

ANALYSIS OF THE

2024/2025

COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT METRICS

For Te Uru Kahika Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa

PREPARED BY

SPROUT 

OCTOBER 2025



FOREWORD

As the regional sector continues to evolve in its delivery of **compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME)** under the Resource Management Act 1991, and consider the possibilities for the CME function under a new resource management framework, the importance of robust, consistent, and transparent reporting remains. This eighth annual CME Metrics Report provides a comprehensive national snapshot of CME activity across Aotearoa's 16 regional and unitary councils, offering valuable insights into performance, progress and emerging challenges.

Central to this work is the **Compliance and Enforcement Special Interest Group (CESIG)**, which brings together regulatory managers and CME specialists from across the motu to support and strengthen CME activities. Although Aotearoa is regionally diverse, CESIG works to ensure consistency in how councils carry out their CME functions, while also identifying opportunities to improve regulatory systems and outcomes.

While the group is currently focused on supporting RM Reform and a strengthened CME sector, CESIG has led several key initiatives over the years, including:

- The development of the **Regional Sector Strategic Compliance Framework**
- Delivery of the **Environmental Compliance Conference**, which supports CME practitioner capability and promotes the CME profession
- Acting as project sponsor for the **Investigators Best Practice Network**, which brings together investigators from CME teams nationwide to upskill and share information, learnings and advice.

The sector also benefits greatly from the leadership of **Waikato Regional Council (WRC)**, which has made a significant contribution to building national competency and consistency. Since 2006, WRC has offered CME officer training to support the regional sector in its environmental regulatory work. Earlier this year, WRC refreshed its training material and released the **CME Guidebook 2025**, generously made available online to all.

As we look ahead to another year of major change for the sector through RM Reform, and the opportunities this presents, this report serves as both a benchmark and a guide. It is a testament to the sector's resilience, adaptability and shared commitment to protecting our environment for future generations. This year's report includes a new section—Part 3, which sets out a number of case studies, bringing the data to life and highlighting the real-world impact of our mahi beyond the numbers. I would like to acknowledge the council staff who contributed data, insights and case studies for this report, and a special thanks to the CESIG members for their leadership in driving consistency, capability and progress across the sector.

Mā tini, mā mano, ka rapa te whai.

Ngā mihi nui,



Trudy Richards
CESIG Convenor
Te Uru Kahika Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa
October 2025

SUMMARY


659 FTES
IN CME ROLES


222,070
ACTIVE RESOURCE
CONSENTS


DOWN
1 %
FROM LAST
YEAR

75% COUNCILS MONITORED AN AVERAGE
OF **75%** OF ALL CONSENTS THAT
REQUIRED MONITORING UNDER THE RMA


97%
OF COMPLAINTS
RESPONDED TO


392
FORMAL
WARNINGS


4,887
ABATEMENT
NOTICES


2,280
INFRINGEMENT
FINES


17
ENFORCEMENT
ORDERS APPLIED FOR


56 PROSECUTIONS
(82 IN PROGRESS)

40 CORPORATES
CONVICTED **31** INDIVIDUALS
CONVICTED


\$3,108,157
IN FINES

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INTRODUCTION

PART 1

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is New Zealand's cornerstone environmental legislation, designed to ensure the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Its success, however, depends on effective implementation. Regional councils, unitary authorities, and territorial local authorities hold the primary responsibilities for compliance, monitoring, and enforcement (CME) under the RMA, making these functions a critical mechanism for achieving its goals. Thorough monitoring and interpretation of CME activity is therefore essential for strong environmental governance.

Against this backdrop, the Te Uru Kahika's Compliance and Enforcement Special Interest Group (CESIG), comprised of regulatory managers and/or specialists representing each council has led a sector-wide initiative to track trends in CME functions. Since 2018, all 16 of New Zealand's regional councils and unitary authorities—collectively known as the regional sector—have participated in this continuous data collection, providing a national view of performance and progress.

Now in its eighth consecutive year, the monitoring programme continues to evolve, with refinements to survey questions developed in collaboration with the sector. The aim remains consistent: to provide accessible, comparable data that strengthens the national system's delivery of CME and enhances the sector's collective knowledge base.

READING THIS REPORT

Each year councils are given the questions in advance, they are then sent an online survey to enter their data into (Appendix 1). Councils were given four weeks to collect and input the data into an online platform.

This report sets out data provided for each section of the survey, as follows:

- A short analysis of the findings, at both a regional and national scale.
- The tables and graphs of the information.
- A boxed section containing the exact questions relevant to that section.
- Responses to open-ended questions have been aggregated and analysed and the theme of the response presented in this report.
- Verbatim answers are provided where responses cannot be summarised.

HOW DOES THIS REPORTING PROCESS DIFFER YEAR ON YEAR?

The foundation for data collection was set in the first year (2017/2018), when the core information to be gathered was established. Valuable insights from this initial round informed significant improvements to the questionnaire, which then remained consistent from years two through four.

In 2022, recommendations from the Ministry for the Environment were adopted by all councils, fulfilling their intended purpose of strengthening the dataset. The following year, in 2023, several sections were expanded to provide more detailed information. Throughout, consistency has been prioritised to allow meaningful tracking of progress and improvements over time. This year, a section of case studies has been added to showcase some of the work being done across the sector and to highlight the challenges of working in the CME space.

DATA LIMITATIONS

Reporting on activities using complex, reflective measures can present challenges. When reviewing this report, it is important to keep the following in mind:

- Not all councils are able to provide the requested information, resulting in gaps in the datasets.
- The project does not include data auditing, so the accuracy of information submitted is not independently verified. Each council, however, designated a representative to confirm their final survey data points.
- In some cases, changes or improvements in how a council reports may limit comparability with previous years.

CME UNDER THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT NEW ZEALAND

Responsibility for the adoption and execution of CME rests with individual councils, operating within the broader framework of the RMA. Effective CME implementation is closely tied to achieving better environmental outcomes. In the absence of detailed national guidance, councils have adapted their operations to fit the RMA’s relatively flexible structure.

This has led to varied approaches across regions, influenced by factors such as GDP, land area, population, and growth rates. Over time, however, progress has been made toward greater standardisation and formalisation. The Ministry of the Environment’s Best Practice Guidelines, introduced in 2018, have helped shape consistency in metrics and reporting across the sector.

Against this backdrop, the Te Uru Kahika CESIG group has collaborated to produce this report, which aims to strengthen the quality of information surrounding CME functions. While the dataset is not without limitations, it consistently provides valuable insights into CME operations within the RMA framework—insights that have grown in importance each year. The report also highlights the visible results of councils’ ongoing efforts to improve CME implementation.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- Compliance:** adherence to the RMA, including the rules established under regional and district plans and meeting resource consent conditions, regulations and national environmental standards.
- Monitoring:** the activities carried out by councils to assess compliance with the RMA. This can be proactive (e.g., resource consent or permitted activity monitoring) or reactive (e.g., investigation of suspected offences) and pollution incident response activities.
- Enforcement:** the actions taken by councils to respond to non-compliance with the RMA. Actions can be punitive (seek to deter or punish the offender) and/or directive (e.g., direct remediation of the damage or ensure compliance with the RMA).

REGIONAL CONTEXT

New Zealand is highly diverse, with large contextual differences in population, growth rates, land area, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The graph below illustrates this variation across the regions reported on.

Auckland stands out with the largest population, home to around one-third of all New Zealanders. In contrast, the West Coast accounts for just 1% of the national population.

Growth rates also differ widely — with Waikato and Canterbury currently experiencing the fastest population increases.

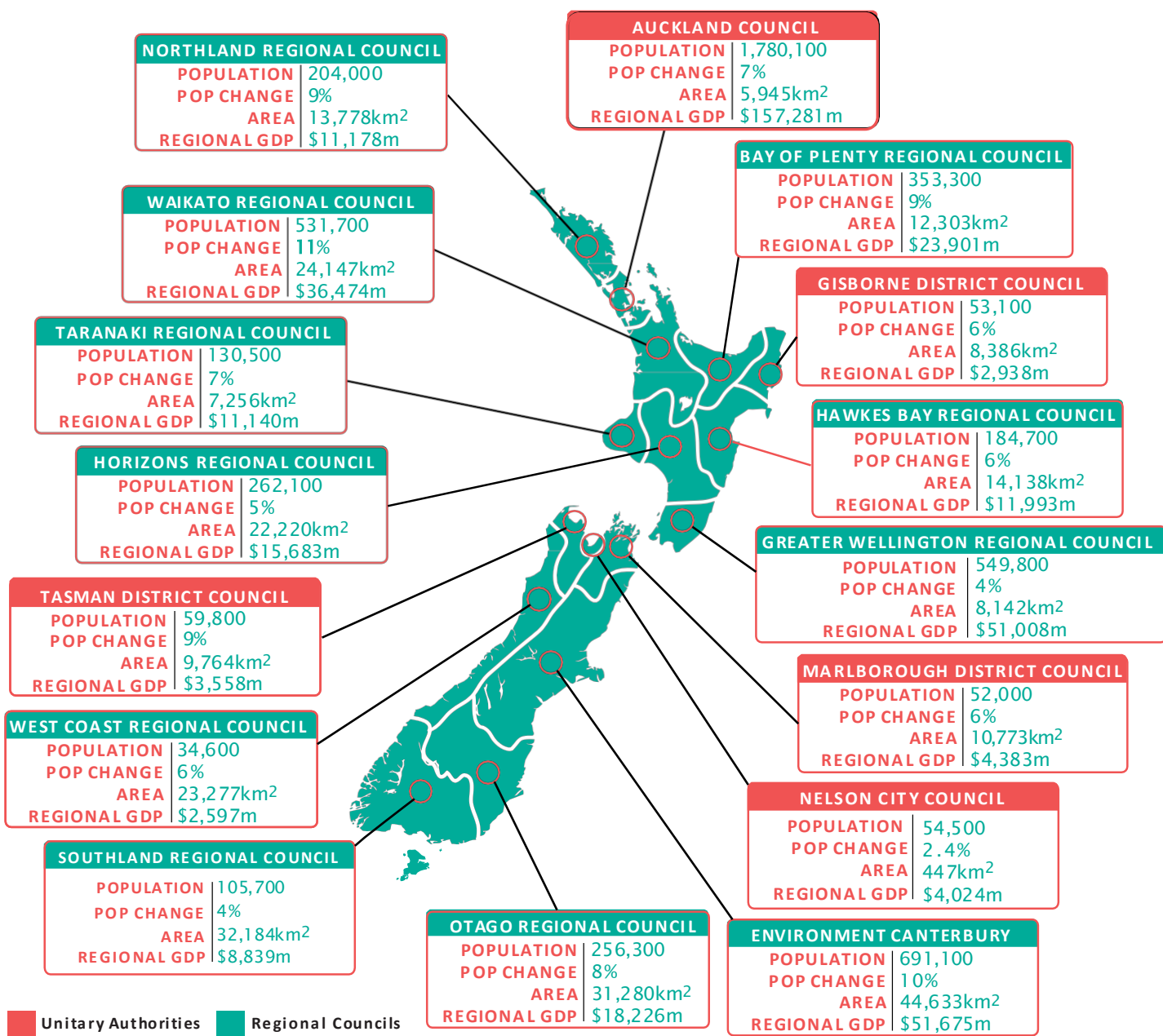


Figure 1: Regional context data
*Population change is for 5 years

A photograph of a traditional Māori hui (meeting house) with a thatched roof, surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. The image is partially obscured by a teal overlay at the top and bottom.

WORKING WITH IWI

Working with iwi is central to how councils approach compliance, monitoring, and enforcement (CME) under the RMA. While the formality and depth partnership varies across regions, common themes emerge:

Partnership Models: Some councils have formal agreements, such as Waikato's Joint Management Agreements, while others (like Otago and Canterbury) rely on ongoing hui, alerts, and case-by-case collaboration.

Governance and Representation: Many councils include iwi representatives on committees, co-governance boards, or working parties, ensuring Māori perspectives shape CME priorities and decisions.

Operational Involvement: Iwi are often engaged in pollution notifications, incident responses, investigations, and prosecutions, contributing cultural impact or victim statements that guide enforcement outcomes.

Evolving Practice: Several councils are moving towards more structured partnerships (e.g. GWRC workshops, Gisborne's Te Tiriti Partnership), reflecting a shift from ad hoc engagement to formalised co-management.

Shared Outcomes: Across the motu, councils recognise iwi as kaitiaki, with growing emphasis on weaving mātauranga Māori into CME processes, strengthening both environmental outcomes and Treaty partnership obligations.

In summary: Councils are at different stages, but there is a clear trajectory toward deeper, more formalised partnerships with iwi in CME, moving from consultation to co-management, with cultural considerations playing an increasingly central role in enforcement and governance.

Question 4: In no more than 300 words describe your regional key commitments to work with iwi/ Māori on CME. For example, joint management agreements or other co-management agreements.

REGISTERING COMPLAINTS

Council's CME teams are responsible for managing environmental complaints made by members of the public regarding pollution events, environmental incidents or accidents, and other potentially non-compliant activities in the environment. These complaints can be referred differently across councils - sometimes called complaints, notifications, incidents or service requests. For simplicity, in this report we refer to them all as complaints.

Complaints are logged differently across councils. Sometimes registering each complaint as an individual incident, sometimes grouped into larger events that encompass multiple complaints. This variation matters, as councils that record each complaint separately report higher incident numbers, which must be taken into account in comparisons.

The most effective approach would be a standardised procedure, but practices currently diverge, primarily due to the use of different databases at different councils. Seven councils record a single incident for an entire event, while nine councils register each complaint separately.

RECORDING CONVENTIONS FOR INCOMING COMPLAINTS

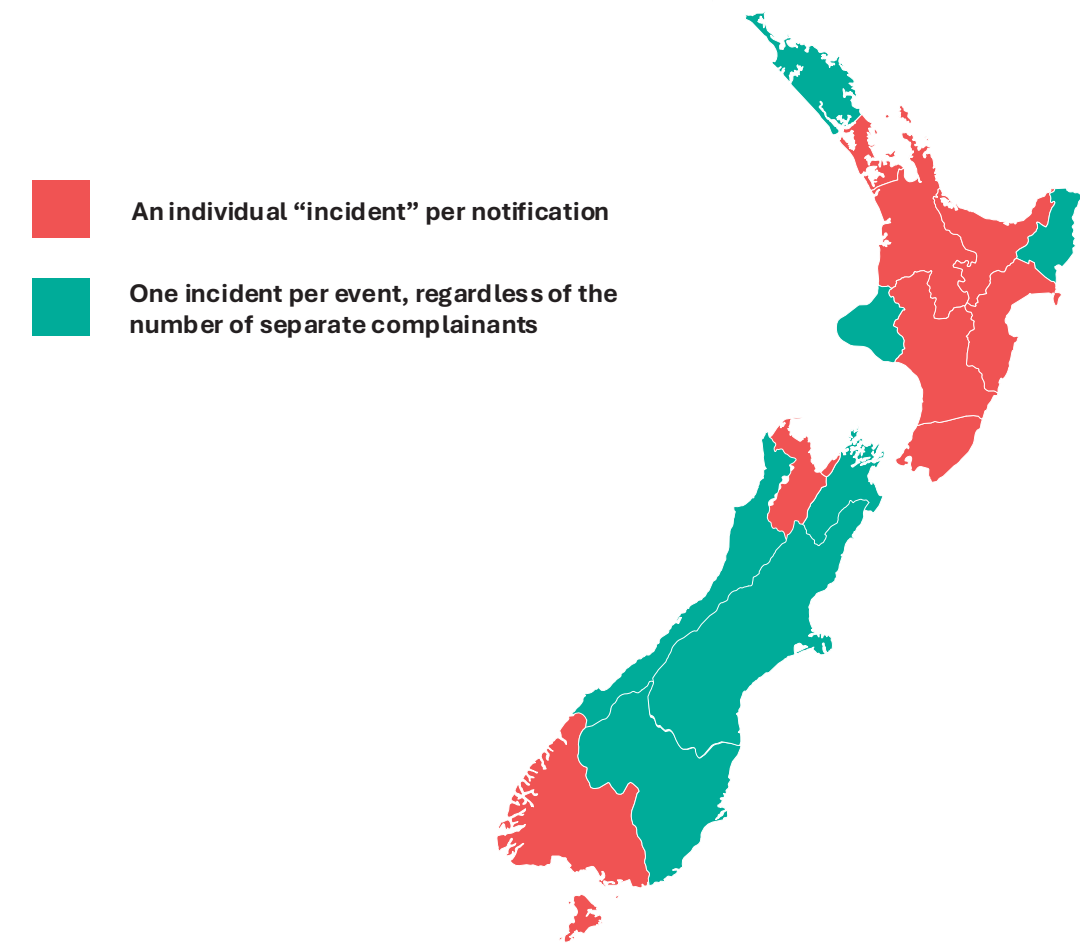
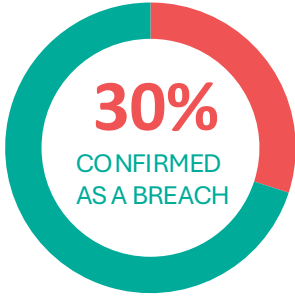
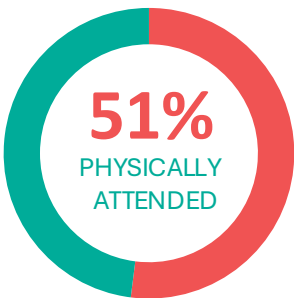


Figure 2: Recording conventions for incoming complaints across the regional sector

- Question 5. Does your council register/count:
- An individual “incident” per notification?
 - One incident per event, regardless of the number of separate complainants?

