

South Taranaki District Council  
Pātea Beach green waste discharge  
Monitoring Programme  
Annual Report  
2023-2024  
Technical Report 2024-33





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**Pātea Beach green waste discharge**  
**Monitoring Programme**  
**Annual Report**  
**2023-2024**  
**Technical Report 2024-33**

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## Executive summary

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) operates a green waste disposal area located on Beach Road at Pātea Beach. The site was established as a public facility that could accept green waste for sand dune stabilisation purposes. Since 2017, the site has utilised green waste from the Pātea transfer station only. This report for the period July 2023 to June 2024 describes the monitoring programme implemented by Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess STDC's environmental and consent compliance performance during the period under review. The report also details the results of the monitoring undertaken and assesses the environmental effects of STDC's activities.

**During the monitoring period, STDC Pātea Beach green waste discharge demonstrated a high level of environmental performance and good level of administrative performance.**

STDC holds one resource consent, which includes a total of 12 conditions setting out the requirements that they must satisfy. The consent is for the purpose of discharging green waste onto land for dune stabilisation purposes. STDC are currently in the process of applying for a consent renewal for this site.

The Council's monitoring programme for the year under review included four compliance monitoring inspections of the site, focussing on the types of materials discharged, stormwater and leachate control, and emissions to air.

The monitoring during the period under review showed that the material on site was compliant and there were no issues noted relating to stormwater or odour. There were no unauthorised incidents recording non-compliance in respect of this consent holder during the period under review.

For reference, in the 2023-2024 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 864 (89%) of a total of 967 consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 75 (8%) of the consents a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. A further 26 (3%) of consents monitored required improvement in their performance, while the remaining two (<1%) achieved a rating of poor.

In terms of overall environmental and compliance performance by the consent holder over the last several years, this report shows that the consent holder's performance remains at a high level during the year under review.

This report includes recommendations for the 2024-2025 year.



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991

### 1.1.1 Introduction

This report is for the period July 2023 to June 2024 by Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) on the monitoring programme associated with resource consents held by South Taranaki District Council (STDC). STDC operates a green waste disposal facility situated on Beach Road at Pātea Beach. The site was established as a public facility that could accept green waste for sand dune stabilisation purposes. The site is consented to accept green waste from the Pātea community and from STDC's kerbside and transfer station collection. In the 2016-2017 monitoring period, however, issues were found with unacceptable waste being exposed by coastal erosion. This resulted in the site being closed to the public in 2017. Any further dune stabilisation will be done using green waste disposed of at the Pātea transfer station.

This report includes the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consent held by STDC that relates to the discharge of green waste onto sand dunes. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> annual report to be prepared by the Council to cover STDC's water discharges and their effects.

### 1.1.2 Structure of this report

**Section 1** of this report is a background section. It sets out general information about:

- consent compliance monitoring under the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) and the Council's obligations;
- the Council's approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes;
- the resource consents held by STDC at the Pātea beach green waste site;
- the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review; and
- a description of the activities and operations conducted in STDC's Pātea green waste site.

**Section 2** presents the results of monitoring during the period under review, including scientific and technical data.

**Section 3** discusses the results, their interpretations, and their significance for the environment.

**Section 4** presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2024-2025 monitoring year.

A glossary of common abbreviations and scientific terms, and a bibliography, are presented at the end of the report.

### 1.1.3 The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring

The RMA primarily addresses environmental 'effects' which are defined as positive or adverse, temporary or permanent, past, present or future, or cumulative. Effects may arise in relation to:

- a. the neighbourhood or the wider community around an activity, and may include cultural and social-economic effects;
- b. physical effects on the locality, including landscape, amenity and visual effects;
- c. ecosystems, including effects on plants, animals, or habitats, whether aquatic or terrestrial;
- d. natural and physical resources having special significance (for example recreational, cultural, or aesthetic); and

e. risks to the neighbourhood or environment.

