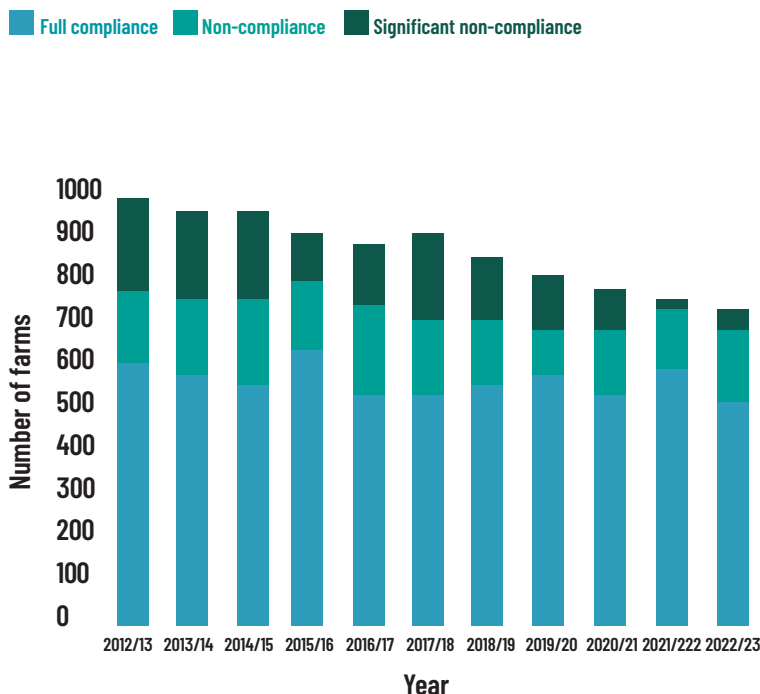




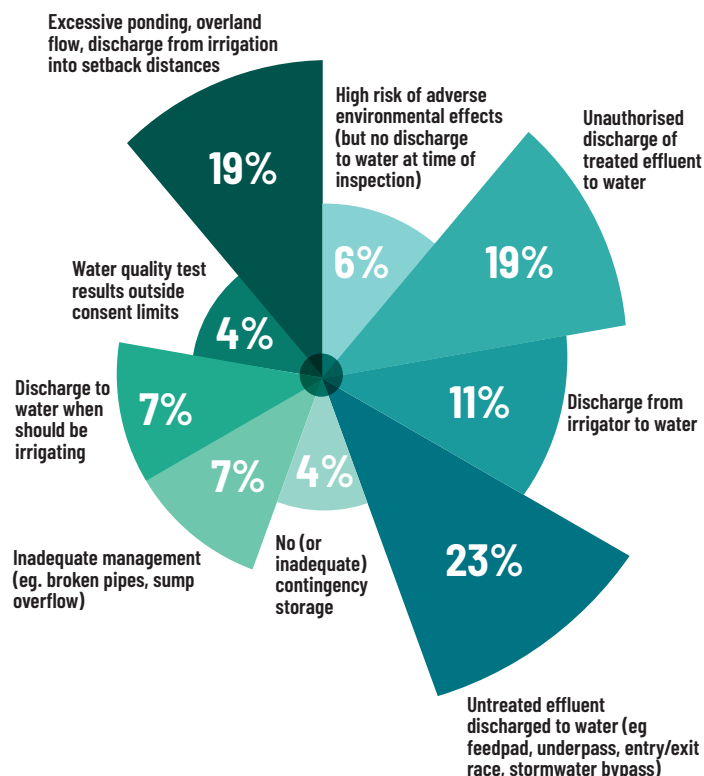
It has been a challenging farming season with the weather and Cyclone Gabrielle hitting the sector hard.

We acknowledge the difficulties this created and appreciate the efforts made by those who worked hard to resolve the issues. Despite these challenges, the rate of significant non-compliance is still trending downwards when assessed over a 10-year timeline (with the exception of last season).