NATIONWIDE COMPLAINTS



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

The number of complaints fluctuates from year to year, influenced by regional differences that often reflect population size and density. Regions with larger populations living in close proximity typically experience higher volumes of complaints, while smaller regions or more sparsely populated regions tend to record lower numbers. However, local factors such as growth rates, land use, and community awareness can also play a role in shaping the volume and type of complaints received.

In the most recent reporting period, Northland, Horizons, Greater Wellington, Southland, Gisborne, Marlborough and Nelson recorded increases in complaints.

COMPLAINTS RESPONDED TO AND ATTENDED

Councils responded to 97% of the complaints they received. Among those that did not achieve full response rates, Hawke’s Bay addressed 93% of complaints, Gisborne 90%, and Environment Canterbury 75%.

Responding to complaints in person remains the most resource-intensive approach, as it enables officers to directly assess and address issues on site. This year, the proportion of complaints attended in person decreased from 62% to 51%.

Many complaints are able to be resolved via a desk-top approach, such as a phone call to a consent holder or further discussion with the complainant. Often, complaints are made regarding activities that are no longer occurring, therefore officer attendance in-person is not required (e.g. an odour that has since stopped or smoky fire that is no longer burning).

Question 6. How many notifications (complaints) were received from members of the public (or other sources, but excluding information from council monitoring activity) relating to environmental incidents or potential breaches of environmental regulation?
This might include information from, for example, emergency services attending an incident or perhaps a council staff member observing something while on other duties but excludes information from council monitoring activity. Please note answer unknown if your council does not record the information requested.

Question 7. How many of these notifications were responded to by council?
This response may be in any form – e.g. phone call, site visit, desktop audit.

Question 8. How many of these notifications were physically attended by council staff?
If one incident had multiple visits, only count this as one.

INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

2020 / 2021 2021 / 2022 2022 / 2023 2023 / 2024 2024 / 2025

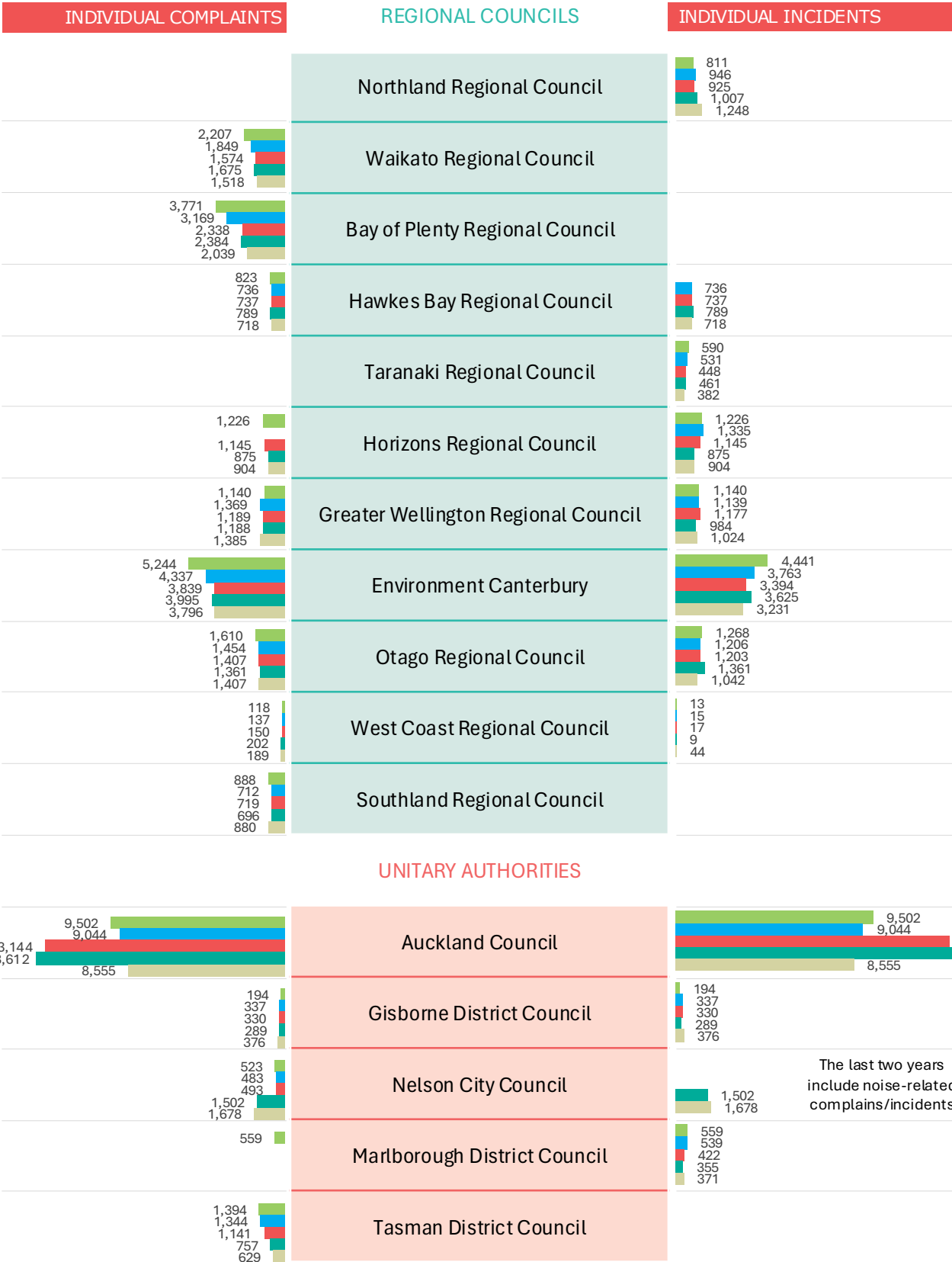
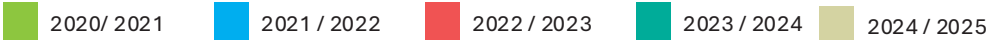


Figure 3: Individual complaints and incidents

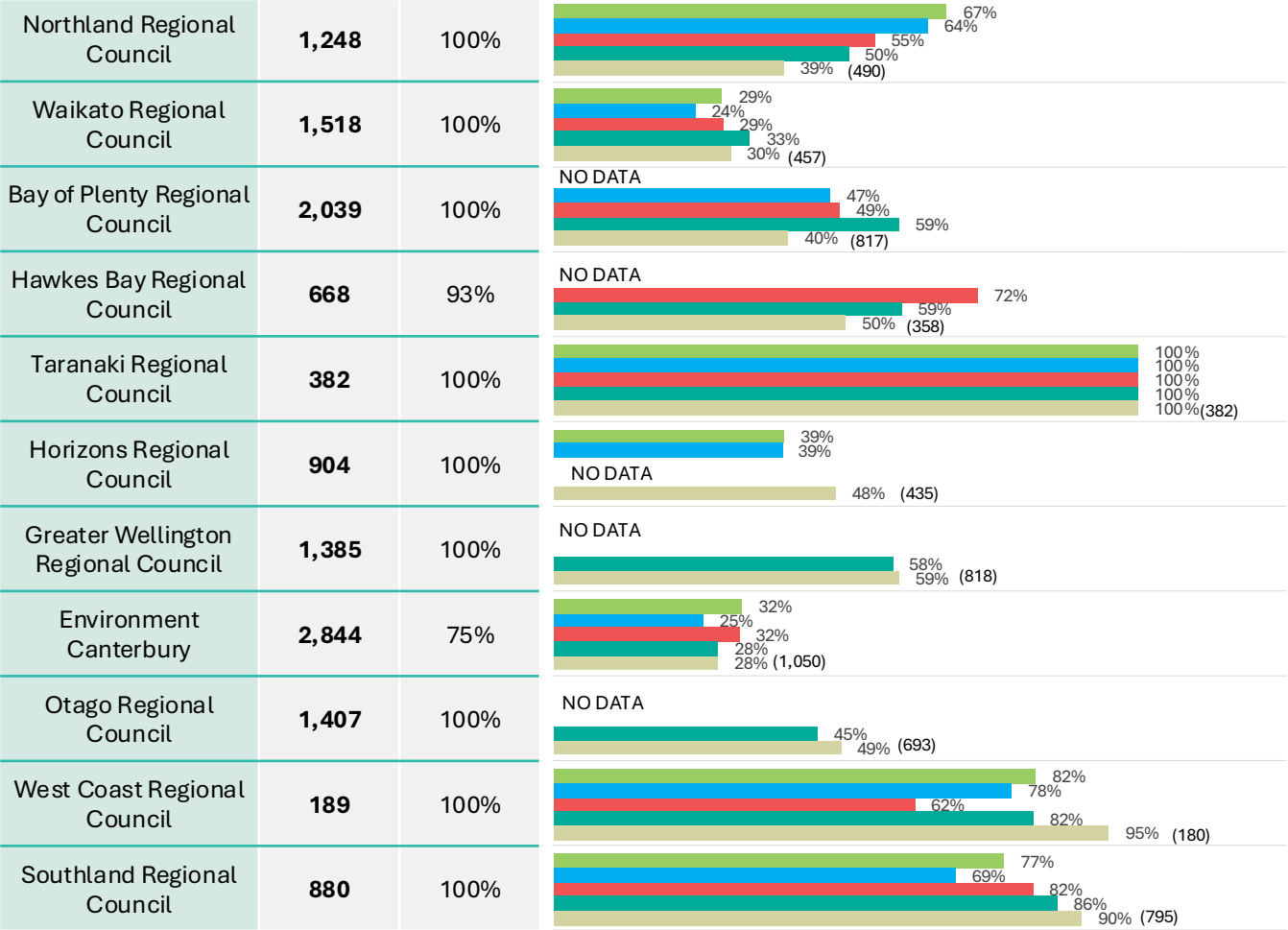
COMPLAINTS RESPONDED
TO AND ATTENDED



REGIONAL COUNCILS

RESPONDED TO
2024/2025

PHYSICALLY ATTENDED



UNITARY
AUTHORITIES

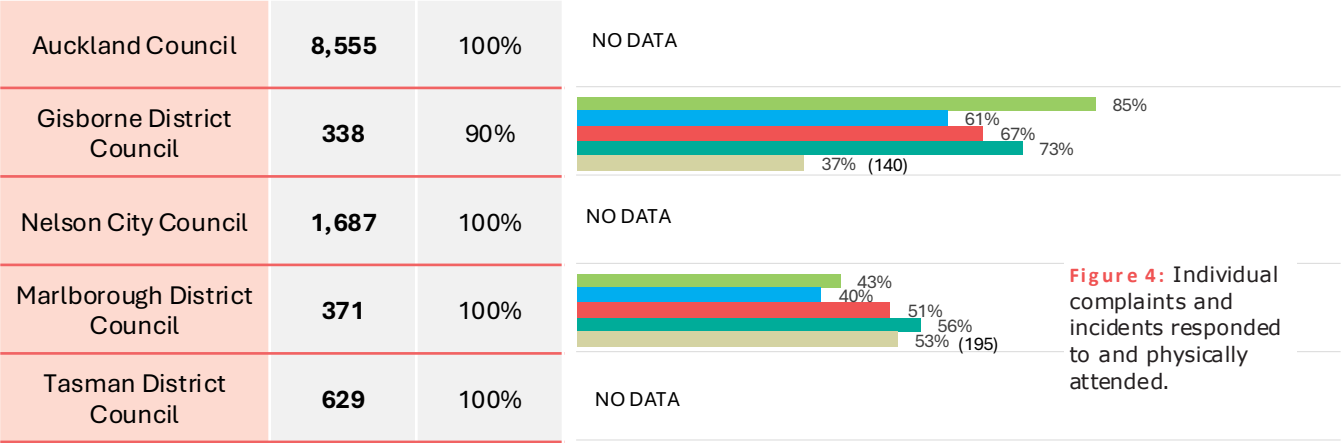


Figure 4: Individual complaints and incidents responded to and physically attended.

TOTAL/OVERALL
AVERAGE 23,650 97%



CONFIRMED BREACHES

The average number of confirmed breaches has shown a slight year-on-year increase since 2021/2022, returning this year to 2022/2023 levels. This year, the largest decreases were recorded in Gisborne (-11%) and Marlborough (-10%), while the largest increase was in West Coast (+17%).

Other changes were minimal. Regions with lower numbers of confirmed breaches, such as West Coast and Gisborne, tend to show more year-to-year volatility, with figures moving around from year to year.

CONFIRMED BREACHES

REGIONAL COUNCILS	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
Northland Regional Council	47%	46%	50%	50%	58% (727)
Waikato Regional Council	37%	21%	12%	18%	12% (175)
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	23%	25%	21%	23%	24% (481)
Hawkes Bay Regional Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	89%	91%	94% (672)
Taranaki Regional Council	39%	35%	40%	42%	45% (173)
Horizons Regional Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Greater Wellington Regional Council	19%	13%	16%	18%	16% (215)
Environment Canterbury	24%	19%	23%	20%	20% (751)
Otago Regional Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	9%	NO DATA	NO DATA
West Coast Regional Council	21%	21%	34%	16%	33% (62)
Southland Regional Council	34%	15%	34%	39%	46% (405)
UNITARY AUTHORITIES					
Auckland Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Gisborne District Council	35%	39%	38%	26%	15% (55)
Nelson City Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Marlborough District Council	22%	20%	17%	37%	27% (99)
Tasman District Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
TOTAL/AVERAGE	29%	27%	30%	33%	30% (3,815)

Table 1: Confirmed breaches

Question 9. How many of these notifications were confirmed as breaches of the RMA or subsidiary instruments?

TYPES OF CONFIRMED BREACHES

REGIONAL COUNCILS	2024/ 2025	Breach of Resource Consent	Breach of NES	Breach of a Permitted Activity Rule	Breach of a Permitted Activity Rule and/or National Environmental Standard
Northland Regional Council	5 8 % (7 2 7)	7	22	698	NO DATA
Waikato Regional Council	1 2 % (1 7 5)	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	2 4 % (4 8 1)	38	NO DATA	NO DATA	443
Hawkes Bay Regional Council	9 4 % (6 7 2)	18	16	638	0
Taranaki Regional Council	4 5 % (1 7 3)	18	5	150	0
Horizons Regional Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Greater Wellington Regional Council	1 6 % (2 1 5)	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Environment Canterbury	2 0 % (7 5 1)	114	637	NO DATA	NO DATA
Otago Regional Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
West Coast Regional Council	3 3 % (6 2)	19	17	26	0
Southland Regional Council	4 6 % (4 0 5)	47	11	34	313
UNITARY AUTHORITIES					
Auckland Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Gisborne District Council	15% (55)	7	NO DATA	NO DATA	48
Nelson City Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Marlborough District Council	27% (99)	14	NO DATA	NO DATA	85
Tasman District Council	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
TOTAL/AVERAGE	30% (3,815)				

Table 2: Types of breaches

Question 10. How many of the breaches were for:

Breach of a resource consent?

