of AORCs identified was also 5. The average number of corrective works required was likewise 5. In comparison, the average number of AORC identified was 10, reflecting that some sites achieved a particularly high standard of environmental management and compliance, which increased the overall average.
29. Water and sediment control measures, including culverts, water tables, sediment ponds and cut-offs, are now routinely installed across forestry operations. While the widespread implementation of these controls is a positive trend, maintenance remains the most common issue identified during inspections. Sediment traps are frequently found to be full or partially blocked, while cut-offs often require reinstatement following weather events or operational use. Although these issues are generally assessed as low-risk non-compliances, they highlight the importance of regular inspections and maintenance to ensure controls remain effective during periods of heavy rainfall.
30. The updated compliance data shows that the majority of compliance issues identified during the monitoring period related to earthworks activities rather than harvesting operations. Harvesting practices, including slash management, continue to improve, with most operators managing slash appropriately and removing material from flow paths where required. A range of management approaches is being employed, including chipping, windrowing and relocating slash to low-risk areas.
31. Stream crossing assessments are now included as a standalone component of each compliance inspection, with every crossing receiving an individual assessment. This has improved the accuracy and consistency of stream crossing evaluations and has enabled more detailed identification of site-specific issues. Common non-compliances continue to include inadequate fish passage, perched culverts and a lack of stabilisation around culvert abutments. Ongoing education has focused on improving industry understanding of fish passage requirements and the environmental benefits associated with maintaining aquatic connectivity.
32. Harvesting activities adjacent to ephemeral streams remain an area of ongoing discussion with the forestry industry. Ephemeral streams are drainage channels that flow only during and immediately following rainfall events but could still act as pathways for sediment and slash mobilisation. Increased consideration is now being given to identifying these features during operational planning and

determining appropriate slash management practices to minimise adverse environmental effects. Continued engagement with operators has resulted in improved awareness and more site-specific management responses.

33. Tension cracking remains a recurring issue on some forestry sites, particularly following harvesting and earthworks activities. However, a recent industry workshop focused on identifying, assessing and managing tension cracks has increased awareness of the risks associated with slope instability. It is anticipated that the knowledge shared through this workshop will contribute to improved management practices and a reduction in tension crack-related non-compliance during the next monitoring period.
34. Examples of good practices observed at **compliant** forestry blocks are presented in the following figures. Council also identified **425** Areas of Recognised Compliance (AORCs), which are locations where commendable environmental practices have been observed. Compared with the 2024/2025 monitoring period (**215**), this figure has almost doubled. These AORCs are included in the monitoring reports provided to individual forestry operators, highlighting positive performance alongside compliance assessments.



Figure 2: Track rehabilitated post-harvest waterway



Figure 3: Protection of native vegetation and

35. Examples of issues observed at **non-compliant** blocks are shown in the following figures.



Figure 4: Lack of water controls.



Figure 5: Perched Culvert and lack of fish passage.

The Forestry Monitoring Strategy

36. Council monitoring staff have carried out an assessment to prioritise all 16 of Council's resource consent compliance monitoring programmes including dairy farms, water takes, winery wastewater, marine farms, subdivisions, municipal infrastructure, industrial discharges, clean fills, and quarries.

The monitoring programmes were ranked by factors such as actual and potential adverse environmental effects, scale of the activity across the region, public interest, number of complaints received, and economic importance of the industry to the region. Forestry has been assessed as being the highest priority monitoring programme. As a result of this prioritisation, on-going resourcing for forestry monitoring is prioritised.