In drafting and reviewing conditions on discharge permits, and in implementing monitoring programmes, the Council is recognising the comprehensive meaning of 'effects' in as much as is appropriate for each activity. Monitoring programmes are not only based on existing permit conditions, but also on the obligations of the RMA to assess the effects of the exercise of consents. In accordance with Section 35 of the RMA, the Council undertakes compliance monitoring for consents and rules in regional plans, and maintains an overview of the performance of resource users and consent holders. Compliance monitoring, including both activity and impact monitoring, enables the Council to continually re-evaluate its approach and that of consent holders to resource management and, ultimately, through the refinement of methods and considered responsible resource utilisation, to move closer to achieving sustainable development of the region's resources.

### 1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the consent holders, this report also assigns a rating as to each Company's environmental and administrative performance during the period under review. The rating categories are high, good, improvement required and poor for both environmental and administrative performance. The interpretations for these ratings are found in Appendix II.

For reference, in the 2023-2024 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 864 (89%) of a total of 967 consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 75 (8%) of the consents a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. A further 26 (3%) of consents monitored required improvement in their performance, while the remaining two (<1%) achieved a rating of poor.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2 Process description

Pātea green waste aims to place green waste and plant material such as branches along the eroding sand dune area to act as a sand trap, facilitating the reinstatement of the dune system and aiming to prevent future erosion at the site. Members of the public were directed to specific drop off points at the beach area by means of signs. Periodically, the waste was moved from the drop off areas onto the dunes. STDC also conducted a programme of fortnightly inspections to identify and remove unacceptable wastes being dropped at the site by third party users, prior to the green waste being discharged onto the dunes. Since the closure to the public, STDC have been in consultation with Taranaki Regional Council to amend the current consent. The site has not been used in recent years.

The discharge site is approximately 120m long and 25m wide, and is shown in Figure 1.

Pātea Beach is an elevated site which for most of the year is dry. Rain that does fall on the site drains away at a very rapid rate. The site does not suffer from flooding from rain or tidal action, due to its elevation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council has used these compliance grading criteria for more than 20 years. They align closely with the 4 compliance grades in the MfE Best Practice Guidelines for Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement, 2018



Figure 1 Aerial view of the Pātea Beach green waste disposal area

### 1.3 Resource consents

The STDC holds one resource consent, the details of which are summarised in the table below. Summaries of the conditions attached to this permit are set out in Section 3 of this report.

A summary of the various consent types issued by the Council is included in Appendix I, as are copies of all permits held by STDC during the period under review.

STDC submitted a consent renewal application on 1 February 2022 and therefore consented activities may continue under S.124 protection until the consent is renewed.

Table 1 Consent held by STDC in relation to the Pātea beach green waste site

Consent number	Purpose	Granted	Review	Expires
<i>Discharges of waste to land</i>				
6088-3	To discharge green waste onto and into land for stabilisation purposes.	30 October 2007	-	Expired under S.124 protection

## 1.4 Monitoring programme

### 1.4.1 Introduction

Section 35 of the RMA sets obligations upon the Council to gather information, monitor and conduct research on the exercise of resource consents within the Taranaki region. The Council is also required to assess the effects arising from the exercising of these consents and report upon them.

The Council may therefore make and record measurements of physical and chemical parameters, take samples for analysis, carry out surveys and inspections, conduct investigations and seek information from consent holders.

The monitoring programme for the Pātea Beach green waste site consisted of two primary components.

### 1.4.2 Programme liaison and management

There is generally a significant investment of time and resources by the Council in:

- ongoing liaison with resource consent holders over consent conditions and their interpretation and application;
- discussion over monitoring requirements;
- preparation for any consent reviews, renewals or new consent applications;
- advice on the Council's environmental management strategies and content of regional plans; and
- consultation on associated matters.