Breach of a National Environmental Standard? Breach of a Permitted Activity Rule?

Breach of a Permitted Activity Rule and/or National Environmental Standard?

NATIONWIDE COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

CONSENTS

222,070

REQUIRED MONITORING

76,317

PERCENTAGE MONITORED

75%

MONITORING RESOURCE CONSENTS

The number of active resource consents in the current year has remained broadly consistent with previous years, with a slight decline of 1 percent overall.

Auckland continues to hold the majority of consents, with a total of 92,550 RMA consents.

The largest increases in the total number of consents were observed in Tasman, Hawke’s Bay, Horizons and Otago. The most significant decreases occurred in Auckland and the West Coast region.

The West Coast and Bay of Plenty experienced a notable increase in the proportion of consents requiring monitoring. Bay of Plenty, Environment Canterbury, Tasman and Auckland also recorded the largest increases in number consents requiring monitoring.

The numbers of consents that require monitoring in any given year can vary due to a range of factors including risk -based monitoring regimes (e.g. higher risk activities will require more frequent inspection), consents actively being exercised and numbers of new consents granted.

Question 11. How many individual, active resource consents exist in your region?

Exclude Land Use Consents where the activity is completed e.g., Land use subdivisions where the subdivision is complete, and certificates issued or land use – building where the building has been constructed.

Question 12. How many consents required monitoring during this period, in accordance with your monitoring prioritisation model/strategy?

Question 13. How many of these consents were monitored (including desktop audit) in the period?

		TOTAL CONSENTS					REQUIRED MONITORING					NUMBER MONITORED					
		2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	
REGIONAL COUNCILS	Northland Regional Council	10,164	10,779	11,312	8,542	9,021	3,505	4,153	4,275	4,464	4,889	86%	95%	100%+	100%	92%	4,497
	Waikato Regional Council	11,839	12,511	12,742	13,111	13,386	0	575	1,461	1,419	1,360		100%+	100%+	100%+	100%+	2,620
	Bay of Plenty Regional Council	8,407	7,608	8,442	8,421	8,720	3,324	3,398	4,439	4,342	6,139	86%	93%	83%	78%	81%	4,944
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	8,452	8,620	8,673	7,917	8,561	3,355	3,358	3,825	4,541	3,825	93%	91%	81%	42%	52%	1,970
	Taranaki Regional Council	4,517	4,372	4,313	4,278	4,222	2,510	2,408	2,325	2,245	2,260	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	2,260
	Horizons Regional Council	6,619	5,638	6,500	5,192	5,609	1,823	2,175	2,060	1,394	1,896	89%	95%	100%+	100%+	100%+	2,573
	Greater Wellington Regional Council	7,138	7,259	7,567	7,716	8,053	1,779	1,843	2,139	2,402	2,377	87%	88%	82%	82%	88%	2,090
	Environment Canterbury	22,648	23,079	23,522	23,533	24,204	1,314	882	1,004	792	2,865	96%	76%	73%	68%	92%	2,645
	Otago Regional Council	5,785	5,829	6,731	7,114	7,557	3,136	3,144	2,500	2,500	2,500	71%	77%	100%+	100%+	100%+	3,553
	West Coast Regional Council	5,682	5,809	5,800	5,790	3,511	1,268	1,275	1,268	1,270	1,270	92%	92%	92%	77%	69%	877
	Southland Regional Council	5,995	4,916	4,966	4,398	4,494	5,920	3,752	3,765	3,465	3,820	72%	84%	79%	68%	71%	2,698
	REGIONAL SUBTOTAL	97,246	96,420	100,568	96,012	97,338	27,934	26,963	29,061	28,834	33,201	87%	96%	90%	83%	86%	30,727
UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Auckland Council	130,371	75,017	80,483	98,043	92,550	0	0	19,730	31,599	34,014			45%	22%	21%	7,233
	Gisborne District Council	8,893	7,753	7,914	8,074	8,012	1,135	1,600	1,229	778	1,029	60%	47%	67%	40%	65%	668
	Nelson City Council	675	594	0	718	742	675	594	526	573	543	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	543
	Marlborough District Council	29,459	27,817	28,674	19,747	19,138	3,529	3,326	3,265	3,555	3,524	98%	85%	86%	76%	78%	2,755
	Tasman District Council	16,826	8,803	3,783	2,766	4,290	4,941	3,327	3,707	2,386	4,006	57%	73%	93%	82%	52%	2,099
	UNITARY SUBTOTAL	186,224	119,984	120,854	129,348	124,732	10,280	8,847	28,457	38,891	43,116	79%	76%	78%	64%	63%	13,298
TOTAL		283,470	216,404	221,422	225,360	222,070	38,214	35,810	57,518	67,725	76,317	83%	86%	84%	74%	75%	44,025

In the current year, monitoring activity covered more than 67,000 consents requiring oversight. This represents an increase of 11,225 of consents requiring monitoring.

- As in previous years, results varied considerably across councils:
- Auckland had the largest number monitored (18,033), with an increase of 7,402
 - Bay of Plenty (+2,689) and Marlborough (+1,868) also had notable increases

Data Notes:
Figures may differ from those reported in Table 3, as some sites required multiple monitoring visits within the year. Figure 5 relates to the percentage of monitoring visits (not consents) within the relevant grading categories. Consequently, totals in the following tables will not align precisely with earlier consent totals, due to the inclusion of multiple visits per site.

Question 14. What grades do you apply to non-compliance? (e.g. technical non-compliance, significant non-compliance)

Fully Compliant

Technical/Low Non-Compliance

Moderate Non-Compliance

Significant Non-Compliance

Other (please specify)

Question 15. What were the levels of compliance with consents according to the grades you use?

Note 1: Numbers provided under each grade is per monitoring event not per consent. E.g. a consent may be monitored four times in the year: on one occasion it may be Technically Non-Compliance and on three occasions it may be Fully Compliant, this would add three to the total of Fully Compliant and one to the total for Technical Non-compliance.

Note 2: The compliance grade is based on the condition with the worst compliance grade. e.g. a consent with five conditions Fully Compliant and one condition Moderate Non-Compliance has an overall compliance grade of Minor Non-Compliance.

Note 3: Daily telemetry water readings where compliance with water take limits is continuously monitored are to be excluded from compliance grade totals.

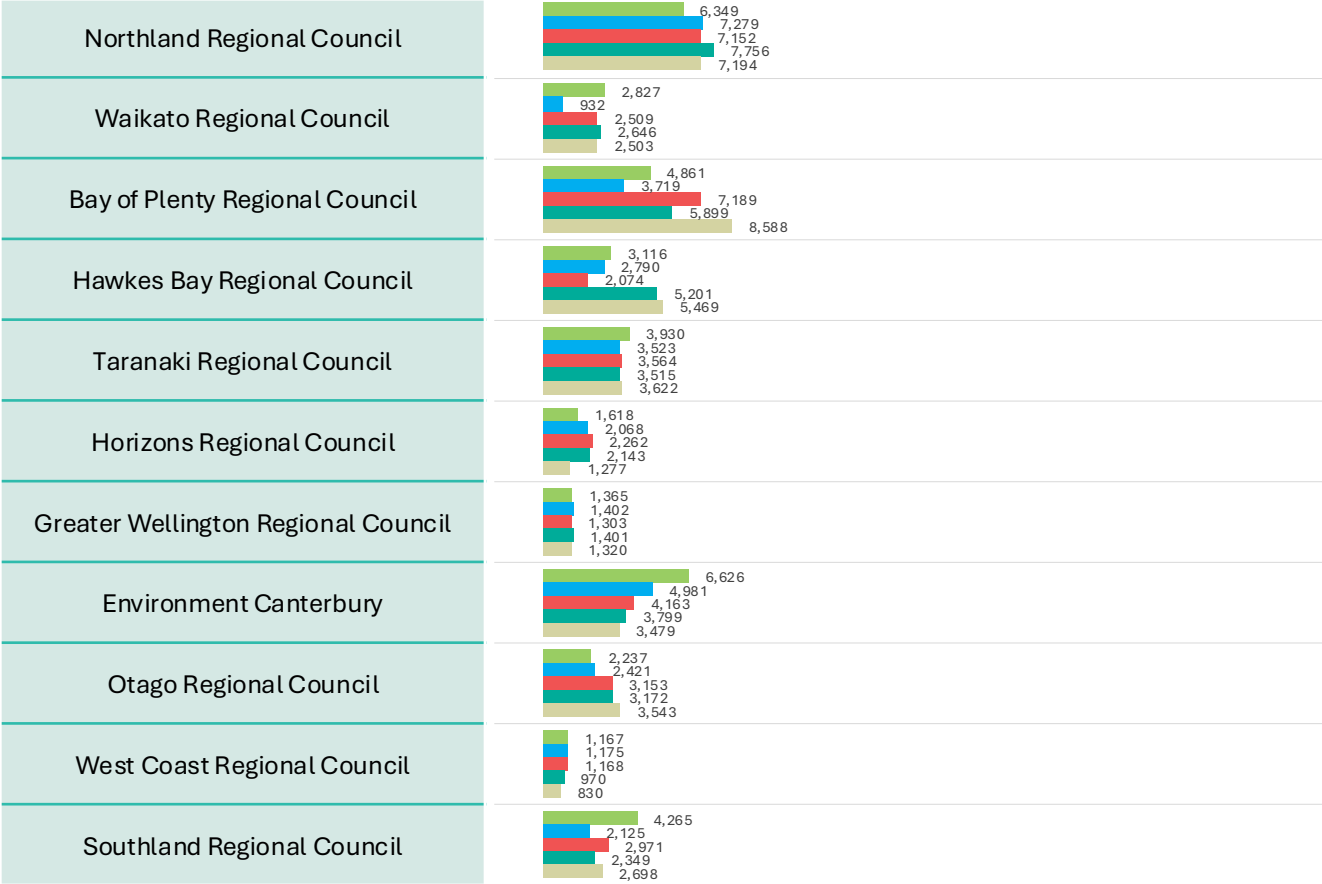
**The non-compliance rating system used at WRC considers multiple factors, and not solely whether the non-compliance results in actual significant environmental effect. As such the data is not directly comparable to those councils that apply the MfE compliance rating system.*

**Consistent with previous years GWRC are unable to exclude telemetered Water Takes from figures. Their grading of compliance is over the year not per event.*

TOTAL CONSENTS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF COMPLIANCE PER MONITORING EVENT

2020/ 2021 2021 / 2022 2022 / 2023 2023 / 2024 2024 / 2025

REGIONAL COUNCILS



UNITARY AUTHORITIES

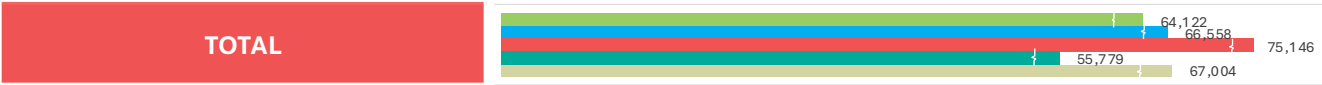
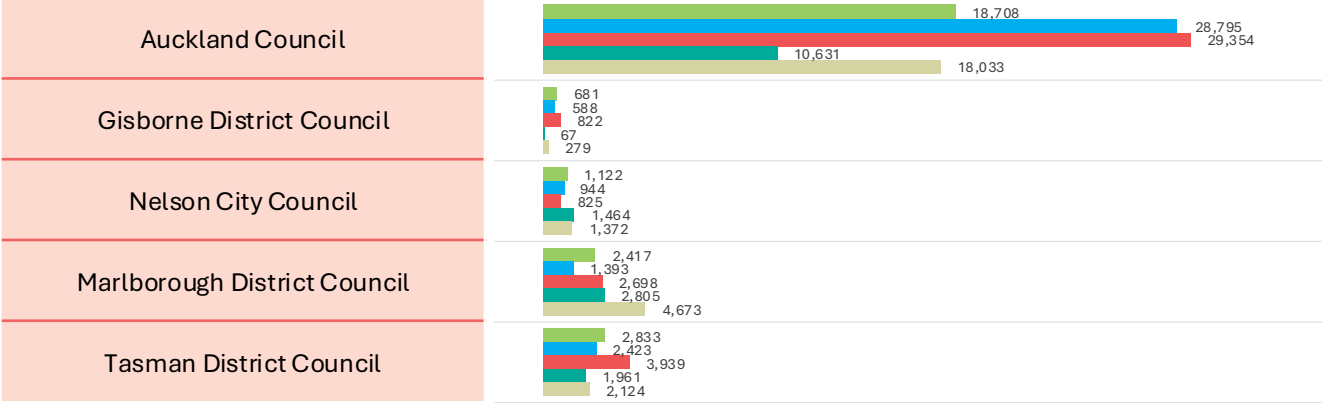
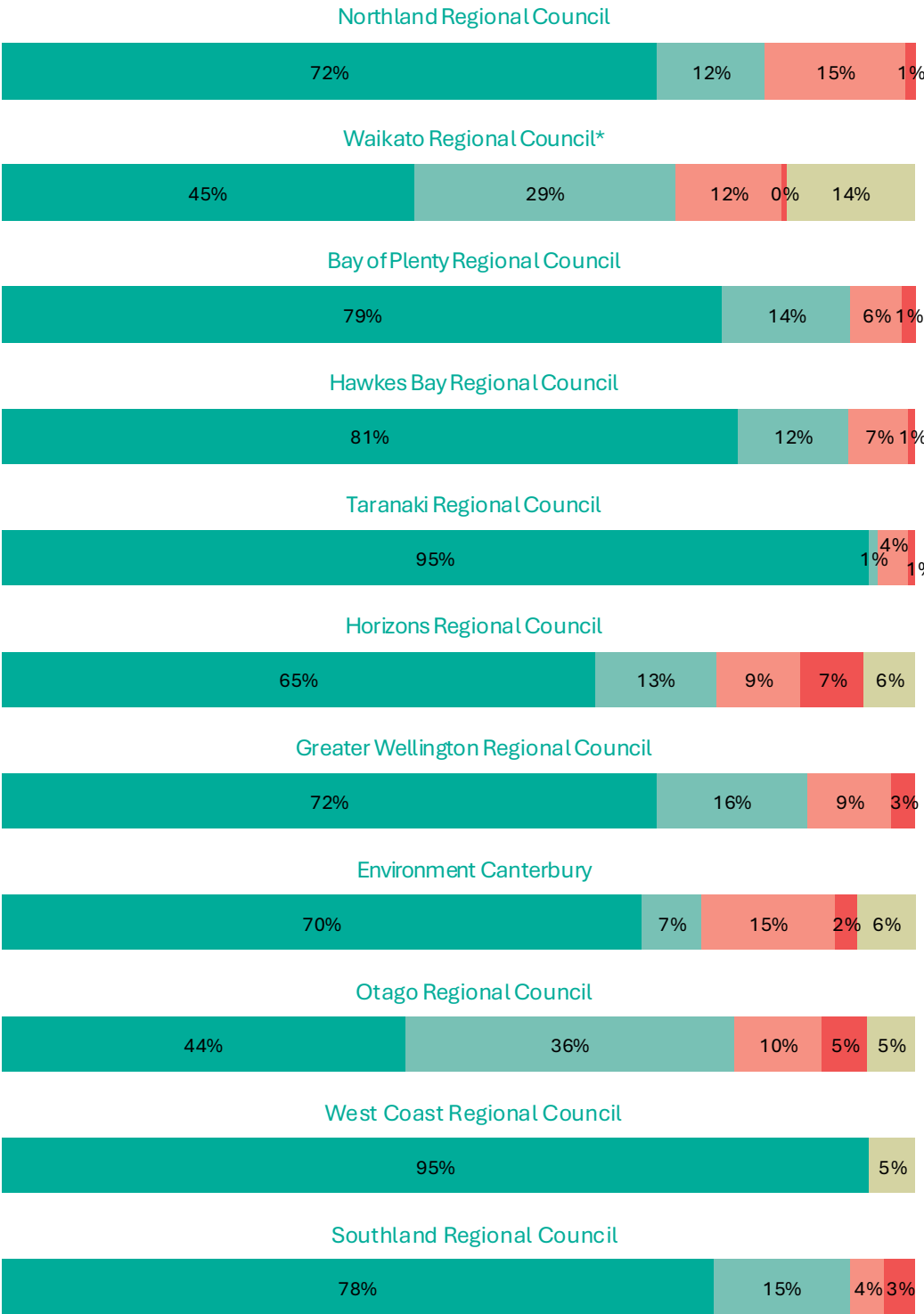


Figure 5: Total Number of Consents in Different Categories on a Per Monitoring Event Basis.

