

# Water Take Compliance Snapshot

27 April 2018 Update

This Snapshot provides a summary of the various water related work streams that the Regulatory Compliance team are currently involved with. This includes commentary on BAU work streams, project work and wider system improvement work.



## Compliance Monitoring

Physical auditing of most water takes occurs every 3 to 5 years, using a cross team project approach. Most inspections are undertaken throughout the summer and autumn months. With the assistance of the Regulatory

Coordination team, auditing of compliance returns are undertaken on a regular basis, with the majority of returns sent in to Council at the end of the water year (30 June).

Total inspections required (2017/18)	Total inspections undertaken (as at 9 April 18)	Water Records (16/17 follow-up)		
		Abatement notices issued	Penalty fees issued	Warning letters issued
387	314	28 <sup>1</sup>	68 <sup>1</sup>	256

Note <sup>1</sup>: Further penalty fees/abatement notices will be issued for those not supplying records as required by warning letters.

### Risks to this programme

- Large amount of manual records to process – these can be inaccurate and time consuming to manage.
- Formal non-compliance followup is delayed due to constraints related to data management (see below).



## NER: Measuring and Reporting of Water Takes

The Regulations came into force in 2010, requiring consented water users taking over 5L/s to have meters installed, be verified and send in annual records. Sixty nine consent holders are due to have their metering systems re-verified (due

every 5 years). The Regulatory Compliance team are preparing communication to send to consent holders reminding them of this requirement. Of note, municipal water take consents held by TA's form a large component of this group.

### Risks to this programme

- Meters for large municipal water takes can be challenging to verify, due to potential cross contamination risks through the calibration process. Staff are working with verifiers and TA's to address this concern.



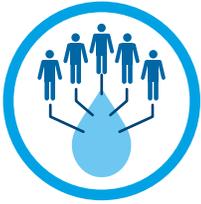
## Data Systems and Reporting

The main areas being worked on in this space are:

- Facilitating various system improvements to improve accuracy and availability of water take data e.g. data cleansing, updating Accela and integrating it with WUDMS Hydrotel, improving telemetry processes, etc;
- Responding to data requests from Planning, LAWA and external requests;
- Collaborating internally and externally to identify and address risks to water supplies post Havelock North enquiry (NES Drinking Water);
- Plan Change 9 (PC9) implementation for Permitted Activity registration and record submission.

### Risks to this programme

- Poor data quality can have serious effects on compliance reporting (internal and external) and planning requirements. This is a priority area being addressed by a cross team approach.
- Poor systems introduce inefficiencies, reducing our ability to monitor and recover as per Council's RMA Charges Policy.



## Non-consented Water Takes Project

### PROJECT PURPOSE

1. Confirm the activity status for approximately 140 unconsented horticultural water abstractors in the Bay of Plenty;
2. Provide clear timeframes and expectations for those who require a resource consent i.e. do not meet the permitted activity status;
3. Work closely with the horticultural industry partners, ensuring they are kept regularly updated so they can pass on information to their orchardists through their various communication channels.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Commenced following up with over 120 Registrants following the successful drop-in sessions of 2016;
- Each registrant was initially contacted via email in March 2018 outlining process for 1:1 phone assessments;
- To enable a consistent assessment to be made, staff produced a Water Use assessment form. The form was reviewed internally by the Consents team, and externally by the Project Industry partners;
- On 13 March 2018 a contractor was engaged to contact registrants to assess the status of their take i.e. whether they require a consent or can meet the PA criteria. Based on the assessments carried out to date, we estimate this process can take up to an hour per registrant, and should be completed by the end of May 2018;
- On 28 March a Project Group meeting was held with our partners from the kiwifruit and avocado industry. It gave an opportunity to work through issues arisen through the project to date, and also to hear from Planning and Consents on current hot topics e.g. Cultural Impact Assessments (CIA), PC9, etc;
- Working closely with the Consents team to identify solutions needed to support applicants through the consenting process e.g. Fact sheet development, clarification of CIA process, etc.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Number of Individual Registrants	<b>123</b>	
Number of Registrants unable to be contacted	<b>4</b>	
Number of individual takes to be assessed (subject to change through assessment process)	<b>144</b>	
One on one contact made and initial assessments undertaken (as of 27 April 2018)	<b>57</b>	
<b>Of those assessed:</b>	• Take requires consent (or change to existing consent)	<b>24</b>
	• Need further information before final confirmation of status	<b>18</b>
	• Meets PA rule(s)	<b>4</b>
	• Take covered by existing consent	<b>9</b>
	• On town supply	<b>2</b>

### Risks to this programme

- Some sites have changed ownership while others are uncontactable
- Limited RMA mechanisms to force parties to prove compliance with a Permitted Activity thresholds
- Consent process for water takes can be challenging and costly e.g. for those taking from an over allocated source. Developing information to assist water users with options.