### 1.4.3 Site inspections

The Pātea Beach green waste site was visited four times during the year under review to conduct routine compliance monitoring inspections. The inspections focused on ensuring only permitted waste was discharged to the dune area, and whether activities at the site had any deleterious effects, such as, fly and dust nuisances, noxious or offensive emissions, or contaminants entering surface water. The site was surveyed for environmental effects such as litter and pest plants. Inspections noted the type of materials dropped off at the site and the manner in which they were discharged to the dunes, and any coastal erosion disturbing previously discharged materials.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 Water

#### 2.1.1 Inspections

Four routine compliance monitoring inspections were carried out during the period under review. One of the main focuses of the inspections is to check that prohibited material (as stated by the STDC signage) is not being deposited following the closure of the site to the public. The inspections were carried out on 24 July 2023, 25 September 2023, 22 January 2024 and 6 May 2024, during which the site was in good condition (Photo 1). The main public information sign at the entrance to the Pātea beach green waste area was absent at the July 2023 inspection and re-instated by February 2024. Some inorganic material, including used plant pots, were found at the site in the January inspection but this was remediated by STDC the following week. Erosion exposure of some inorganic material was seen in the seaward facing dunes in the May inspection. This area will continue to be monitored in the upcoming 2024/2025 period. No prohibited green waste had been deposited to the site at the time of the inspections. The area remained well vegetated and there was no sign of any contaminants entering surface water. Further, there were no issues noted relating to odour. The site was mainly well maintained on each inspection.



Photo 1 Pātea green waste site as inspected on 6 May 2024

## 2.2 Incidents, investigations, and interventions

The monitoring programme for the year was based on what was considered to be an appropriate level of monitoring, review of data, and liaison with the STDC. During the year matters may arise which require additional activity by the Council, for example provision of advice and information, or investigation of potential or actual causes of non-compliance or failure to maintain good practices. A pro-active approach, that in the first instance avoids issues occurring, is favoured.

For all significant compliance issues, as well as complaints from the public, the Council maintains a database record. The record includes events where the individual/organisation concerned has itself notified the Council. Details of any investigation and corrective action taken are recorded for non-compliant events.

Complaints may be alleged to be associated with a particular site. If there is potentially an issue of legal liability, the Council must be able to prove by investigation that the identified individual/organisation is indeed the source of the incident (or that the allegation cannot be proven).

In the 2023-2024 period, the Council was not required to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents, in association with STDC's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans.

## 3. Discussion

### 3.1 Discussion of site performance

During the period under review Pātea Beach green waste discharge site received no new loads of unacceptable material, and only acceptable material from the Pātea transfer site. The minor incident that occurred, public dumping of inorganic matter, was resolved by STDC during their site maintenance.

The measures that STDC put in place to ensure that the public were discouraged from using the green waste site are still in effect. The numerous signs advising that the public are not permitted to dispose of material at the site have been maintained. The barriers preventing vehicle access have been replaced by a new walkway. The walkway prevents vehicle access to the majority of the site that was previously used for public discharge of green waste. The routine compliance inspections carried out by the Council found that these measures appeared to be in effective order at the time of the site visits. Regular site maintenance by STDC should continue to ensure inorganic matter is not dumped in the ring road area.

The more recent erosion exposure of old inorganic matter on the seaward dunes, found during the Council's May 2024 inspection, will need careful monitoring going forward.

### 3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

As outlined in previous compliance monitoring reports the inclusion of unacceptable waste could potentially cause adverse environmental effects if it was buried with the green waste rather than being removed. Inorganic material does not break down and could reach the beach and ocean and become a threat to wildlife.

During the year under review some unacceptable material was dumped at the Pātea Beach green waste discharge site, but it was removed promptly by STDC. There was no leachate observed discharging from the sand dune area or the stockpiled green waste during the period under review, or in previous years. These factors, combined with the sandy substrate and low rainfall at the beach should be restricting the production of leachate from the green waste. It is therefore considered that, so long as STDC continues to monitor for and remove exposed unacceptable material from the coastline, the environmental effects from the activities at the site are likely to be no more than minor.

### 3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of the consent holder's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Table 2.