BREAKDOWN OF CONSENTS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF COMPLIANCE PER MONITORING EVENT

■ FULL COMPLIANCE
 ■ LOW RISK/ TECHNICAL NON-COMPLIANCE
 ■ MODERATE NON-COMPLIANCE
 ■ SIGNIFICANT NON-COMPLIANCE
 ■ OTHER GRADING



**Other includes consent not yet exercised, not assessed, undetermined, non-compliant, sully compliant, follow up (for non compliance), not active/ not put to effect, comply at risk, technical/low non-compliance, non-compliance action not required*

BREAKDOWN OF CONSENTS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF COMPLIANCE PER MONITORING EVENT

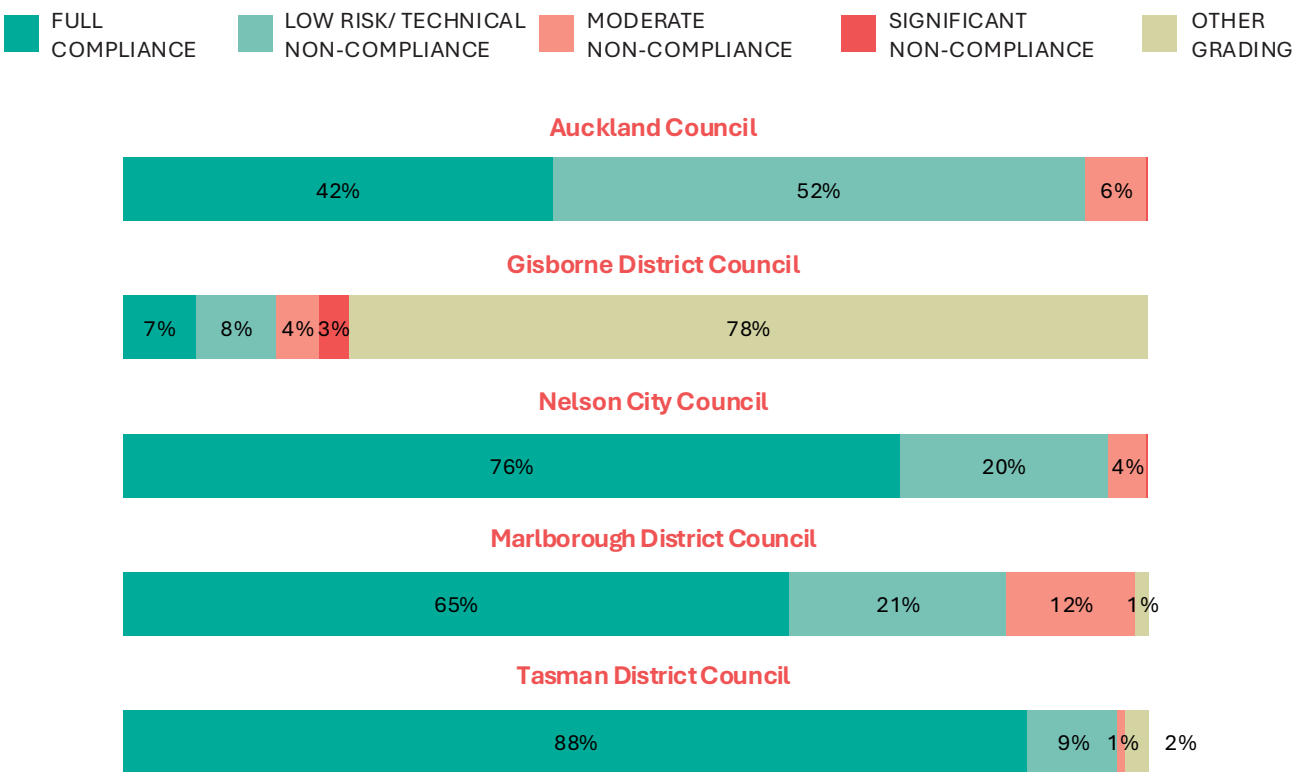


Figure 6: Breakdown of consents in different categories of compliance per monitoring event

NATIONWIDE COMPLIANCE RATING OF CONSENTS MONITORED

TOTAL CONSENTS MONITORED

67,004

NATIONWIDE COMPLIANCE RATING OF CONSENTS MONITORED

FULL COMPLIANCE

LOW RISK/ TECHNICAL NON-COMPLIANCE

MODERATE NON-COMPLIANCE

SIGNIFICANT NON-COMPLIANCE

OTHER GRADING

REGIONAL COUNCILS



UNITARY AUTHORITIES



Figure 7: Nation-wide percentages of consents in full compliance, low risk/ technical non-compliance, moderate non-compliance and significant non-compliance on a per monitoring event basis.

MONITORING PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

This year small scale earthworks and construction made up the majority of site visits.

PERMITTED ACTIVITY MONITORING PROGRAMMES
FOR DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES

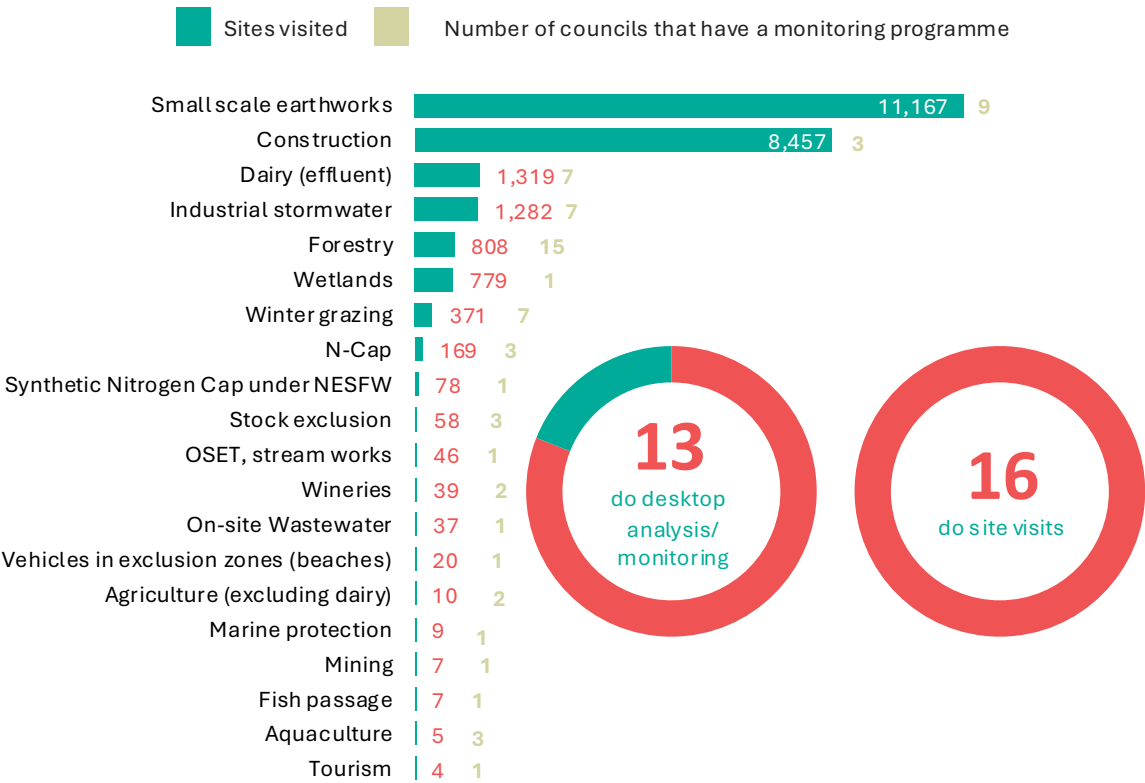


Figure 8: Permitted activity monitoring programmes for different industries

Question 16. Which permitted activities do you have a monitoring programme for? List of activities with tick box if yes:

- Agriculture (excluding dairy)
- Aquaculture
- Construction
- Dairy
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Mining
- Oil and gas
- Tourism
- Vineyards
- Wineries
- Wintering
- Other (please specify)

Question 17. What was the number of sites visited?

Question 18. What was the type of monitoring done?

- Desk top analysis
- Site visits
- Other

MAKING DECISIONS ON PRIORITIES

The following questions help us understand prioritisation and the way matters are addressed; it looks at the workstreams and rationale for prioritisation.

Incident attendance determined by:

- Ongoing vs past harm
- Severity, extent, duration of effects
- Mitigation potential (can impact be stopped)
- Reliability / quality of complaint information
- Type of incident (e.g. effluent discharge, chemical spill)
- In-hours vs out-of-hours response (after hours limited to high priority)
- Health, safety and wellbeing of staff
- Use of formal triage matrices or response categories (e.g. immediate, 4 hrs, 2 days, 7 days; 20-minute pollution response target)

Consent monitoring determined by:

- Risk-based frameworks and compliance plans
- Scale and type of activity
- Potential / actual adverse effects
- Compliance history and likelihood of non-compliance
- Location / sensitivity of receiving environment
- Operator behaviour and time since last inspection
- Public and iwi interest
- Group monitoring in some sectors (e.g. coastal structures)
- Tiered risk categories (High / Medium / Low) used for monitoring frequency

Permitted activity monitoring determined by:

- Forestry (NES-CF): risk criteria incl. size, topography, sensitivity, compliance history
- Dairy effluent: annual or targeted inspections, focus on high-risk farms or past non-compliance
- Industrial stormwater, earthworks, onsite wastewater, polluted airsheds – targeted proactive programmes
- Seasonal / catchment-based monitoring in some regions
- Focus on sectors with highest potential for harm

Question 22. What basis is used for determining what notifications/complaints/incidents are physically attended and with what urgency or priority?

Question 23. Describe how you determine which consents are monitored and how frequently?
If there is a prioritisation model or compliance strategy, add link

Question 24. Describe the basis, which was used for determining what, if any, permitted activities were monitored.*If there is a prioritisation model or compliance strategy, add link*

STAFFING LEVELS

The number of full-time employees (FTEs) has increased slightly this year, reaching 659—an addition of 24 from last year.

Staffing levels vary across the sector due to differences in population size, geographic area, development type and intensity, and council funding. Most regional councils and unitary authorities employ between 14 and 73 FTEs, with lower-GDP regions typically having fewer staff.

Auckland remains the largest employer with 221 FTEs, marking an increase of 12 from the previous year. Outside Auckland, Waikato (+8), the West Coast (+4) and Southland (+4) had the most notable increases.

The most notable increases in vacancies in 2024/2025 is Northland (+5 positions).

- Question 25.** How many FTEs does your council have who carry out monitoring roles?
- Question 26.** How many FTEs does your council have who carry out environmental incident or pollution response roles?
- Question 27.** How many FTEs does your council have who carry out investigation or enforcement roles?
- Question 28.** How many FTEs does your council have who carry out a combination of the above roles?

Note 1: Include contractors

Note 2: Only answer this question if you have not included these staff in questions 24, 25 or 26

- Question 29.** How many FTEs does your council have in CME support roles?
- This includes administrative roles, e.g. staff who assist with issue of notices, reminder notices, upload of unpaid infringements to Ministry of Justice.*

- Question 30.** Across this area of council work (CME) on average for the year, how many vacancies have been carried?
- Number of vacancies during the year/ average length of vacancies*

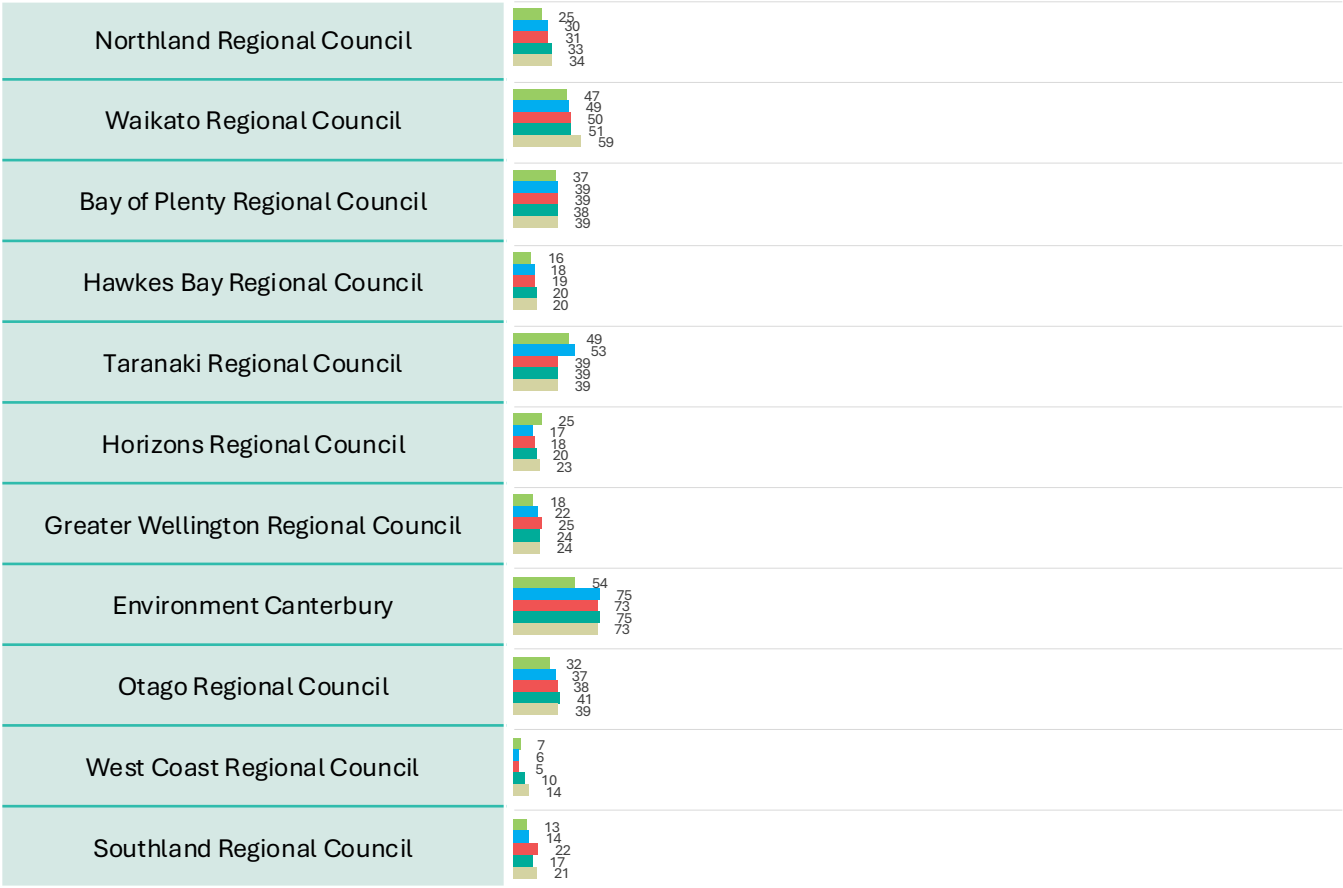
- Question 31.** What have been the most significant factors influencing retention and recruitment of CME staff?
- Question 32.** At the time of answering this question what is your staff's CME experience at council?