37. Council's forestry monitoring strategy aims to:
 - a) assist the forestry industry in achieving the purpose of the RMA;
 - b) promote and achieve compliance; and
 - c) promote continued improvement in environmental performance.
38. The forestry monitoring strategy aims to do this by:
 - a) **Engaging** with the forestry industry through onsite interactions and other interactions such as attendance at meetings and workshops;
 - b) **Educating** contractors, managers and forest owners. Education may take place during site visit discussions by providing written advice or other informational resources to those in the forestry industry;
 - c) **Enabling** the forestry industry to achieve compliance and good environmental outcomes by promoting good environmental practices (often carried out along with engagement and education during site inspections);
 - d) **Enforce** Compliance staff will take appropriate and proportionate punitive and directive enforcement action in situations where that enforcement action is necessary and warranted.
39. Council continues to engage proactively with the forestry industry to promote compliance and support positive environmental outcomes. During the reporting period, Council organised and facilitated a forestry industry field day attended by compliance officers from other councils, a workshop on amendments to the NES-CF, a Slash Mobilisation Risk Assessment workshop focused on resource consent applications, and a Wilding Tree Risk Calculation workshop. These events provided opportunities for knowledge sharing, discussion of regulatory requirements and industry best practice, and helped to strengthen relationships between Council and the forestry sector.
40. Additional practice changes have been made with the industry, to provide opportunities for clarification and streamline reporting. These include discussing report findings with forestry operators before issuing reports, and awareness of the ability to request inspections to discuss any required works, before works are fully completed while machinery remains onsite.
41. The forestry monitoring strategy recognises that it is not practical or necessary to monitor every forestry block during every phase of the forestry cycle. The strategy aims to take a risk-based approach to monitoring by taking into account the following factors:
 - a) **Sensitivity and importance of the receiving environment** - coastal margins, wetlands, rivers, significant ecological areas, proximity to dwellings;
 - b) **Vulnerability of the forestry site** - the Erosion Susceptibility Classification of the sites, previous observations of extensive erosion or failures;
 - c) **Scale of the forestry activity** - woodlot vs large scale harvesting operation;
 - d) **Risk of significant non-compliance** - consistent failure to comply at the site or by the contractor or manager, ongoing non-compliances or significant environmental issues at the forestry block.
42. Monitoring will be carried out by Environmental Protection Officers and/or Spencer Consulting. Self-monitoring by forestry contractors or managers is also promoted for completed remedial work, especially where minor remedial works are to be completed and photographs of these works can be provided to Compliance staff. The Monitoring Strategy recognises that it will not always be practical to assess compliance with all sections of the RMA, NES-CF permitted activity regulations, and resource consent conditions during every inspection; as such, monitoring will focus on site specific risks.

43. Monitoring will be carried out at the following times:
- a) Following completion of post-harvest remediation;
 - b) Following a directive to carry out remedial works;
 - c) Following receipt of a complaint;
 - d) In years following completion of post-harvest remediation; and
 - e) By request of the landowner or forest manager.

This will be based on the assessed risk for each forestry operation and will be proportional to the scale of the forestry activity.

44. For the reporting period, Council received/conducted **6** forestry related investigations. They related to discharge of sediment to a vineyard (non-compliant), loss of sunlight and a potential fire hazard due trees (compliant), removal of indigenous vegetation (compliant), firebreak maintenance (compliant), potential sedimentation from lack of maintenance (non-compliant), and a blocked culvert (compliant). Of the **6** forestry related investigations for the period **5** are currently closed.
45. From the beginning of calendar year 2021, NES-CF permitted activity notifications were incorporated into the role of the compliance monitoring team to the officer who manages the forestry monitoring portfolio. This was seen as an opportunity for that officer to see through forestry projects from start to finish for better understanding and service to the industry and to the monitoring of the work as a whole. This has resulted in several consultation site visits, and the benefit of this approach.

Summary

46. The 2025/2026 monitoring period demonstrated generally positive environmental performance across Marlborough's forestry sector. While only 38% of forestry blocks were assessed as fully compliant at the initial inspection, no blocks were assessed as significantly non-compliant and most identified issues were minor in nature. The introduction of the new Low Risk Non-compliance category has provided a more accurate reflection of compliance outcomes, recognising situations where environmental controls have been installed but require maintenance or minor remedial works. The monitoring programme also recorded 425 Areas of Recognised Compliance, almost double the number identified during the previous reporting period, demonstrating continued improvement in environmental management practices across much of the industry.
47. Water and sediment control infrastructure remains the most common area requiring attention, particularly maintenance of sediment traps, cut-offs, culverts and drainage systems. Most of these issues were classified as low-risk non-compliances, reflecting maintenance requirements rather than a failure to install appropriate controls. Enhanced monitoring of stream crossings has also improved the accuracy of compliance assessments and identified ongoing issues relating to fish passage, perched culverts and stabilisation of culvert abutments. Compliance data indicates that earthworks activities continue to generate a greater proportion of non-compliances than harvesting operations, highlighting an area for ongoing industry focus. Continued education and engagement with the forestry sector, including recent workshops addressing tension cracking and discussions regarding management of ephemeral streams, are expected to further improve environmental performance in future monitoring periods.
48. Compliance staff will continue to monitor the resource consent conditions and NES-CF permitted activity regulations associated with the harvesting of Marlborough's forests in accordance with the forestry monitoring strategy.

