

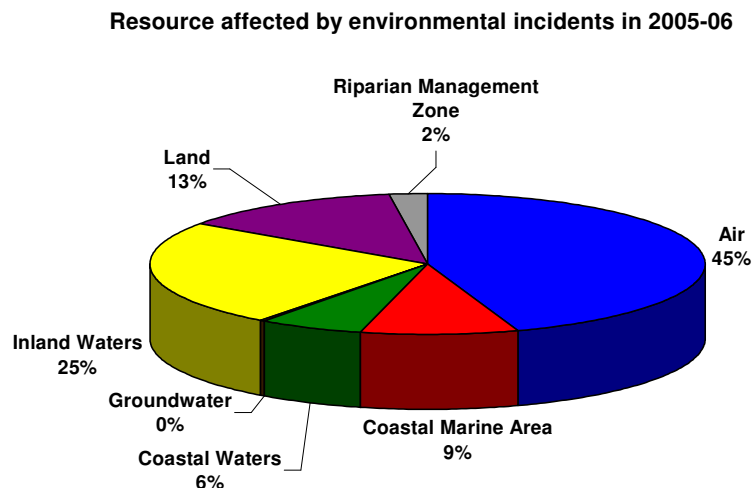
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

Northland Regional Council operates a 24-hour, seven day environmental hotline where people from anywhere in Northland can report environmental incidents to the freephone number 0800 504 639 ranging from water pollution to spraydrift, earthworks to odour problems.

There were 1028 incidents reported to Northland Regional Council in the 2005-06 financial year, which was more than last year. All environmental incidents reported to the Council are recorded in a database including important information such as type, location, details of the incident, alleged offenders, resource affected and impact on the environment, to meet the Council's performance targets (refer page 10) for response to environmental incidents. For a map showing the distribution of incidents reported refer to page 2 and for a tabulated breakdown of the incidents and their impact on the environment refer to pages 3 and 4.

Resource Affected

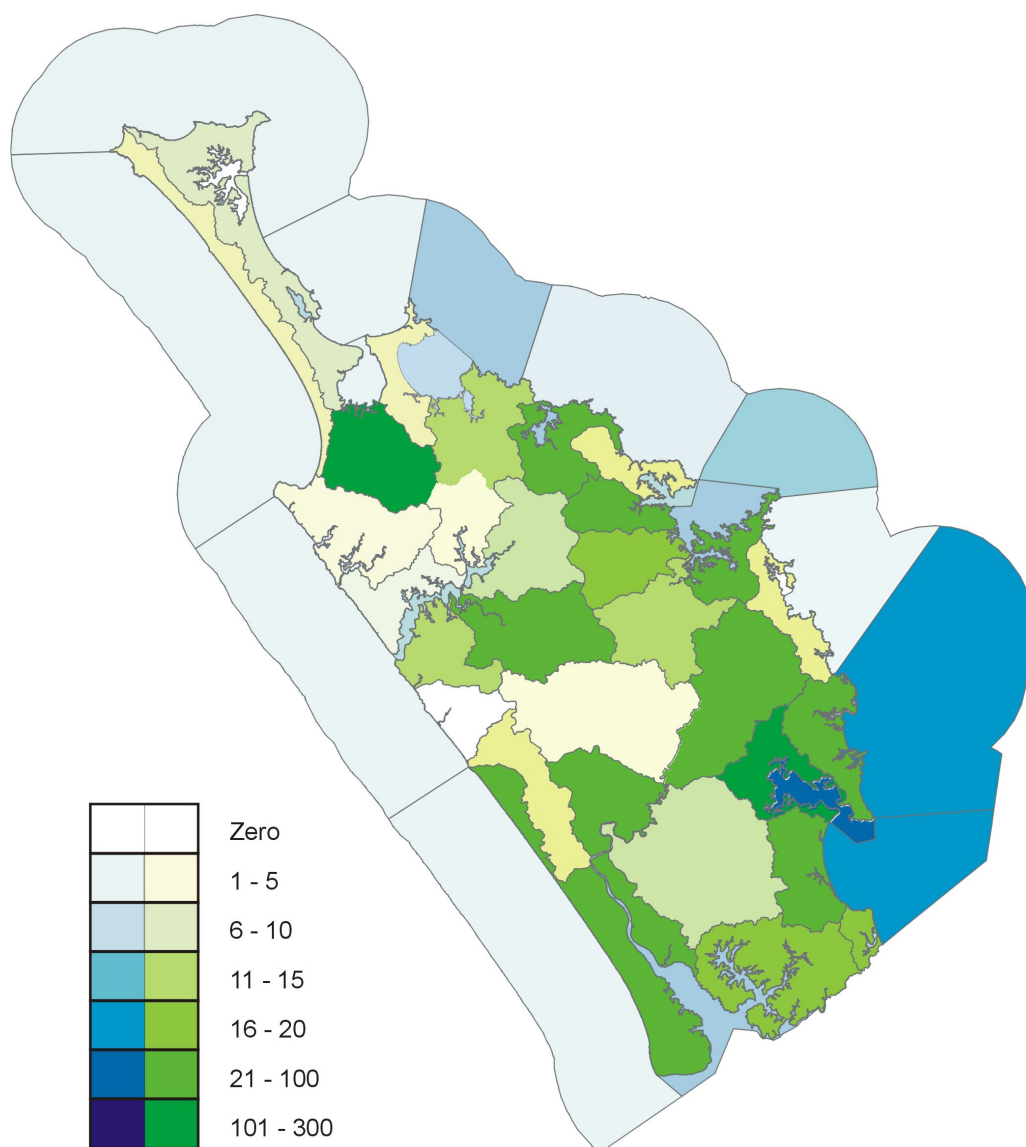
Of the 1028 reported, 458 (45%) were air related incidents. Other incidents were recorded as affecting inland waters (252 incidents), land (135 incidents), coastal marine areas, coastal waters, groundwater or the riparian management zone, as shown in the figure below.