- Less than 2 years. Number of staff
- 2-10 years. Number of staff
- Greater than 10 years. Number of staff

COUNCIL FTES IN CME ROLES



REGIONAL COUNCILS



UNITARY AUTHORITIES

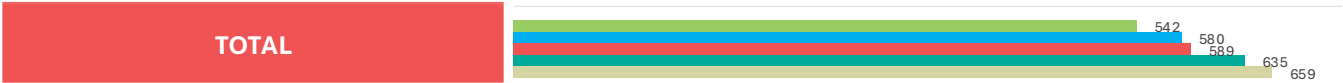
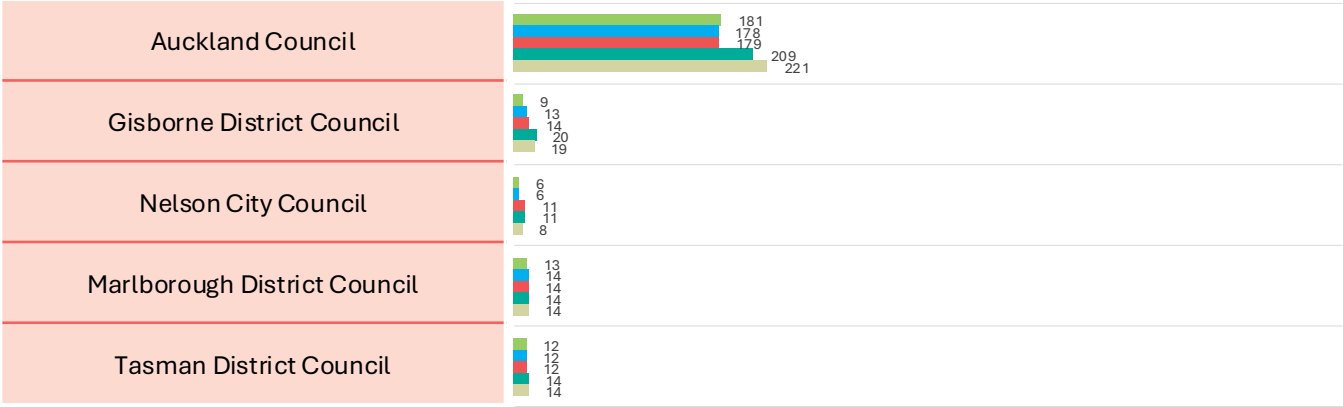


Figure 9: Council FTES in CME role
Note: FTE count is rounded to 0 decimal places

		MONITORING			COMBINATION			ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT OR POLLUTION			INVESTIGATION OR ENFORCEMENT			SUPPORT		
		2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
REGIONAL COUNCILS	Northland Regional Council	0	0	0	26	27	28	0	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4
	Waikato Regional Council	20	21	23	0	0	0	10	10	9	12	12	12	8	8	16
	Bay of Plenty Regional Council	20	21	25	0	0	0	4	5	4	3	2	2	12	10	8
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	12	12	12	0	0	0	3	4	4	1	1	1	3	3	3
	Taranaki Regional Council	22	22	22	2	2	2	5	5	5	6	6	6	4	4	4
	Horizons Regional Council	0	1	1	14	14	16	0	1	2	3	4	4	1	1	1
	Greater Wellington Regional Council	0	0	0	23	22	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
	Environment Canterbury	45	37	42	8	0	10	9	11	7	4	4	4	7	23	10
	Otago Regional Council	21	20	23	5	5	3	4	5	3	4	5	4	5	6	6
	West Coast Regional Council	0	4	4	4	0	4	0	4	4	0	2	2	1	0	0
	Southland Regional Council	10	10	9	4	4	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	0	5
	REGIONAL SUBTOTAL	149	147	160	86	74	88	36	47	40	36	39	38	52	61	58
UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Auckland Council	72	77	77	15	34	0	70	80	116	7	10	10	15	8	18
	Gisborne District Council	0	0	0	11	19	18	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1
	Nelson City Council	5	5	0	6	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	Marlborough District Council	6	6	6	0	0	0	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Tasman District Council	0	0	0	10	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
	UNITARY SUBTOTAL	83	88	83	42	71	36	75	85	121	11	12	12	20	13	24
	UNITARY SUBTOTAL MINUS AUCKLAND	11	11	6	27	37	36	5	5	5	4	2	2	5	5	6
TOTAL		232	235	243	127	145	124	111	132	161	47	51	50	72	74	82
TOTAL MINUS AUCKLAND		160	158	166	112	111	124	41	52	45	40	41	40	57	66	64

COUNCIL FTES AND FORMAL ACTIONS BASED ON POPULATION

		FTE/1000					FTE 2024/ 2025	Population Estimates 2025	Formal Actions per 1000 2024/2025
		2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025			
REGIONAL COUNCILS	Northland Regional Council	0.13	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16	34	204,000	2.0
	Waikato Regional Council	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.11	59	531,700	0.5
	Bay of Plenty Regional Council	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.11	39	353,300	0.6
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.11	23	184,700	0.4
	Taranaki Regional Council	0.40	0.42	0.31	0.30	0.30	39	130,500	1.5
	Horizons Regional Council	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.09	23	262,100	0.8
	Greater Wellington Regional Council	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	24	549,800	0.2
	Environment Canterbury	0.08	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11	73	691,100	0.4
	Otago Regional Council	0.13	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.15	39	256,300	0.5
	West Coast Regional Council	0.20	0.17	0.15	0.30	0.40	14	34,600	0.7
	Southland Regional Council	0.12	0.14	0.21	0.16	0.20	21	105,700	0.9
	REGIONAL AVERAGE/ TOTAL	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.16	385	3,303,800	0.8
UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Auckland Council	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.12	221	1,780,100	2.9
	Gisborne District Council	0.18	0.24	0.27	0.38	0.35	19	53,100	2.8
	Nelson City Council	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.14	8	54,400	0.7
	Marlborough District Council	0.25	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.26	14	52,000	1.3
	Tasman District Council	0.11	0.21	0.20	0.24	0.23	14	59,800	0.9
	UNITARY AVERAGE/ TOTAL	0.17	0.18	0.21	0.24	0.22	275	1,999,400	1.7
AVERAGE		0.15	0.16	0.17	0.20	0.18			

Table 5: Comparison of council FTEs, population and number of formal actions (excluding prosecutions but including warnings)

Below we can see the relationship between formal actions and FTE's. Regions with higher FTE numbers tend to record more formal actions.

CME RESOURCING AND NUMBER OF FORMAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

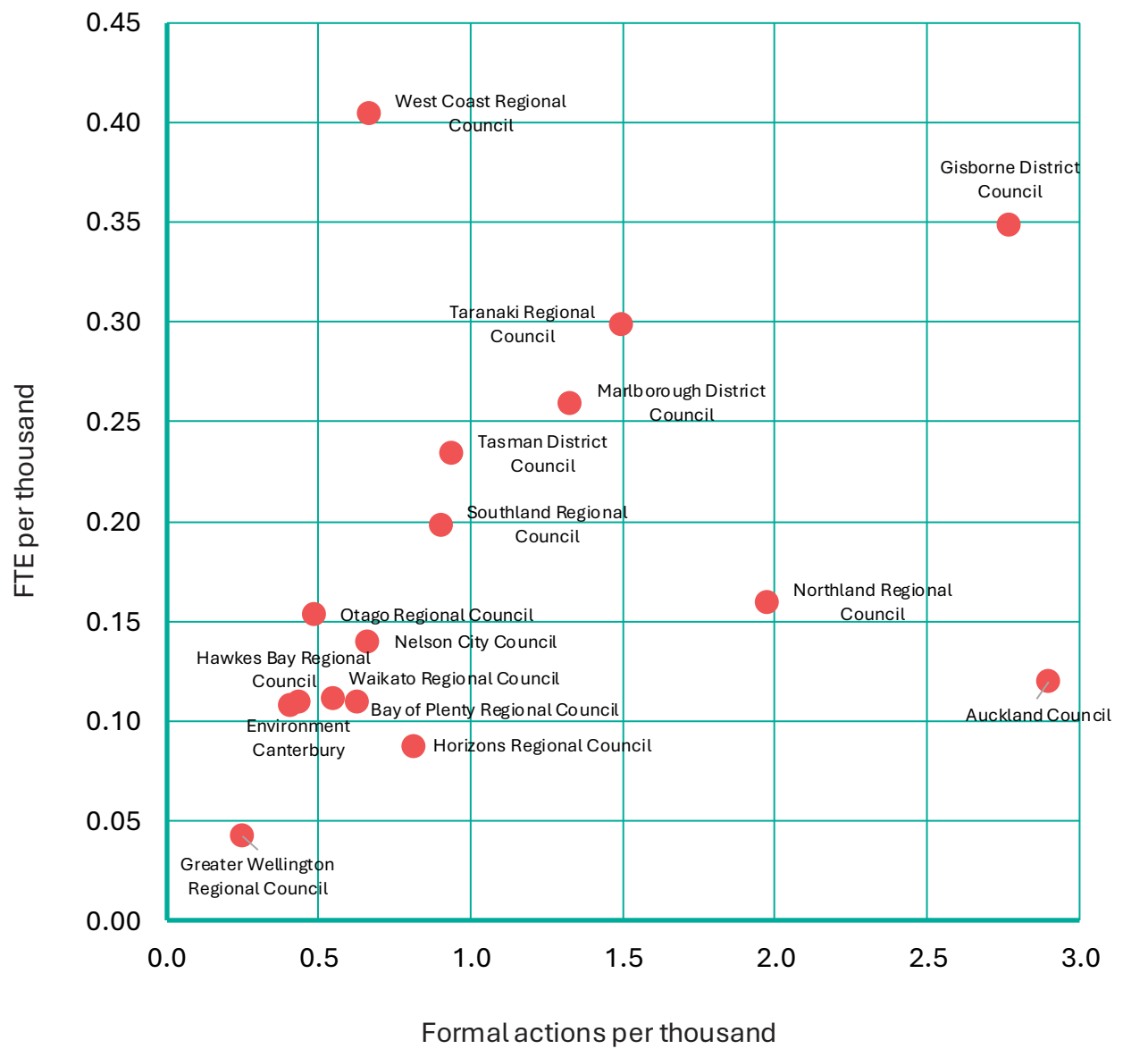


Figure 10: Comparison of CME resourcing and number of formal enforcement actions

Those with more staffing also do more monitoring. Greater staffing capacity enables more inspections and monitoring activity, increasing opportunities to detect and address non-compliance.

CME RESOURCING AND NUMBER OF CONSENTS MONITORED + SITE VISITS ON PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

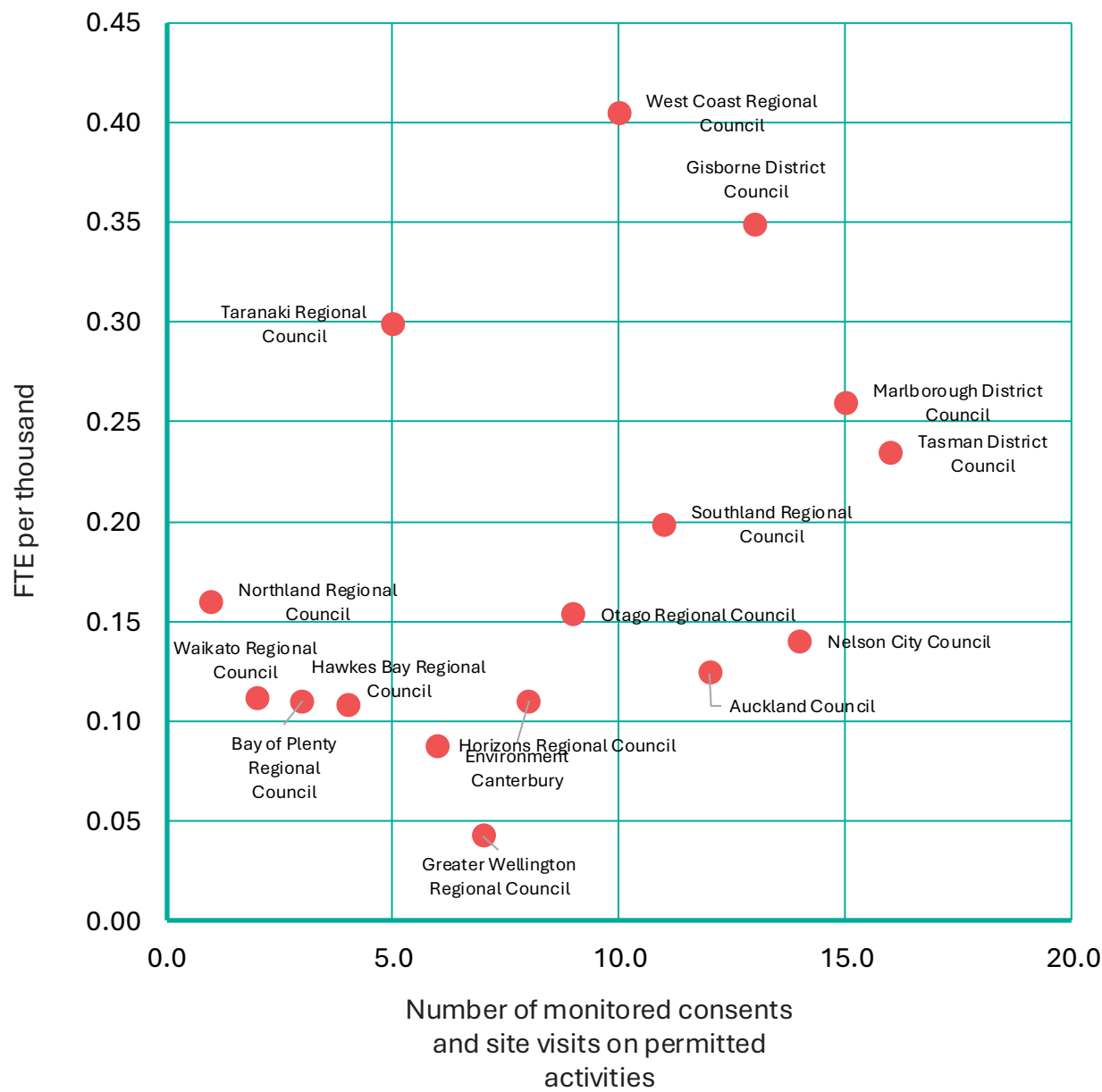


Figure 11: CME resourcing and number of consents monitored + site visits on permitted activities

Moreover, Figure 11 illustrates how GDP influences the quantity of FTEs. Regions boasting higher GDP levels generally have more FTEs, while areas with lower GDP tend to have fewer workforce resources.