Attachment

Attachment 18.1 - Forestry Compliance Snapshot 2025/2026

page [82]

Author	Savannah Boere, Environmental Protection Officer
Authoriser	Rachael Williams, Compliance Manager

Compliance Snapshot Forestry Monitoring Programme

2025/2026 Snapshot



Key points

- 43** Monitoring inspections undertaken
- 42** Forestry blocks monitored
- 156** Skid sites were assessed
- 129** kms of forestry roads and tracks were inspected
- 38%** Forestry blocks were fully compliant on initial inspection
- 74%** Forestry blocks were fully compliant by the end of the reporting period
- 141** Skid sites were fully compliant on the first visit
- 90.4%** Skid sites were fully compliant on first visit
- 19%** Increase in compliance of skid sites from 2024/2025
- 0** Blocks assessed as significantly non-compliant
- 6** Complaints received directly related to forestry

What was found during the 2025/2026 inspection and annual monitoring

Marlborough District Council undertook 42 monitoring inspections in 42 forestry blocks during the reporting period 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026. Staff inspected the operations of 14 forestry management companies and 3 property owners. Monitoring occurred within forestry blocks where harvesting and earthworks had recently occurred or had occurred 2-4 years ago.

Council and Spencer Consulting inspected over 129 km of forestry roads & tracks and 156 skid sites within the 42 forestry blocks. A total of 141 (90.4%) of the skid sites inspected were rated as compliant on the first inspection, 3 (1.9%) were technically or low-risk non-compliant, 12 (7.7%) were rated non-compliant and 0 significantly non-compliant. The level of compliance for skid site inspections has increased by 19% from the previous monitoring period.

Of the 42 inspections, 16 (38%) were fully compliant after the first monitoring visit and required no remedial works or further inspections. This is 4% lower than during last years' reporting period. Of the 42 forestry blocks 0 were significantly non-compliant during this period which was the same as the year before. Of the 16 (38%) non-compliant blocks 12 had achieved compliance by the end of the monitoring period. The 4 remaining blocks currently are working on achieving compliance.

Industry Issues and Challenges

Forestry waste

Innovation needed in harvesting and/or the solid energy sector to reduce the waste wood left at the forestry blocks

Failures after harvesting

On-going maintenance of harvested blocks during the "window of vulnerability" is critical to avoid failures.

Future proofing the industry

Understanding of areas to avoid for plantation planting / re-planting, and improving public perception of forestry.

Common Areas of Non-compliance

For those blocks assessed as non-compliant, examples of corrective actions required included:

- Installation of skid site drainage;
- Removal of slash from waterways;
- Installation/maintenance of water and erosion controls.
- Removal of temporary crossings
- Remediating batter / cut slumps

Summary of Compliance Rating System

Fully Compliant	Technical/Low-Risk non-compliant	Non-compliant	Significantly non-compliant
100% compliance with All permitted activity regulations or consent conditions assessed.	Non-compliance with Regulations which are considered to have no adverse environmental effects e.g. failure to notify a material amendment, or meet a timeframe.	Breach of effects based/best practice regulations that cause minor actual or potential environmental effects e.g. minor issues with unstable fill, slash management, water controls, stream crossings, or erosion and sediment controls that can be easily remedied through corrective works.	Significant breach of effects based regulations that cause actual or potential environmental effects e.g. skid site road failures caused by failures to install adequate water controls, large volumes of wood left in streams or rivers, significant discharges of sediment.

Compliance Snapshot

Forestry blocks are inspected against a set of parameters that align with the resource consent conditions, National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry regulations and the Resource Management Act 1991. Each skid site is also individually inspected for any remedial works required.

All inspected aspects (including the skid sites, roads, tracking, waterway setbacks etc.) are combined and the forestry block is assigned a compliance status, reflecting the conditions seen at this point in time. So, effectively a block may have several compliant skid sites but could still be rated as non-compliant due to a minor issue such as a blocked culvert.

