

# Water Compliance Snapshot

15 June 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 the sites due to be monitored during the 2017-18 season was completed in May 2018. In total, 386 site inspections were carried out over the period by a regulatory compliance project team.

The main purpose of the onsite audit is to assess compliance of the consented infrastructure i.e. stream intakes, bore heads, meter setup, tamper proof seals, leaking pipes, etc.

However staff also highlight any compliance issues with the keeping and submission of water use records, and the undertaking and forwarding of meter system verifications.

**The results for the audits are shown below:**

Total inspections required (2017/18)	Compliance ratings			
	Complying	Low risk non-compliance	Moderate non-compliance	Significant non-compliance
386	312	70	4	0

Eighty percent of all sites inspected were complying with their consent requirements. Importantly, no sites were found to have any significant non-compliance issues.

The main area of Low risk non-compliance related to incomplete or missing water records. This continues to be by the far the biggest ongoing issue around compliance with water take consents. Records are required through specific consent conditions or via the Water Measuring and Reporting of Water Takes National Regulations.

Over the last 12 months, staff have been working hard to ensure the accuracy of the various Council systems, so response to non-submission of water records will be able to be undertaken more efficiently. Processing and checking

water records is a large and time consuming area of work, with almost 6000 water records being processed over the past 12 months.

For the majority of consent holders who only have to submit their water use records annually, their records for the 2017/18 season are due by the end of July 2018. A report will be run in August to determine compliance with their annual reporting requirements. Consent holders who do not submit required records on time are subject to a late penalty fee (set through Council's RMA Charging Policy), which reinforces the importance of supplying complete water use records in a timely manner.



## Data Systems and Reporting

A major water-take data migration project, which has been running since Accela was first implemented in November 2015, has just been completed. Accela is the Council database which contains all of the electronic consent and compliance information.

The project involved the extraction and interpretation of information from 1200 water-take consent documents, and then entering that data into Accela. This information related to allocation and type of use e.g. irrigation, municipal, etc. The water-take data in Accela is now an accurate and standardised reflection of the consent documents using

calculation and interpretation rules that have been accepted by the Water Accounting Team.

This means that the high number of caveats previously applied on reports has been reduced markedly, enabling analysis to be carried out more efficiently with results that are simpler to communicate.

Also because of the increased accuracy and standardisation of the data, not only is any future design of electronic links into other reporting systems going to be easier, but the information reported will be both suitable and valuable as a public tool. An example of this is where these data values will feed directly from Accela as factors into a spatial reporting tool that is currently being designed and built by the GIS team to show the allocation available (updated-daily) per Groundwater aquifer.



## 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

- 1:1 assessment has now been undertaken with all of the registrants, with the exception of 16 who have been unable to be contacted;
- The Water Use assessment form was used to provide a consistent evaluation of water use for each registrant;
- A number of registrants are awaiting confirmation from BOPRC on their status due to the complexity of their water take system. In some cases, this decision will be reliant on a legal opinion around damming and abstracting water from ephemeral waterways;
- On 15 June an email was sent to all registrants who have been assessed as requiring a consent, advising of their status and inviting them to attend one of two consenting sessions to be held in early July (see next point). A more formalised letter will shortly be sent out to all registrants advising of the outcome of their status assessments;
- In conjunction with the Consents team, two workshops will be run on 2 and 4 July 2018. The workshops will be an opportunity for those required to apply for consents to understand the consenting requirements and to assist them with preparing to lodge their applications;
- On 5 June 2018 the Project team, including external partners, met to discuss the outcome of the initial assessments. It was also a chance to discuss opportunities to ensure clear messaging goes out to growers around the requirements to legally abstract water in the Bay of Plenty. The industry explained the important role that the various GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) programmes have within the avocado and kiwifruit industries, and how these programmes can assist with ensuring compliance with water take consents maintains a focus for their growers.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Number of Individual Registrants		<b>123</b>
Number of individual takes to be assessed (subject to change)		<b>138</b>
One on one contact made and initial assessments undertaken (as of 30 May 2018)		<b>122</b>
Number of Registrants unable to be contacted		<b>16</b>
<b>Of those assessed:</b>	Take requires consent (or change to existing consent)	<b>53</b>
	Need further information before final confirmation of status	<b>23</b>
	No consent required (meets PA, takes from municipal supply or covered by existing consent)	<b>36</b>
	Take already covered by consent	<b>10</b>