COMPARISON OF CME RESOURCING AND GDP

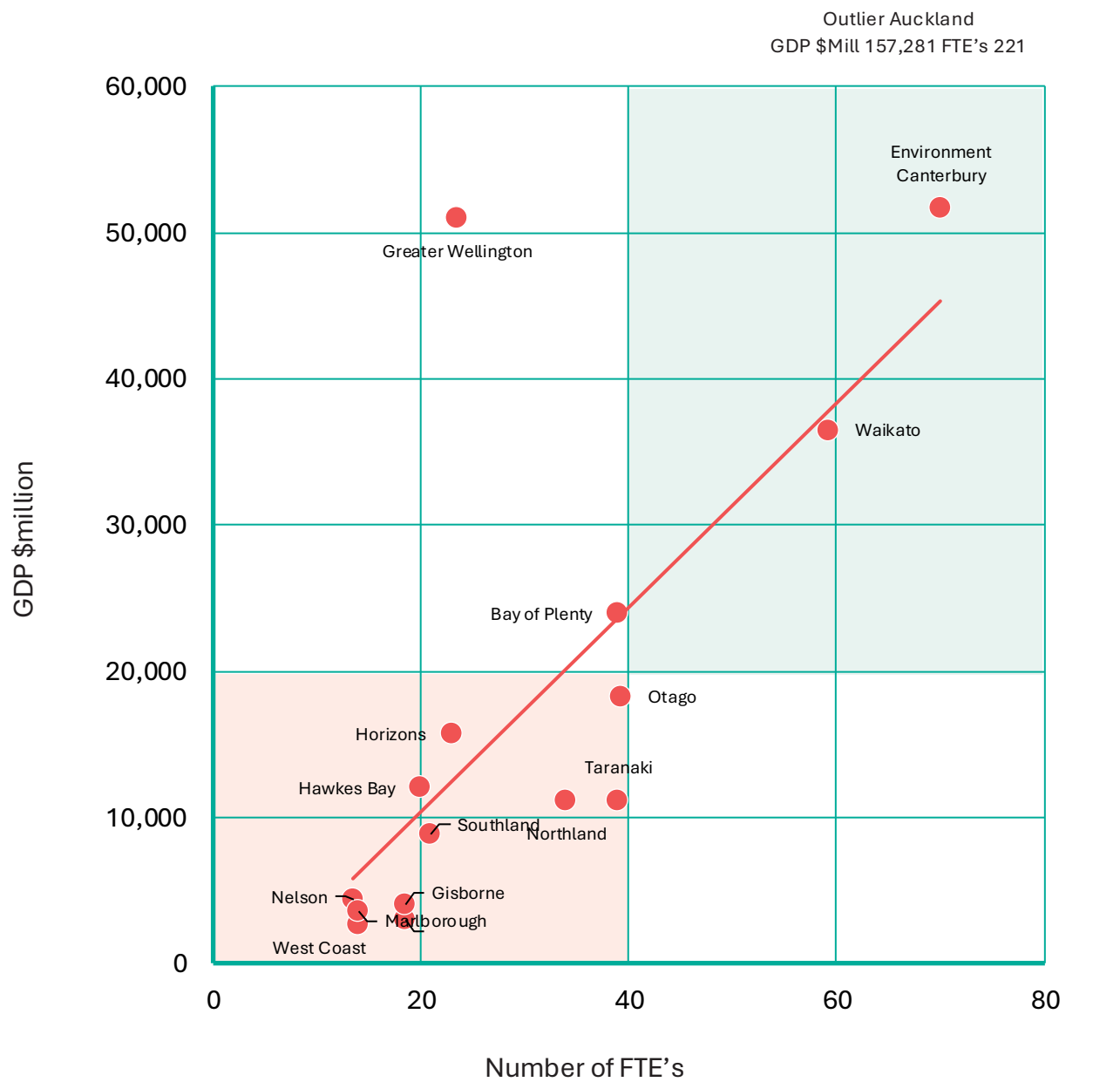


Figure 12: CME resourcing and GDP

In the CME area of council work, over a third (34%) of staff have less than two years of experience, while a further 47% have between 2–10 years, and only 19% have greater than 10 years. A total of 72.5 vacancies were reported across councils throughout 2024/2025.

Vacancy durations varied widely, and staff retention continues to be challenged by factors such as employment market competition, stress levels, limited career development opportunities, other project priorities, job security, public perception of local council staff, increasing workload and hours expectations.

COUNCIL FTE EXPERIENCE LEVELS

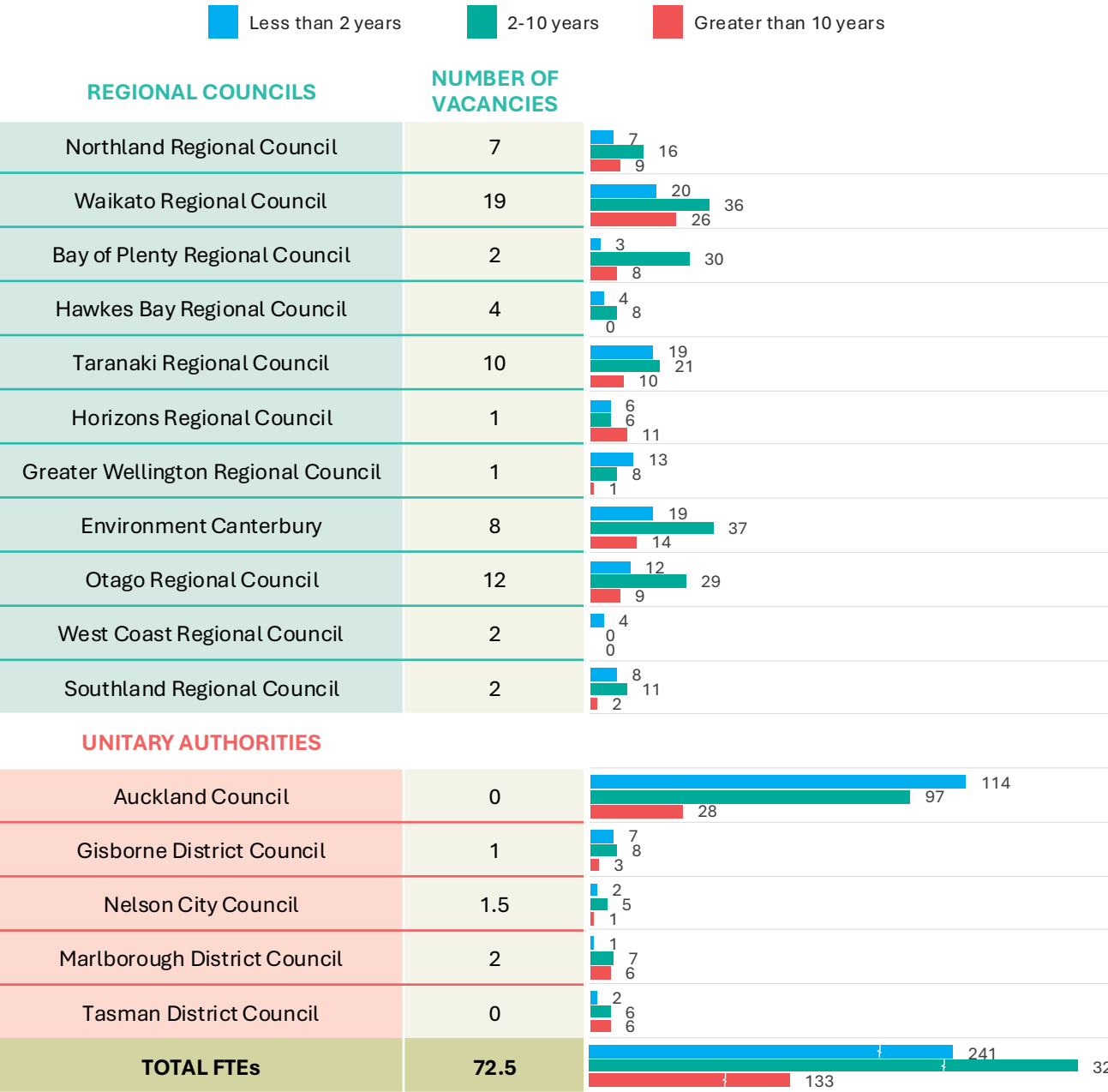


Figure 13: Council experience level and number of vacancies

- Question 30.** Across this area of council work (CME) on average for the year, how many vacancies have been carried?
- Question 31.** What have been the most significant factors influencing retention and recruitment of CME staff?
- Question 32.** At the time of answering this question what is your staff’s CME experience at council? Number of staff: Less than 2 years, 2-10 years, greater than 10 years.

CME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The credibility and trustworthiness of regulators is sustained through the presence of sound, transparent policies. All councils have established both Enforcement Policies and Conflict of Interest Policies to guide practice and ensure fairness.

Allowing individual officers to make decisions on enforcement actions significantly increases the risk of inconsistency or inappropriate outcomes. To mitigate this, councils adopt a panel approach for prosecution decisions. In 2024/25 all prosecution decisions for all councils were made by a panel. The panels do not include any elected officials.

NB: Some councils may make decisions at all of these levels or a combination, therefore the numbers may not add up. For example, a panel may be able to make an enforcement decision involving any/all enforcement tools, however an individual officer may only be able to decide on use of certain tools.

INVOLVEMENT IN PROCESS FOR MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH ENFORCEMENT ACTION

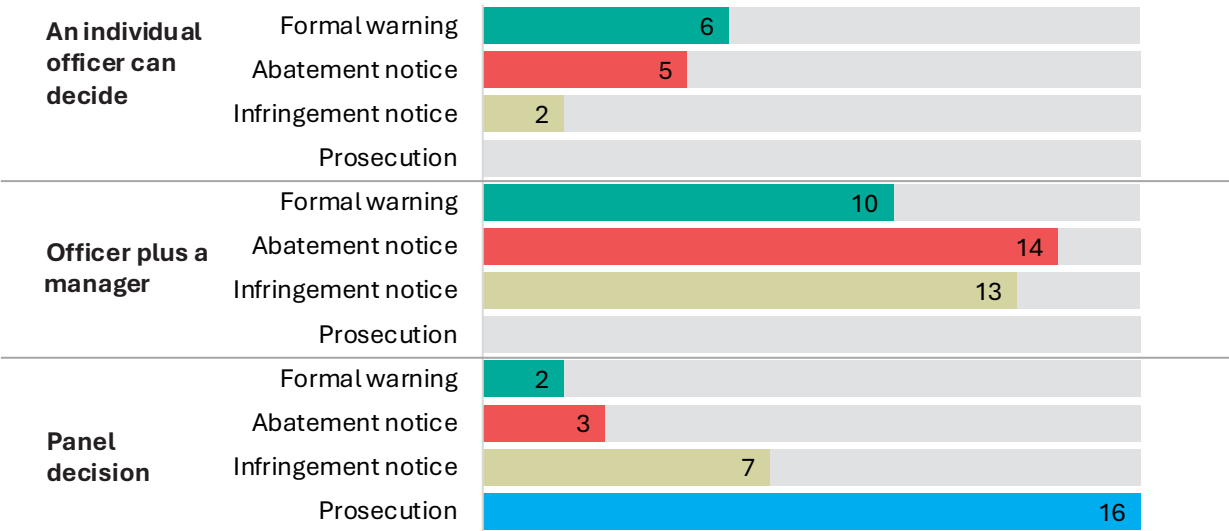


Figure 14: Enforcement action and whether to proceed (number of councils)

- Question 33.** Who is involved in your process for making decisions about whether to proceed with enforcement action?
- An individual officer can decide
 - Officer plus a manager
 - Panel decision
 - Formal warning
 - Abatement notice
 - Infringement notice
 - Prosecution
- Question 34.** Who are the panel members?
- Investigating officer
 - Investigating officer's manager/Team Leader
 - Enforcement Specialist
 - Compliance Monitoring Manager
 - Group Manager/General Manager/Director
 - Chief Executive
 - Legal Counsel (internal)
 - Legal Counsel (external)
 - Other

CME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Decisions to take no formal action were generally guided by a structured matrix or step-by-step process. Authority to make these determinations often sat with individual officers, team leaders, or managers.

Compared with last year, fewer decisions are being escalated to panels. Instead, they are increasingly resolved at the level of the officer together with a manager, reducing the role of panels in this aspect of enforcement.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION TO TAKE NO FORMAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION WHEN A BREACH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED

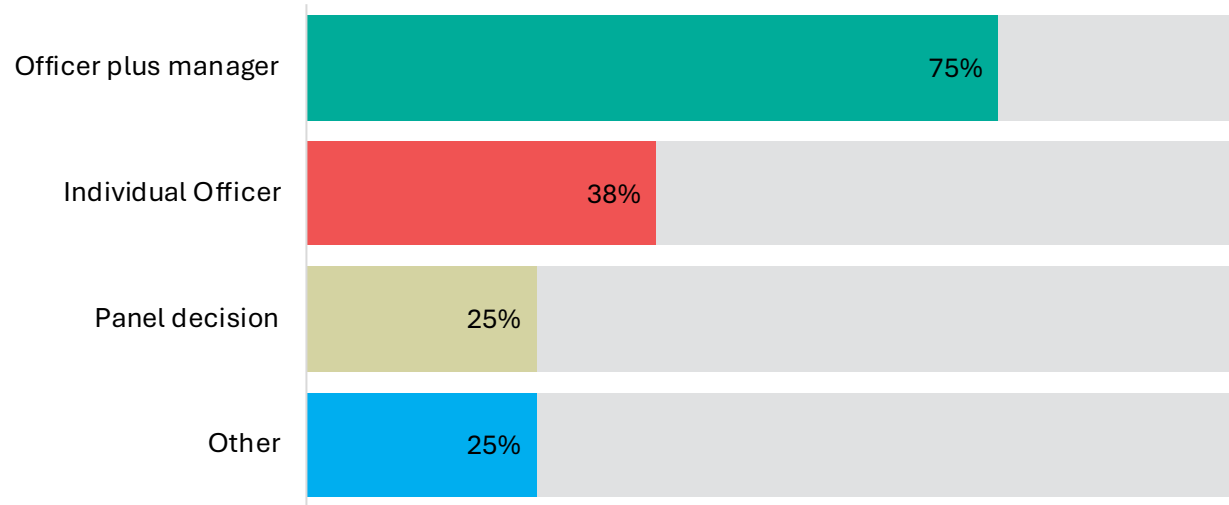


Figure 15: Councils and the decision on no formal enforcement

Question 36. What is your process for making decisions to take no formal enforcement action when a breach has been identified?

Question 37. Who makes the decision to take no formal enforcement action when a breach has been identified?

- Investigating officer
- Individual officer
- Officer plus manager
- Panel manager
- Other

Question 38. Who has the delegation to authorise filing of charges for a prosecution at your council?

REGIONAL COUNCILS	Northland Regional Council
	Some panel decisions result in the decision to take no enforcement - the reasons for this are recorded in IRIS. All records are peer reviewed by a senior officer and followed up if the decision to not take enforcement is not clear or seems inconsistent. Decisions are recorded in IRIS.
	Waikato Regional Council
	Team leaders or managers have the delegated authority to authorise no enforcement action or, again if complex, a panel can be called for this purpose.
	Bay of Plenty Regional Council
	The officer will consider the relevant factors including environmental effect, receiving environment, conduct of the offender, attitude of the offender and deterrence factor as well as considering the most desirable outcome sought. This is discussed with a senior member of the team to weigh up the options and noted on file.
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council
	What's the environmental effect, the seriousness of the incident, were there any unforeseen circumstances like electrical fault or burst pipe, significant weather events, noncompliance history, public interest.
	Taranaki Regional Council
	Officers' discretion based on training and experience. Reviewed by Compliance Manger and reported to Council Operations and Regulatory Committee
UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Horizons Regional Council
	When a complaint/incident is received and a breach of the RMA is found or if a significant non-compliance against a resource consent occurs, then the consents monitoring officer completes an Interim Enforcement Decision Checklist (which is a formal recommendation from the officer). This recommendation can range from no action to a formal investigation.
	Greater Wellington Regional Council
	In most instances that would be a discussion between the CME officer and a Senior CME officer and/or Team Leader
	Environment Canterbury
	Specialist technical peer review.
	Otago Regional Council
	All Moderate and Significant Non-compliance audit reports are reviewed by Team Leader Compliance and discussed with the Enforcement Officer, if no formal enforcement action is taken. Pollution incidents where no formal enforcement action is taken is reviewed by Team Leader Investigations.
	West Coast Regional Council
	A recommendation report is presented to the Group Manager and CE.
	Southland Regional Council
	An officer decides no enforcement action is required and this is reviewed and approved by their senior officer or team leader
	Auckland Council
	Decision-making matrix to guide decision making.
	Gisborne District Council
	Officer discusses with TL/Enforcement manager, provides summary of actions to date, previous compliance history of person/entity and whether compliance likely to be achieved by education. Public good and whether there is any additional factors/actions by an external agency eg Police, FENZ etc that is more appropriate
	Nelson City Council
	Through verbal discussions and/or a memo discussing the breach and value in pursuing formal enforcement action. If none taken it is usually due to the breach being de minimis in nature/little or no environmental effects or not being in the public interest to pursue.
	Marlborough District Council
	It is presented to QA Peer Review Panel.
	Tasman District Council
	Step process. Investigating officer will complete an investigation report and decision outcome. Less than minor matters may be resolved at time. Others with sign off by team leader.

Table 6: Decision making process to take **no formal enforcement action** when a breach has been identified

Question 36. What is your process for making decisions to take no formal enforcement action when a breach has been identified?

EDUCATING AND ENGAGING WITH THE REGULATED COMMUNITY

Giving clear direction on what is expected to the regulated community creates a robust approach. This is outlined in the ‘four E approach’. The following section helps us understand the programmes councils have in place.