There were only two environmental incidents reported as affecting groundwater resources, which is why it is shown as 0% on the graph above.

Distribution of Incidents

The map below shows the distribution of incidents throughout Northland, where the darker the blue or green the greater number of incidents for that area. Whangarei had the highest occurrence of incidents with 377, while one incident was reported for Parengarenga Harbour, Whangaroa Harbour, Ngunguru Harbour and Mangawhai Harbour areas. The high number of incidents in the Whangarei area is related to the urban nature of the catchment and greater population density.



Different Incident Types

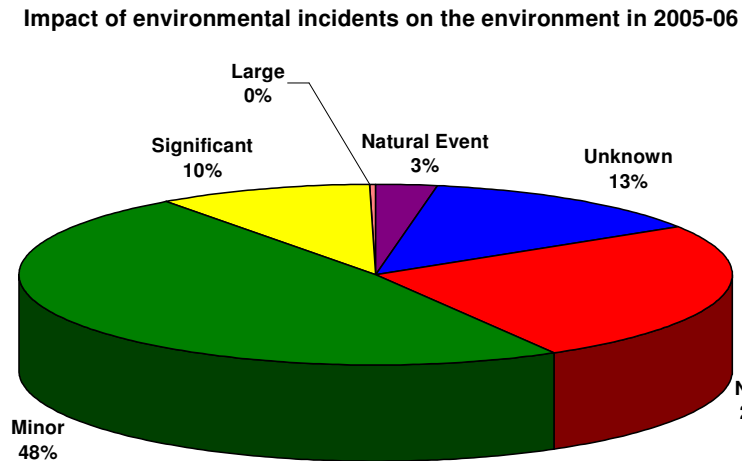
The table below shows the different types of incidents reported in terms of numbers and percentage of the total 1028 incidents.

Burning and smoke nuisance incidents were by far the most common incidents in Northland, however this may be related to the fact that people are more likely to notice and/or be affected by a smoke nuisance than other incident types. With odour, sewage and earthworks/vegetation clearance incidents being the next most common incidents reported.