Farm dairy effluent compliance (all farms)



What is causing non-compliance?



Again, acknowledging the unpredictable weather events this season, it is not surprising that the majority of the issues seen on farms had to do with full or over-topping ponds causing flow on effects and unauthorised discharges. The continuation of wet weather over autumn has left many farmers in a position where they may face coming into winter with full ponds. We urge farmers to take every opportunity to irrigate their wastewater when conditions allow and to monitor their pond levels closely.

Feel free to contact our farm monitoring team to discuss your situation - 0800 002 004

Stock in waterways



Livestock activity can damage the bed and banks of our waterways. Dung, urine and sediment can also seriously impact water quality, the lives of animals living there and mahinga kai values.

Rules in the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 and the Regional Plan for Northland mean that stock must be kept out of waterways (also called 'stock exclusion').

The rules apply to beef cattle, dairy cows, dairy support cows, pigs, deer and sheep and are different for each.

You can find information about the applicable legislation here:

- » Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020
- » Regional Plan for Northland – rule C.8.1.2

Both contain specific requirements relating to dates and the size/type of waterbody that stock must be excluded from. Currently, Dairy stock must be excluded from waterbodies > 1m, wetlands >0.05ha and lakes >1m. A summary of key dates can be found in the table below.

Waterbody type	By when and setback from water
Wetlands >0.05ha	1 January 2023 (0m)#
Wetlands that support a population of threatened species	1 July 2025 (0m)*
Lakes (all)	1 July 2023 (3m)*
Lakes >1ha	June 2022 (0m)#
Rivers upstream of swimming sites on Hātea and Raumanga rivers - Identified in the Regional Plan Maps click on 'Catchment Specific layers'	June 2024 (0m)#
Rivers and streams > 1m - Wider than one metre at any point within a property	Feb 2022 (0m)# 1 July 2023 (3m)*
Streams < 1m - The entire stream within a property is less than one metre wide. Only applies to streams that continually contain water	1 January 2023 (0m)#
Artificial watercourse >1m - A man-made channel, continually flowing with water. It does not include a channel constructed in or along the path of any historical or existing river, stream or natural wetland – refer Regional Plan for full definition	Feb 2022 (0m)#
Artificial watercourse <1m - A man-made channel, continually flowing with water. It does not include a channel constructed in or along the path of any historical or existing river, stream or natural wetland – refer Regional Plan for full definition	1 January 2023 (0m)#
Inanga spawning sites - The margins of rivers and estuaries that are inundated by spring high tides. There is no map of inanga spawning sites	June 2022 (0m)#
1,000m upstream of a mapped priority drinking water abstraction point - Refer Regional Plan Maps - click on 'Priority Drinking Water Abstraction Points'	June 2022 (0m)#
Outstanding freshwater body - Identified in the Regional Plan Maps click on 'Water Quality and Quantity Management Units' then 'Outstanding Freshwater Bodies'	June 2022 (0m)#
Coastal marine area - Beaches, mudflats, saltmarsh and other foreshore areas. This rule has been in place since 2009 (previously in the Regional Coastal Plan for Northland)	2009 (0m)#

KEY # = Regional Plan rule C.8.1.2 * = Stock Exclusion Regulations

Frequently asked questions

Who do these regulations apply to?

Anyone who owns or controls stock.

What if I already have a fence or my stock are naturally excluded (i.e. cliff, riparian vegetation)?

The rules require that stock is 'effectively excluded' which includes natural barriers and vegetation. If you already have a permanent fence you do not need to change anything even if it does not have a 3m setback provided that stock are effectively excluded.

What are the setbacks I need to follow?