All councils have education/ engagement projects in place and have done for several years.

16 / 16



HAVE OR SUPPORT
EDUCATION AND
ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

DELIVERY METHODS

- Media campaigns (pollution hotline, burn dry breathe easy, outdoor burning, sediment controls)
- Workshops
- Industry-targeted training (dairy effluent, forestry best practice, winery waste, bore drilling, Zespri RMA compliance)
- Winter grazing workshops
- Stormwater superhero behaviour-change programme
- Newsletters, pamphlets, pocket guides, info packs (e.g. outdoor burning, agrichemicals, no fishing areas)
- Websites, online resources, webinars, NES guidance, CLM guidelines promotion
- Social media campaigns and live Q&A sessions
- Stakeholder/industry meetings and catchment groups
- Site visits (e.g. plastic nurdles follow-ups, consent pre-commencement)
- Dedicated education/sustainability teams supporting rule/legislation changes

TOPICS

- Erosion and sediment control (construction, forestry, horticulture)
- Farming and dairy effluent management
- Winter grazing practices
- Water use and telemetry compliance
- Forestry best practice guidelines and NES implementation
- Stormwater and pollution prevention
- Outdoor burning and air quality management
- Wastewater response (territorial authorities)
- Freshwater regulations and farm planning
- Contaminated sites and CLM guidelines
- Agricultural sprays and good management practices
- Catchment-based environmental issues
- Plastic contamination (eg. nurdles)
- Bore drilling best practice
- Permitted fishing areas
- Gold mining and resource consent expectations
- GD05 erosion and sediment control guidelines

Question 54. Does your council have, or support, any education or engagement projects relating to compliance with the RMA or any of its derivative regulation? For example, workshops for earthworks contractors around erosion and sediment controls.
Yes/ No
If yes, briefly describe

ACTING ON NON-COMPLIANCE

Evaluating priority areas and challenges within compliance programmes is essential to ensure that the most significant risks are being effectively managed. This section highlights the key priorities, the areas requiring the most resources, and how these demands have evolved over time.

In the current year, a total of 7,597 enforcement actions were recorded, a 16% increase compared with last year. This upward trend has been evident over several years.

Auckland Council accounted for the majority of these actions, consistent with the scale of its population.

Question 39. What was the total number of actions taken during the period for:
Note: This relates to the instruments issued in relation to the different sections of the Act (listed once for brevity)

- Section 9 Use of land
 - Section 12 Coastal marine area
 - Section 13 Beds of lakes and rivers
 - Section 14 Water
 - Section 15 Discharges of contaminants
 - Section 17 Duty to avoid, remedy & mitigate
 - Other breach e.g. Section 22
- Formal warnings issued
Abatement notices issued
Infringement notices issued
Enforcement orders applied for

Note: Previously we have summed to give totals, this allows a more accurate figure where responses fall into more than one category.

NATIONWIDE: ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND SECTIONS BREACHED

					
	FORMAL WARNINGS	ABATEMENT NOTICES	INFRINGEMENT NOTICES	ENFORCEMENT ORDERS	TOTAL ACTIONS
	392	4,887	2,280	17	7,597
SECTION 9 Use of land	58	215	368	6	647
SECTION 12 Coastal marine area	4	30	18	0	50
SECTION 13 Beds of lakes and rivers	29	52	29	0	109
SECTION 14 Water	26	87	47	0	160
SECTION 15 Discharges of contaminants	249	692	948	13	1,902
SECTION 17 Duty to avoid, remedy & mitigate	0	17	0	5	22
OTHER e.g. Section 22	26	3,794	870	1	964

*Auckland Council were unable to break down 3,727 abatement notices, these are classified under other

Table 7: Total use of enforcement actions (excluding prosecution) against relevant section of the Act (i.e., group of possible offences).

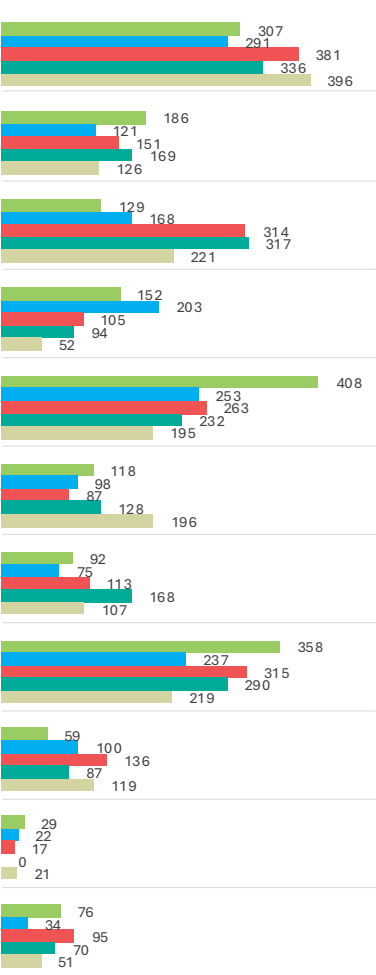
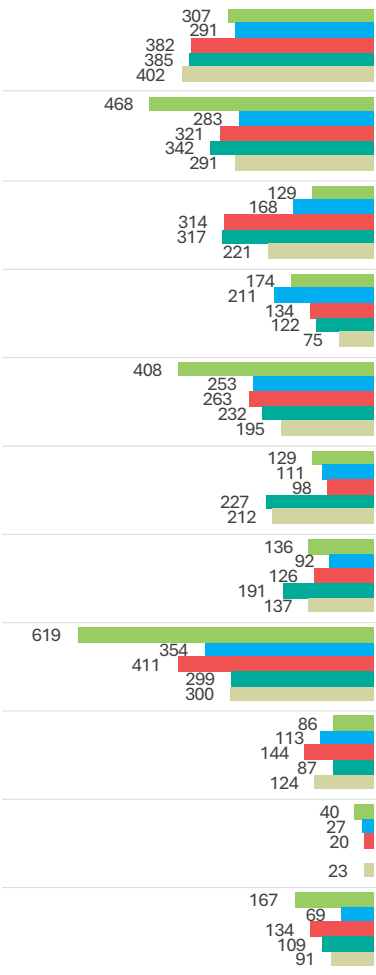
TOTAL USE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS (EXCLUDING PROSECUTION)

2020/ 2021 2021 / 2022 2022 / 2023 2023 / 2024 2024 / 2025

ACTIONS (INCL. WARNINGS)

REGIONAL COUNCILS

ACTIONS (EXCL. WARNINGS)



UNITARY AUTHORITIES

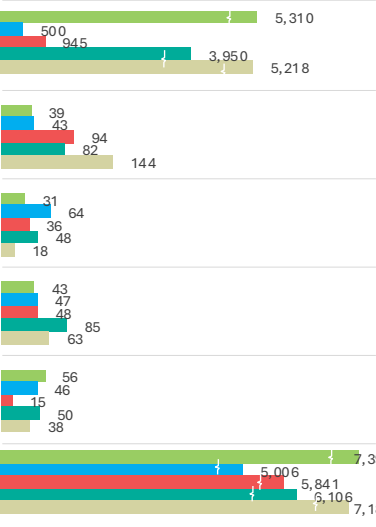
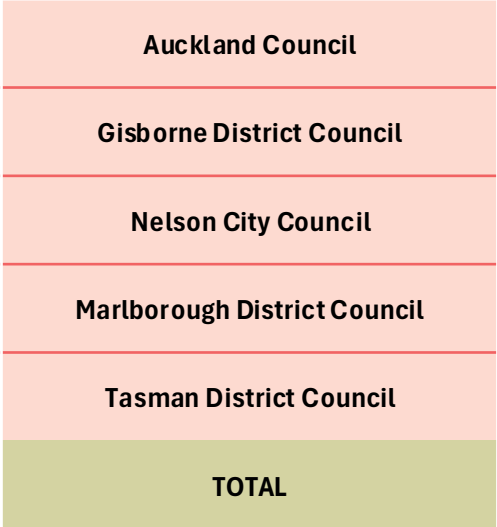
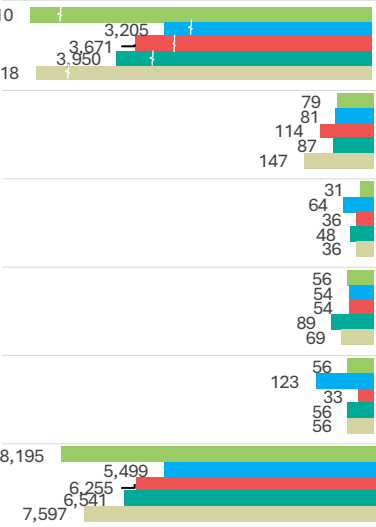


Figure 16: Total use of enforcement actions (excluding prosecution)

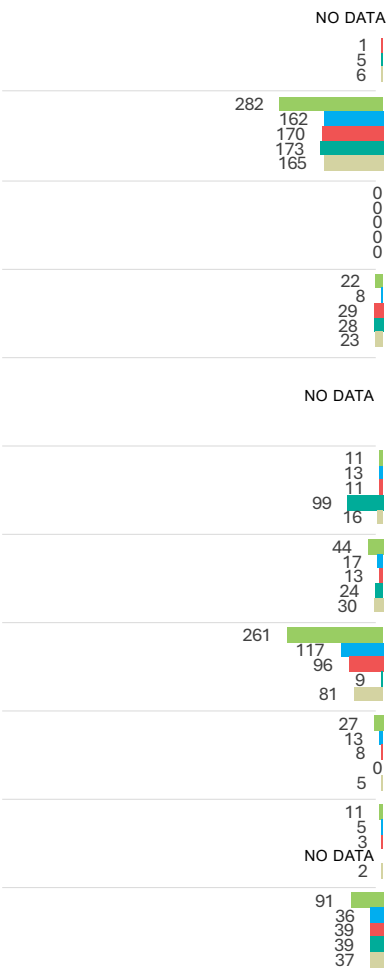
FORMAL WARNINGS AND ABATEMENT NOTICES

2020/ 2021 2021 / 2022 2022 / 2023 2023 / 2024 2024 / 2025

FORMAL WARNINGS

REGIONAL COUNCILS

ABATEMENT NOTICES



UNITARY AUTHORITIES

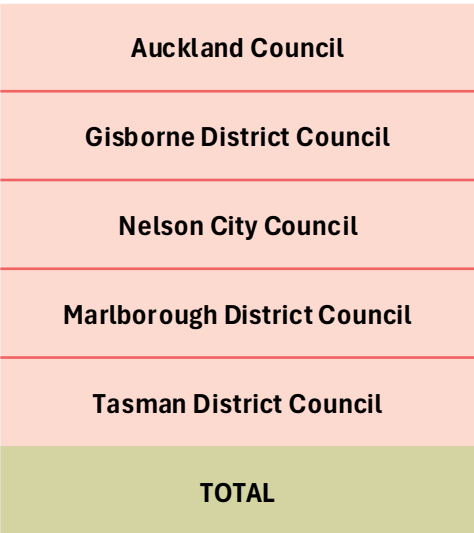
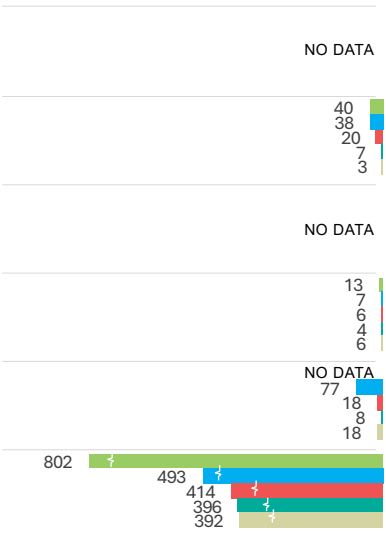


Figure 17: Total formal warnings and abatement notices

INFRINGEMENT NOTICES AND ENFORCEMENT ORDERS

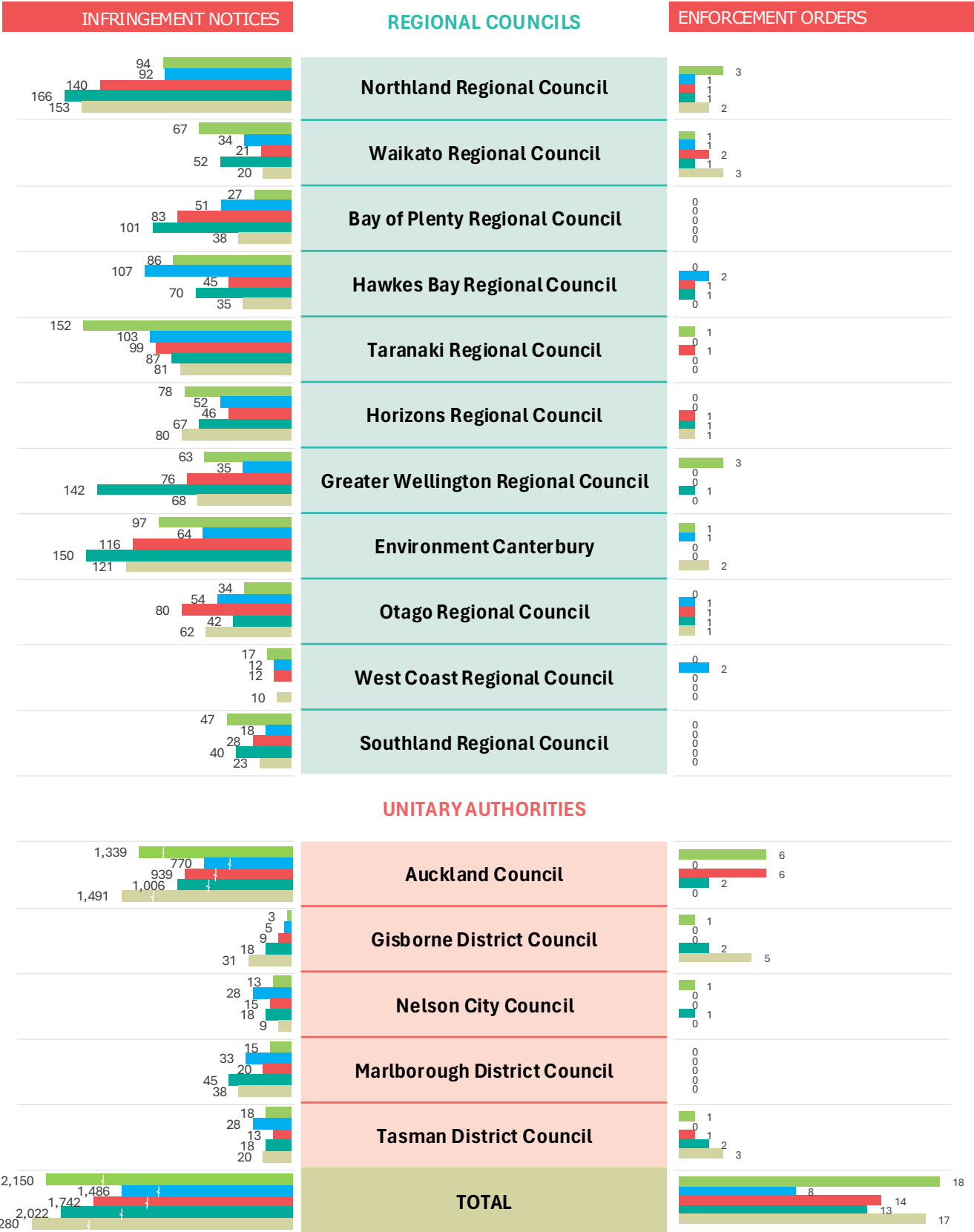


Figure 18: Total infringement notices and enforcement orders

NATIONWIDE PROSECUTIONS

CONCLUDED **56** / IN PROGRESS **82**



31
INDIVIDUALS
ON 81 CHARGES



40
CORPORATES
ON 75 CHARGES

PROSECUTIONS

The following questions cover prosecutions, defendants, and convictions. When used appropriately, these actions help promote compliance by discouraging offenders through deterrence.

The frequency of legal proceedings indicates an agency's willingness to apply more stringent measures. In instances where councils are less likely to take legal action, there may be a perception that violations will have fewer consequences.