Incident Type	Number	Percentage
Abrasive Blasting	2	0.2
Burning & Smoke Nuisance	220	21.4
Contaminated Stormwater	28	2.7
Dead or Dying Organisms	13	1.3
Dead Stock	18	1.8
Discolouration & Foams/Scums in Water	37	3.6
Diversion & Drainage Works	11	1.1
Dust Nuisance	35	3.4
Earthworks & Vegetation Clearance	87	8.5
Farm Dairy Effluent	16	1.6
Flooding Hazards & Erosion	15	1.5
Hazardous Substances	12	1.2
Industrial Emissions	52	5.1
Miscellaneous	22	2.1
Natural Phenomena	6	0.6
Odour	99	9.6
Oil, Diesel & Other Fuel Spills	35	3.4
Other Agency Responsible	3	0.3
Other Coastal Activities	35	3.4
Other Contaminant Discharges	45	4.4
Other Water Pollution	14	1.4
Refuse & Other Dumping	43	4.2
Sewage	95	9.2
Spraydrift	50	4.9
Structures in Waterbodies/CMA	28	2.7
Water Abstractions	7	0.7
TOTAL	1028	100.0

Impact on the Environment

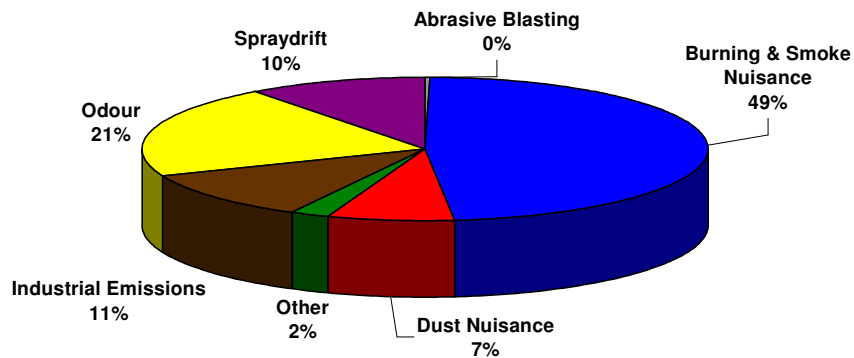
The impact of every incident on the environment is categorised and reported to the Council on a monthly basis. Of the 1028 incidents reported to the Council in 2005-06, the majority of incidents (48%) were recorded as having a minor impact on the environment, which means that effects were localised and/or short-lived with non-significant deterioration of the environment. On the other hand 99 incidents (10%) had a significant impact and a further 4 had a large impact on the environment.



Air related Incidents

As you can see from the figure below, burning and smoke nuisance and odour incidents were the most common air related incidents, followed closely by industrial emissions, spraydrift and dust nuisance. There were 1 abrasive blasting incidents reported in 2005-06. Other incidents affecting air quality included farm dairy effluent, sewage, hazardous substances and refuse.

Air related environmental incidents in 2005-06 by type

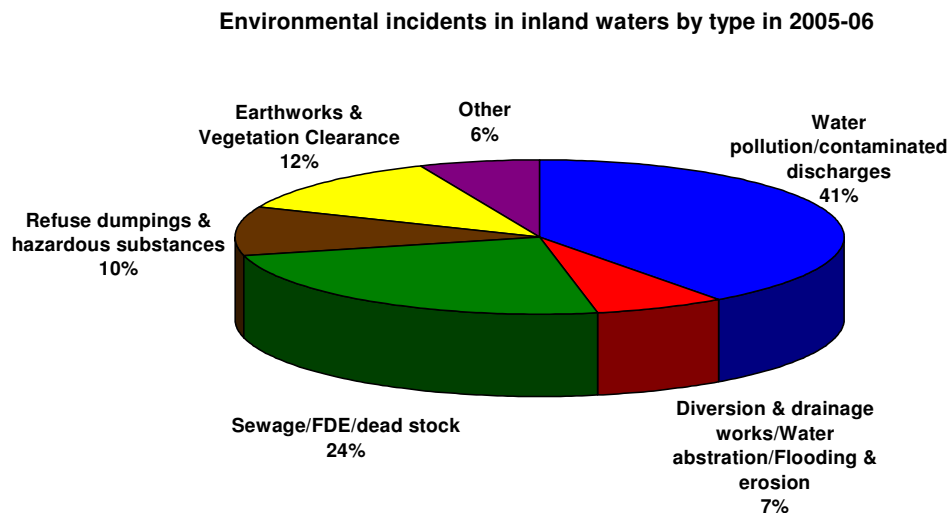


The number of air related incidents reported to the Council has remained stable with 458 reported during 2005-06, compared with 459 during 2004-05.