Table 2 Summary of performance for consent 6088-3

<b>Purpose: To discharge green waste onto land for stabilisation purposes</b>		
<b>Condition requirement</b>	<b>Means of monitoring during period under review</b>	<b>Compliance achieved?</b>
1. STDC to adopt the best practicable option	Site inspections	Yes
2. Consent shall be exercised in accordance with the Pātea Beach Management Plan (June, 2007)	Assessed against management plan	N/A – no current version of plan on file
3. Location of dumping	Site inspections	Yes
4. Only green waste to be discharged according to specific definition	Site inspections	Yes
5. Maintain signage	Site inspections	Yes

Purpose: <i>To discharge green waste onto land for stabilisation purposes</i>		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
6. Unauthorised material shall be removed from the site	Site inspections	Yes
7. Comply with Pest Plant Plan	No pest plant growth noted during inspections	Yes
8. Green waste shall not be discharged or moved below the mean high water springs mark	Site inspections	Yes
9. Contaminants shall not enter surface water	Site inspections	Yes
10. STDC to control stormwater on the site	Site inspections	Yes
11. Relates to lapse of the consent and optional review provision regarding environmental effects	Application for renewal was submitted late but accepted by Council	Yes
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		<b>Good</b>

N/A = not applicable

A tabular summary of the consent holder's environmental performance over the previous five years is set out in Table 3.

Table 3 Evaluation of environmental performance over time

Year	Consent numbers	High	Good	Improvement req	Poor
2019-2020	6088-3	1	-	-	-
2020-2021	6088-3	1	-	-	-
2021-2022	6088-3	1	-	-	-
2022-2023	6088-3	1	-	-	-
2023-2024	6088-3	1	-	-	-

During the 2023-2024 year, STDC demonstrated a high level of environmental and a good level of administrative performance with the resource consents as defined in Appendix II. During the year under review there were two requests to make improvement to the site, for the replacement of the main entrance public information sign and the removal of inorganic matter, both of which were attended to by STDC. Overall the site was well managed and in good condition at each inspection. STDC needs to submit an updated Management Plan in conjunction with the consent application, to allow for appropriate consent conditions and compliance monitoring to be established. The updated management plan needs to be reviewed by Ngāti Ruanui and the Department of Conservation (DoC).

### 3.4 Recommendations from the 2022-2023 Annual Report

In the 2022-2023 Annual Report, it was recommended:

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at STDC Pātea Beach green waste in the 2023-2024 year continue at the same level as in 2022-2023.
2. THAT should there be issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2023-2024, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.



3. THAT an updated Management Plan be submitted to Council to aid in the consent renewal. The updated management plan also requires consultation with Ngāti Ruanui and Department of Conservation (DOC).

Recommendation one was undertaken. Recommendation two did not require implementing.

Recommendation three is in progress. A draft management plan was submitted for iwi consultation in June 2024.

### **3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2024-2025**

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air/water discharges in the region, the Council has taken into account:

- the extent of information already made available through monitoring or other means to date;
- its relevance under the RMA;
- the Council's obligations to monitor consented activities and their effects under the RMA;
- the record of administrative and environmental performances of the consent holder; and
- reporting to the regional community.

The Council also takes into account the scope of assessments required at the time of renewal of permits, and the need to maintain a sound understanding of industrial processes within Taranaki exercising resource consents.

It is proposed that for 2024-2025 the number of scheduled inspections of the Pātea beach green waste site remain at the same level as 2023-2024.

It should be noted that the proposed programme represents a reasonable and risk-based level of monitoring for the site in question. The Council reserves the right to subsequently adjust the programme from that initially prepared, should the need arise if potential or actual non-compliance is determined at any time during 2024-2025.

## 4. Recommendations

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at the STDC Pātea Beach green waste in the 2024-2025 year continue at the same level as in 2023-2024.
2. THAT should there be issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2024-2025, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.
3. THAT an updated Management Plan be submitted to Council to aid in the consent renewal. The updated management plan also requires consultation with Ngāti Ruanui and DoC.

## Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms may be used within this report:

Incident	An event that is alleged or is found to have occurred that may have actual or potential environmental consequences or may involve non-compliance with a consent or rule in a regional plan. Registration of an incident by the Council does not automatically mean such an outcome had actually occurred.
Intervention	Action/s taken by Council to instruct or direct actions be taken to avoid or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.
Investigation	Action taken by Council to establish what were the circumstances/events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.
Resource consent	Refer Section 87 of the RMA. Resource consents include land use consents (refer Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA), coastal permits (Sections 12, 14 and 15), water permits (Section 14) and discharge permits (Section 15).
RMA	<i>Resource Management Act 1991</i> and including all subsequent amendments.

For further information on analytical methods, contact a manager within the Environment Quality Department.

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## Appendix I

### Resource consents held by STDC Pātea Beach green waste discharge

For a copy of the signed resource consent  
please contact the TRC Consents department

## **Water abstraction permits**

Section 14 of the RMA stipulates that no person may take, use, dam or divert any water, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent or a rule in a regional plan, or it falls within some particular categories set out in Section 14. Permits authorising the abstraction of water are issued by the Council under Section 87(d) of the RMA.

## **Water discharge permits**

Section 15(1)(a) of the RMA stipulates that no person may discharge any contaminant into water, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent or a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Permits authorising discharges to water are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

## **Air discharge permits**

Section 15(1)(c) of the RMA stipulates that no person may discharge any contaminant from any industrial or trade premises into air, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Permits authorising discharges to air are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

## **Discharges of wastes to land**

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the RMA stipulate that no person may discharge any contaminant onto land if it may then enter water, or from any industrial or trade premises onto land under any circumstances, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Permits authorising the discharge of wastes to land are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

## **Land use permits**

Section 13(1)(a) of the RMA stipulates that no person may in relation to the bed of any lake or river use, erect, reconstruct, place, alter, extend, remove, or demolish any structure or part of any structure in, on, under, or over the bed, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Land use permits are issued by the Council under Section 87(a) of the RMA.

## **Coastal permits**

Section 12(1)(b) of the RMA stipulates that no person may erect, reconstruct, place, alter, extend, remove, or demolish any structure that is fixed in, on, under, or over any foreshore or seabed, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Coastal permits are issued by the Council under Section 87(c) of the RMA.

**Discharge Permit**  
**Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991**  
**a resource consent is hereby granted by the**  
**Taranaki Regional Council**

Name of  
Consent Holder: South Taranaki District Council  
Private Bag 902  
HAWERA 4640

Consent Granted  
Date: 30 October 2007

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To discharge domestic green waste onto land for the purpose of stabilising sand dunes at or about 2637357E-6158276N

Expiry Date: 1 June 2022

Review Date(s): June 2010, June 2016

Site Location: Patea Beach, Beach Road, Patea

Legal Description: Sec 137 SO 2680 SO 6641 Pt Lot 6 DP 648 Pt Sec 74 Blk VII Carlyle SD

Catchment: Patea

### General conditions

- a) On receipt of a requirement from the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council the consent holder shall, within the time specified in the requirement, supply the information required relating to the exercise of this consent.
- b) Unless it is otherwise specified in the conditions of this consent, compliance with any monitoring requirement imposed by this consent must be at the consent holder's own expense.
- c) The consent holder shall pay to the Council all required administrative charges fixed by the Council pursuant to section 36 in relation to:
  - i) the administration, monitoring and supervision of this consent; and
  - ii) charges authorised by regulations.

