

COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

Our vision

To help achieve sustainable management of the natural and physical resources in our region

Our priorities

Efficient & effective compliance monitoring

Appropriate response

Effective enforcement

Communication & engagement

Description

Detect and/or prevent non-compliance and adverse environmental effects.

Promote compliance and positive behaviour changes through:

- Enabling
- Engaging
- Educating
- Enforcing

Enforcement decisions will be made free from political influence and will be consistent and in order to punish non-compliance and deter future offending.

Give assurance to the public that rules/policies are being monitored and enforced through regular reporting of CME, while at the same time providing opportunity for compliance promotion and education.

Key objectives

- We will monitor compliance with the RMA and RMA regulations, resource consents and regional rules on a risk-based approach.
- We will monitor all industrial, municipal sewage and farm discharges, and major water takes at appropriate frequencies.

- When appropriate we will seek to educate and inform where genuine attempts at compliance have been made.
- We will alert resource users to what is required to be compliant.
- We will develop specific targeted education/guidelines for certain industry sectors.

- All prosecution decisions will be made by an enforcement decision group.
- Each case/offence will be assessed upon its individual circumstances so that our response is proportionate to those circumstances.
- Our enforcement decision-making and investigation

- We will work collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholder groups to maximise compliance and improve environmental performance.
- We will attend and participate in community and industry liaison activities.

- We will follow-up all significant non-compliances and take appropriate action.
- We will respond to all reports of environmental incidents and take appropriate action to address non-compliances.

procedures will align with MfE's Best Practice Guidelines for Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement under the RMA, the Regional Sector Strategic Compliance Framework and the Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines.

- We will consult with resource users, stakeholders and community on matters that may affect them.
- We will report on compliance, monitoring and enforcement activities regularly.

Outcomes

- A regional culture of proactive compliance.
- Monitoring resources are focussed on what's important.

- The full range of interventions are used to ensure the highest possible levels of compliance and corresponding positive environmental outcomes.
- Well known and understood resource use obligations.

- Reputation as a fair and credible regulator.
- Prevention of future non-compliance and environmental harm.

- Well informed resource users, stakeholders and community.
- Resource user groups actively promote good practice.

Action Plans

- Develop and implement CME plans for specific groups of activities, including – farms; forestry; coastal structures; sewage discharges and water takes.
- Ensure all staff understand and are supported to meet our monitoring objectives.
- Promapp all internal monitoring procedures.
- Develop a competency framework to ensure all staff are adequately trained and competent.

- We will regularly check, review and if necessary, develop new guidelines and educational material.

- Continue to improve documentation of all enforcement decisions.

- Further develop reporting tools to improve transparency and availability of CME data to the public.
- Publish detailed monthly compliance reports on our website.