Incidents related to Inland Waters

The different incident types affecting inland waters have been grouped into logical categories as shown in the figure below. The water pollution/contaminated discharges group includes contaminated stormwater, discolouration/foam and scums, other contaminant discharges, oil and diesel spills, other water pollution and spraydrift. While diversion and drainage work, water abstraction and flooding hazard and erosion incidents have been grouped, as they are all related to water quantity and/or flow rates. Incident types where one of the main concerns is bacteriological contamination and associated human health risks have been grouped, which includes sewage, dead stock, dead or dying organisms and farm dairy effluent incidents.

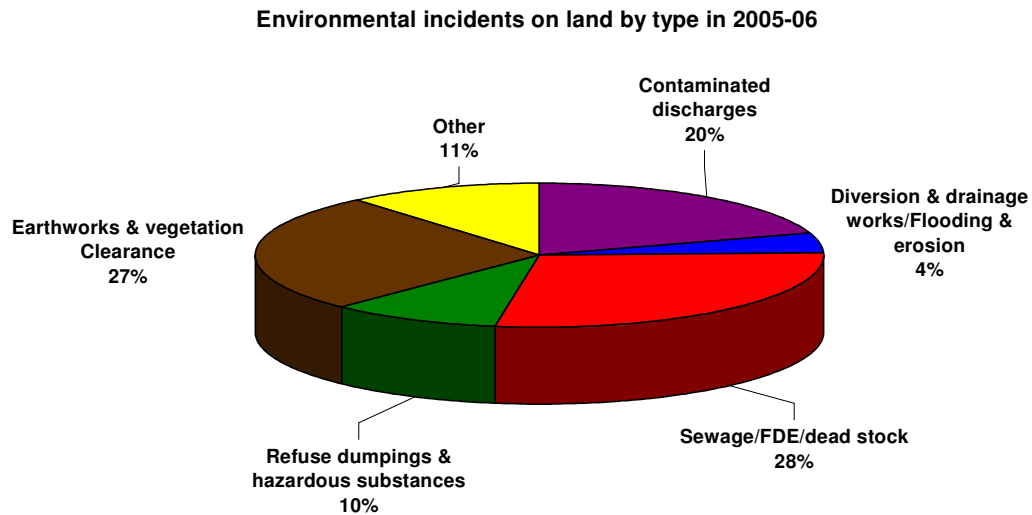


The greatest proportion of the inland water incidents were related to contamination of waterways with 41% in the water pollution group and 24% in the Sewage/FDE/dead stock group. The total number of incidents affecting inland waters in 2005-06 was 252, which is slightly more than the previous year, where 222 inland water incidents were reported to the Council.



Land Related Incidents

The different incident types affecting land resources in Northland have been grouped as for inland waters. For example, all incidents associated with potential bacterial contamination are grouped including sewage, farm dairy effluent (FDE) and dead stock incidents as shown in the figure below.



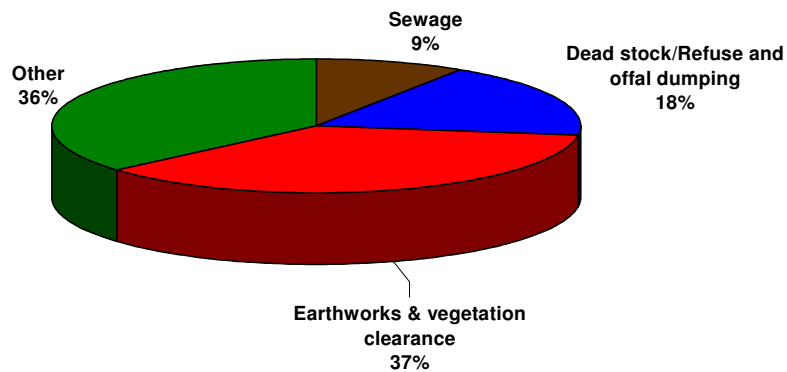
The sewage/FDE/dead stock group had the greatest number of incidents in 2005-06 with 38 incidents reported, followed closely by 36 earthworks and vegetation clearance incidents. The total number of land related environmental incidents reported to the Council in the 2005-06 year at 135 is consistent with the number of land use incidents reported last year.