### Special conditions

1. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this consent.
2. The exercise of this consent shall be undertaken in accordance with the documentation submitted in support of application 4491. Specifically this includes *Patea Beach Management Plan, South Taranaki District Council (June 2007)*. If there is any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of the application and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
3. Dumping of green waste by the public shall be limited to specific designated areas identified by signs. The consent holder shall regularly remove the green waste from the dumping area and deposit it in the quantities and at the locations necessary to achieve the purpose of this consent.
4. For the purposes of this consent, domestic green waste is defined as: leaves, grass clippings, hedge trimmings, sticks/branches/logs with a diameter no greater than 100 mm, and other similar material all in quantities consistent with maintenance of a residential garden. Specifically excluded from the definition are: sticks/branches/logs with a diameter greater than 100 mm; timber (treated or not); and any viable plant identified in the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*.
5. The consent holder shall ensure that signs at the dumping points clearly describe the waste that may be dumped.
6. The consent holder shall remove any dumped material from the site that is not green waste (as defined in condition 4).
7. The consent holder shall comply with the requirements of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants* at the site.
8. The consent holder shall ensure that no waste discharged to the site is placed at or below the mean high water springs mark.



Consent 6088-3

9. The discharge to land shall not result in any contaminant entering surface water.
10. The consent holder shall control and maintain all stormwater at the site to minimise erosion or scour of the adjacent foredune area to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
11. This consent shall lapse on the expiry of five years after the date of issue of this consent, unless the consent is given effect to before the end of that period or the Taranaki Regional Council fixes a longer period pursuant to section 125(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
12. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2010 and/or June 2016, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, which were either not foreseen at the time the application was considered or which it was not appropriate to deal with at the time.

Signed at Stratford on 30 October 2007

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**



## Appendix II

Categories used to evaluate environmental and administrative performance

## Categories used to evaluate environmental and administrative performance

Environmental performance is concerned with actual or likely effects on the receiving environment from the activities during the monitoring year. Administrative performance is concerned with the Company's approach to demonstrating consent compliance in site operations and management including the timely provision of information to Council (such as contingency plans and water take data) in accordance with consent conditions.

Events that were beyond the control of the consent holder and unforeseeable (that is a defence under the provisions of the RMA can be established) may be excluded with regard to the performance rating applied. For example loss of data due to a flood destroying deployed field equipment.

The categories used by the Council for this monitoring period, and their interpretation, are as follows:

### Environmental Performance

**High:** No or inconsequential (short-term duration, less than minor in severity) breaches of consent or regional plan parameters resulting from the activity; no adverse effects of significance noted or likely in the receiving environment. The Council did not record any verified unauthorised incidents involving environmental impacts and was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to such impacts.

**Good:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were negligible or minor at most. There were some such issues noted during monitoring, from self-reports, or during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party but these items were not critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been dealt with. These minor issues were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly. The Council was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to the minor non-compliant effects; however abatement notices may have been issued to mitigate an identified potential for an environmental effect to occur.

For example:

- High suspended solid values recorded in discharge samples, however the discharge was to land or to receiving waters that were in high flow at the time;
- Strong odour beyond boundary but no residential properties or other recipient nearby.

**Improvement required:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were more than minor, but not substantial. There were some issues noted during monitoring, from self-reports, or during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent minor non-compliant activity could elevate a minor issue to this level. Abatement notices and infringement notices may have been issued in respect of effects.

**Poor:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were significant. There were some items noted during monitoring, from self-reports, or during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent moderate non-compliant activity could elevate an 'improvement required' issue to this level. Typically there were grounds for either a prosecution or an infringement notice in respect of effects.

### Administrative performance

**High:** The administrative requirements of the resource consents were met, or any failure to do this had trivial consequences and were addressed promptly and co-operatively.

**Good:** Perhaps some administrative requirements of the resource consents were not met at a particular time, however this was addressed without repeated interventions from the Council staff. Alternatively adequate reason was provided for matters such as the no or late provision of information, interpretation of 'best practical option' for avoiding potential effects, etc.

**Improvement required:** Repeated interventions to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents were made by Council staff. These matters took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at the end of the period under review. The Council may have issued an abatement notice to attain compliance.

**Poor:** Material failings to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents. Significant intervention by the Council was required. Typically there were grounds for an infringement notice.