Under the Stock Exclusion Regulations, a 3m setback is required for all rivers and streams over 1m wide as well

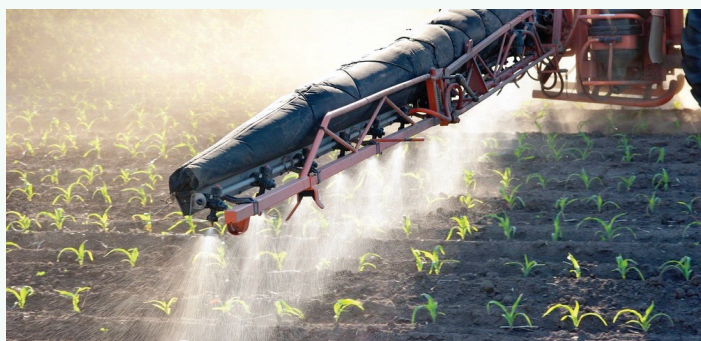
as lakes from 1 July 2023. For streams under 1m wide, no setbacks are defined. See table overleaf for further setback information.

Do I have to fence or are other exclusion options available to me?

If stock are grazing an area near a waterway with no permanent fences already in place, there are no specifications on the method used to exclude stock - it can be as simple as a hotwire. However whatever method is used, it must be effective.

For more information, visit the Farmers Hub at nrc.govt.nz/farmmanagement

Nitrogen reporting



Farm reporting of nitrogen use for the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 is due on 31 July. All farms 20 hectares and larger that have any grazed land, no more than 190kgs of synthetic nitrogen per hectare may be applied per year to:

- » Each individual hectare of pasture; and
- » The combined area of pasture + annual forage crops, when averaged across that area. .

What you need to know

- » Dairy farmers are required to report on their synthetic nitrogen fertiliser usage each year.
- » Nitrogen reports can be submitted via the N-Cap Webform at n-cap.teurukahika.govt.nz, or via the HawkeEye (Ravensdown) or MyBallance (Ballance) apps.
- » Further information on how to calculate and submit your synthetic nitrogen use can be found on NRC's Farmers Hub webpage.
- » Email ncap@nrc.govt.nz if you have any queries..

Burning and Smoke



In Northland, you're only allowed to burn untreated wood, paper, cardboard or vegetation and you must not create a smoke nuisance over your boundary.

Before you burn, check the rules for outdoor burning in our region: www.nrc.govt.nz/backyardburning.

Silage



If not managed appropriately, silage stacks can present as a critical source area and cause leachate contaminant run off to water.

Keeping a silage stack is permitted given that:

1. Silage leachate is not discharged within 50 metres of water, a water supply bore, a dwelling owned/occupied by another person, or 20 metres of a public road/ space.
2. Any leachate generated must be contained and not enter groundwater supply or surface water.
3. Catchment runoff must be prevented from entering the storage site.
4. The discharge must not cause an offensive odour beyond the property boundary.

These rules can create implications when your silage leachate is managed within your farm wastewater treatment system.

When you have a discharge consent

If your silage leachate is managed within your pond treatment system and you have a discharge consent, please check your consent to ensure that a silage discharge activity is included in your consent to discharge farm wastewater.

If your consent does not include the discharge of silage leachate, and you wish to manage your silage leachate within your pond system, you will need to apply for a variation of your consent to include silage leachate in your discharge. Alternatively, you will need to manage your silage leachate separately from your wastewater pond system.

When you irrigate farm wastewater

If your silage leachate is managed within your pond treatment system and you irrigate your farm wastewater, please note the setback distances for silage leachate is 50m from water (whereas farm wastewater has a 20m setback from water). Therefore, you will need to maintain a 50m setback when irrigating unless you apply for a consent to irrigate within the setback.

Alternatively, you will need to manage your silage leachate separately from your wastewater pond system.

If either of these situations affects you, please get in touch to discuss your options.

Want to be notified when the draft Freshwater Plan is released for feedback?

In early September council's first draft of a new freshwater plan for Northland will be ready for feedback. It's basically draft new policies, rules and actions for improving freshwater health. As a dairy farmer, the draft rules will affect you. Register for email alerts and you'll be notified when the draft plan is released. nrc.govt.nz/have-your-say



**SCAN ME
TO SIGN UP**



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