The number of monitoring inspections required in each forestry block depends on the size and duration of the harvesting operation. Recurrent visits are undertaken in the larger blocks or in blocks where issues are not readily resolved or continue to occur

Good Compliance

Track rehabilitated post-harvest



Protection of native vegetation and waterway



Poor Compliance

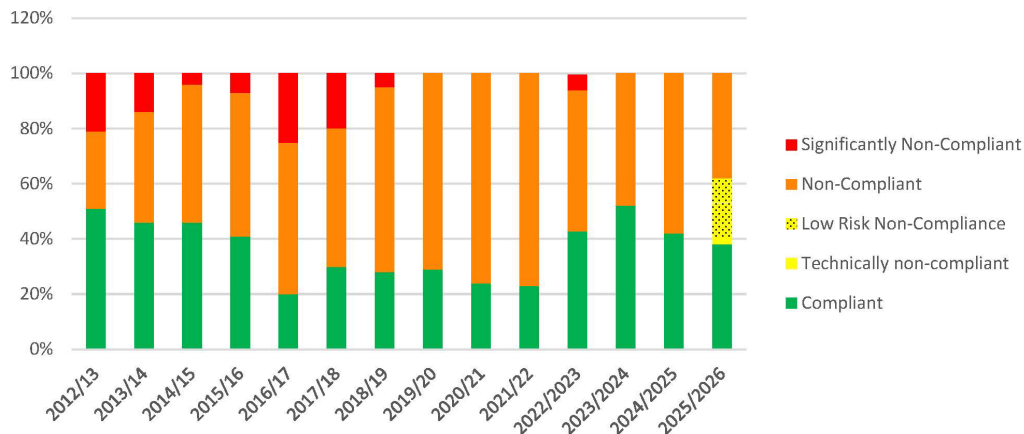
Lack of water controls



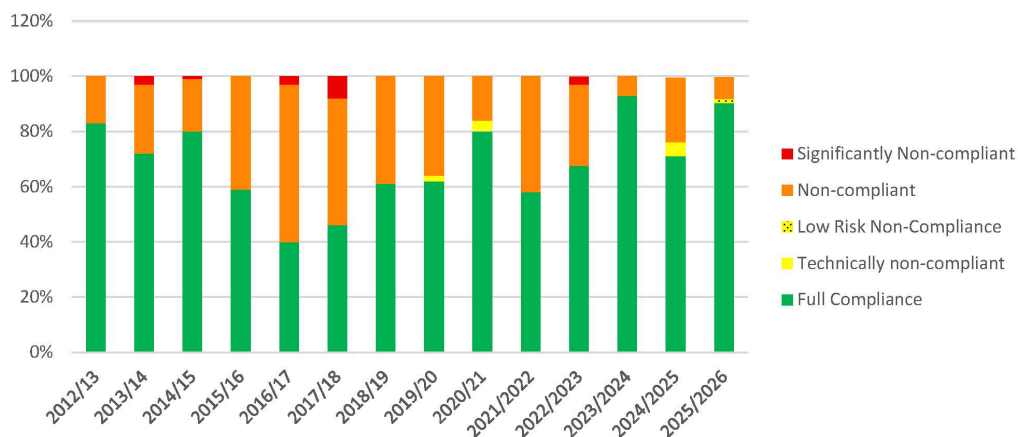
Perched culvert and lack of fish passage



Forestry Block Compliance (Initial Visit) – 14 Year Trend



Skid Site Compliance Levels – 14 Year Trend



Compliance Action Taken

- 10 Letters of Education
- 4 Formal Warnings
- 1 Abatement Notice

Remedial work orders are issued following a non-compliant monitoring inspection, and completion of these measures set and enforced within a one-month (4 week) period.

The tracking of the compliance levels of regional forestry blocks can be found at: <https://remotehq.co.nz/>

Contact us

For more information on compliance and enforcement monitoring undertaken by Marlborough District Council, contact the Environmental Monitoring Team at monitoring@marlborough.govt.nz or Ph 03 520 7400

19. Dog Control Policy and Practices Annual Report 2025/2026

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Cllr Taylor) (Report prepared by Jamie Clark)

E305-003-003-01

Purpose of Report

1. To receive the Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report.

Executive Summary

2. This report covers the dog control activities for the 2025/26 financial year, 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background/Context

3. Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires the Council to prepare an annual report on its administration of dog control policies and practices in respect of each financial year.
4. The report is required to contain information on the number of dogs registered, the number of dogs classified as dangerous and menacing, the number of disqualified owners, the numbers of dog related complaints received, the number of infringement notices issued, and the number of prosecutions undertaken by the Council under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Next steps

5. The report will be made available on the Marlborough District Council website and publicly notified in a local newspaper.

Attachment

Attachment 19.1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices Annual Report 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 is available on Council's website [here](#)

Author	Jamie Clark, Contract Manager (Animal Control)
Authoriser	Rachael Williams, Compliance Manager

20. Information Package

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 20 August 2026 be received and noted.