Riparian Management Zone Incidents

The Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) is a zone of varying widths adjacent to the bed of a river, lake, indigenous wetland, or the Coastal Marine Area. This resource affected area was introduced for incident reporting on 1 July 2005. This will therefore have an impact on incident numbers that would previously have been logged as affecting land or the coastal marine area.

Environmental incidents in the Riparian Management Zone by type in 2005-06

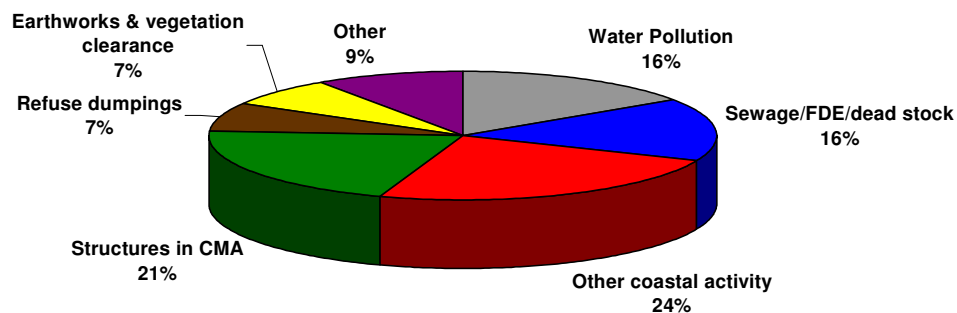


There were 22 incidents reported as affecting the RMZ during 2005-06, the majority being earthworks and vegetation clearance.

Incidents Affecting the Coastal Marine Area

The Coastal Marine Area (CMA) covers harbours, beaches and estuaries and includes the foreshore, seabed, water and air space above the water. There were 96 incidents reported that were recorded as affecting the coastal marine area in 2005-06, of which 23 were described as “other coastal activities”. This includes a range of situations from cattle on beaches, dumping of rubbish to mangrove clearance and alleged sand extraction or deposition.

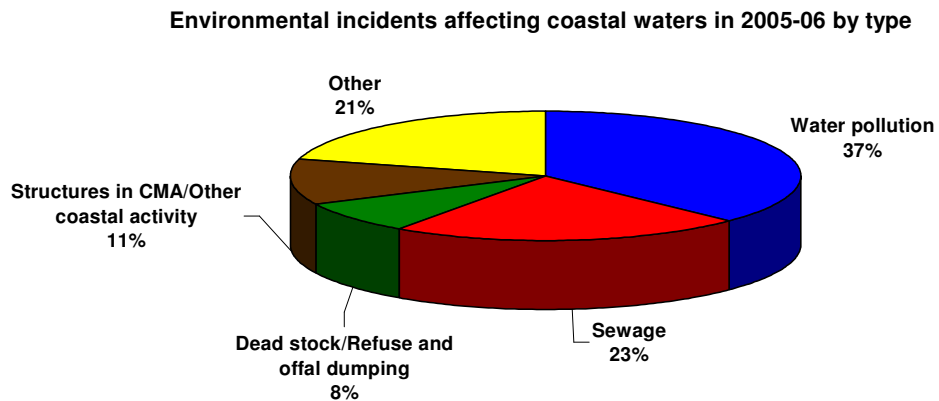
Environmental incidents in the Coastal Marine Area by type in 2005-06



The number of incidents in the coastal marine area has stayed reasonably stable for the last four years with approximately 100 reported to the Council every year.

Incidents Affecting Coastal Waters

Coastal water is seawater and includes the water in any of the areas described as a 'Coastal Marine Area'. There were 62 incidents that were reported as affecting coastal waters. The majority were either water pollution (37%) or sewage (23%), which includes contaminated stormwater and oil/diesel spills.



Similarly to incidents in the CMA, the number of incidents in coastal waters has stayed reasonably stable for the last four years with approximately 50 reported to the Council every year.

Performance Targets for Environmental Incident Response

To investigate and take follow-up action on incidents reported to the Council where there are adverse effects on the environment and/or alleged non-compliance with the Resource Management Act by:

- Providing a 24-hour, everyday environmental incident reporting, recording and response system.
- Reporting the response to incidents received to the incident reporter (as and when the follow up action is completed) and to the Council in the following month.
- Taking appropriate enforcement action in cases of significant non-compliance with statutory requirements.