This year, the total number of prosecution cases (both ongoing and concluded) was slightly lower than last year (146), reaching 138.

Question 42. How many RMA prosecutions were:

Note: For this question please consider an entire case (regardless of number of charges and defendants) as one prosecution.

Concluded in the period?

Still in progress in the period?

Question 43. What is the total number of individual (person) defendants convicted as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?

Question 44. For all of these (person) defendants what is the total number of convictions entered against them? For example, there may be a total of 27 separate convictions entered against a total of nine 'individual' defendants.

Question 45. What is the total number of corporate (e.g. Crown, company, body corporate etc.) defendants convicted as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?

Question 46. For all of these (corporate) defendants what is the total number of convictions entered against them? For example, there may be a total of 30 separate convictions entered against a total of 12 corporate defendants.

Question 47. Total number of convictions against an individual [see categories for sections of the Act as above] Total fine potential (Total x \$300,000)

Total number of convictions against a corporate entity [see categories for sections of the Act as above] Total fine potential (Total x \$600,000)

NATIONWIDE PROSECUTIONS ACROSS THE REGIONAL SECTOR

2020/ 2021 2021 / 2022 2022 / 2023 2023 / 2024 2024 / 2025

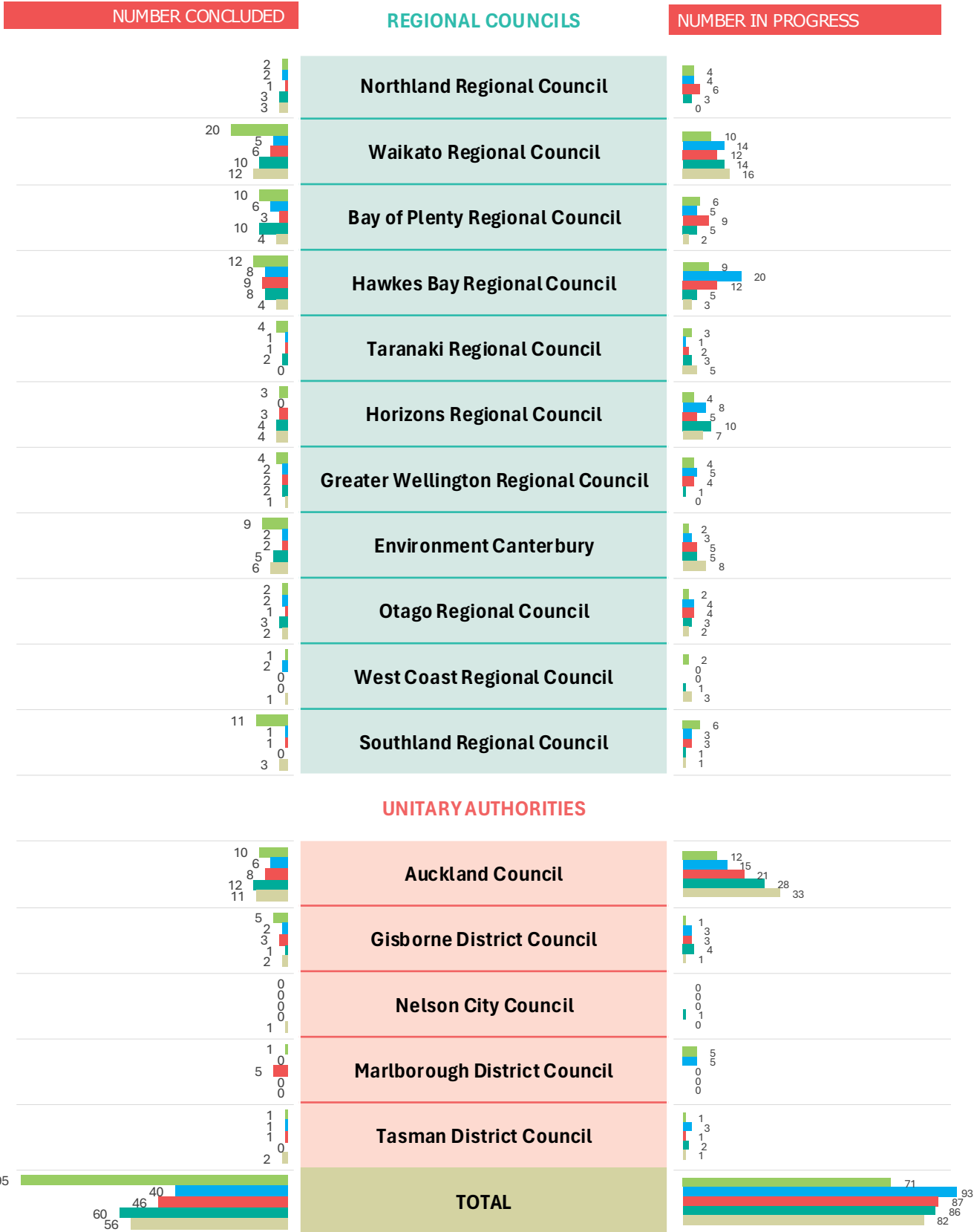


Figure 19: Prosecutions across the regional sector

INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED ACROSS THE REGIONAL SECTOR

2020 / 2021 2021 / 2022 2022 / 2023 2023 / 2024 2024 / 2025

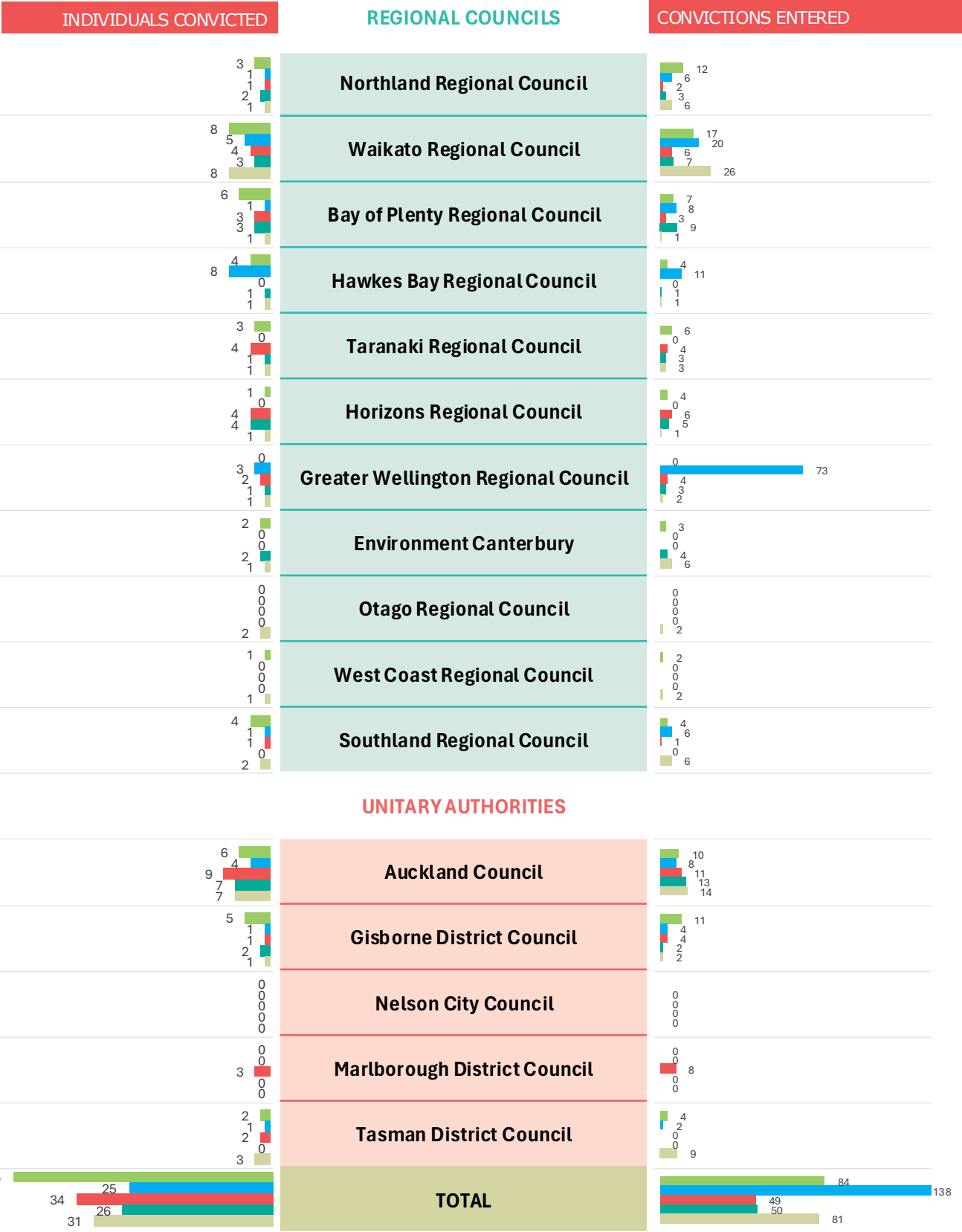


Figure 20: Individuals convicted across the regional sector

CORPORATES CONVICTED ACROSS THE REGIONAL SECTOR

2020 / 2021 2021 / 2022 2022 / 2023 2023 / 2024 2024 / 2025

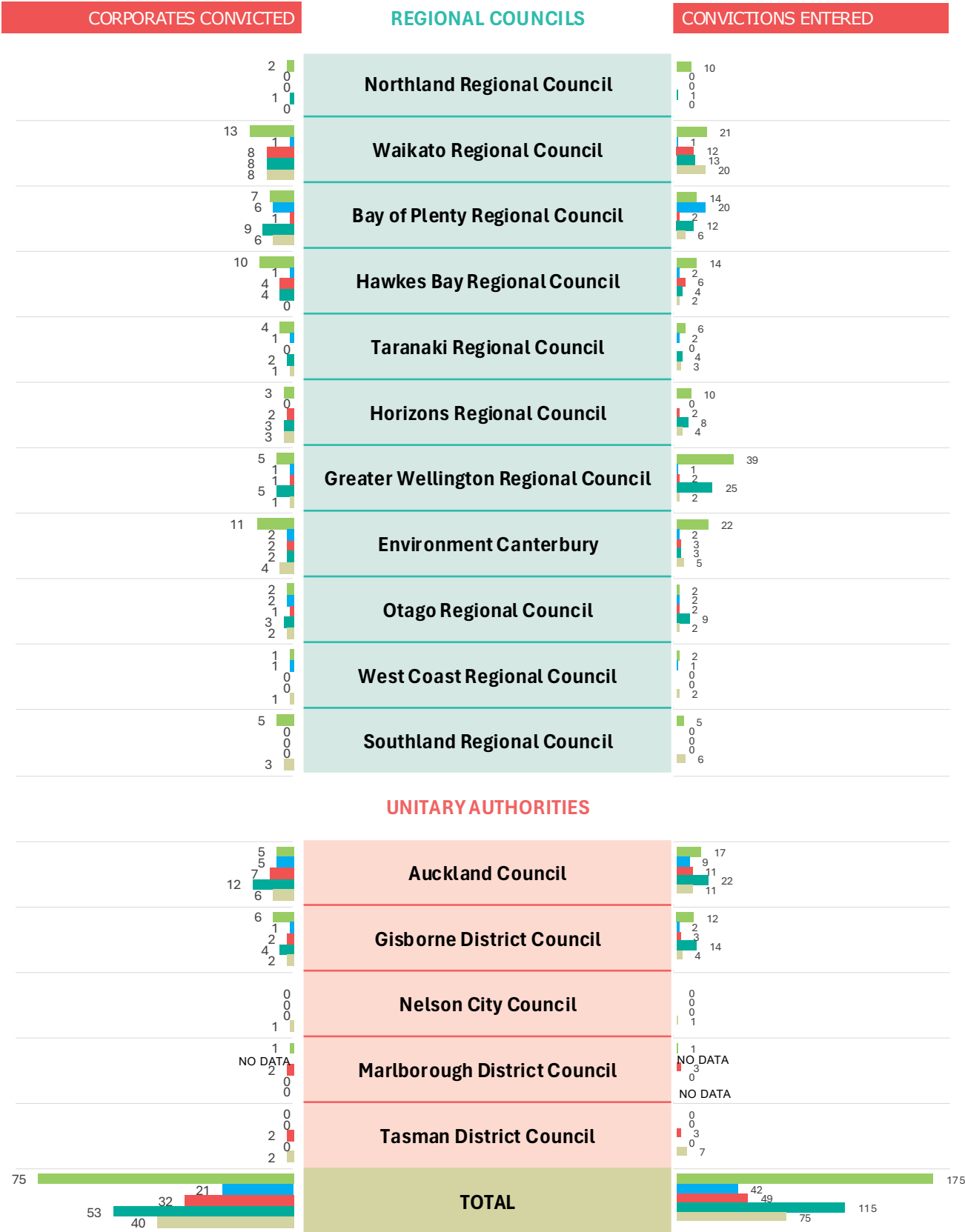


Figure 21: Corporates convicted across the regional sector

NATIONWIDE TOTAL FINES

INDIVIDUAL **\$1,068,260** / CORPORATE **\$2,039,897**

This year, total fines shifted from being corporate-heavy to more balanced, with individual fines rising from \$652,925 to \$1,068,260 while corporate fines fell from \$2,121,650 to \$2,039,897 compared to last year.

	INDIVIDUAL FINES	CORPORATE FINES	TOTAL
REGIONAL COUNCILS			
NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$348,000	\$651,900	\$999,900
BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$52,500	\$187,000	\$239,500
HAWKES BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$11,200	\$25,500	\$36,700
TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$0	\$0	\$0
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$63,000	\$202,500	\$265,500
GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$45,000
ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY	\$0	\$50,250	\$50,250
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$46,135	\$25,335	\$71,470
WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$126,000	\$212,000	\$338,000
REGIONAL SUBTOTAL	\$673,335	\$1,436,985	\$2,110,320
UNITARY AUTHORITIES			
AUCKLAND COUNCIL	\$345,925	\$258,537	\$604,462
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL	\$0	\$126,000	\$126,000
NELSON CITY COUNCIL	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL	\$0	\$0	\$0
TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL	\$49,000	\$193,375	\$242,375
UNITARY SUBTOTAL	\$394,925	\$602,912	\$997,837
TOTAL	\$1,068,260	\$2,039,897	\$3,108,157

Table 8: Prosecution outcomes: fines

Question 48. What is the total amount of fines imposed by the courts as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?

- Individual fines
- Corporate fines

OTHER SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE COURTS FOR RMA OFFENDING

	NUMBER OF COUNCILS
PRISON SENTENCE	0
ENFORCEMENT ORDER	11
REPARATION	2
COMMUNITY SERVICE	9
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	2
DIVERSION	2
ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE	0
DISCHARGE WITHOUT CONVICTION	13

Table 9: Other sanctions handed down under the RMA

Question 49. What other sanctions, if any, have been imposed by the courts as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period? Prison sentence / Enforcement order / Reparation / Community Service / Discharge without conviction / Other.

Question 50. How many prosecutions involved restorative justice, diversion or other alternative justice process?

- Restorative justice
- Diversion
- Alternative justice

Question 51. Describe any outcomes relating to these processes.

PROSECUTIONS INVOLVING OTHER SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY COURTS

	PRISON SENTENCE	ENFORCE- MENT ORDER	REPARATION	COMMUNITY SERVICE	DISCHARGE WITHOUT CONVICTION
REGIONAL COUNCILS					
NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL				1	
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL		3		4	
BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL					
HAWKES BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL					
TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL					
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL					
GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL					
ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY		2		2	
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL					
WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL					
SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL		2			
REGIONAL SUBTOTAL	0	7	0	7	0
UNITARY AUTHORITIES					
AUCKLAND COUNCIL		2	2	1	1
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL				1	
NELSON CITY COUNCIL					
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL					
TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL		2			12
UNITARY SUBTOTAL	0	4	2	2	13
TOTAL	0	11	2	9	13

Table 10: Prosecutions involving other sanctions imposed in 2024/25. NB: The number here may be zero even if prosecution cases were taken, if sentences have not yet been imposed by the courts.

Question 48. What other sanctions, if any, have been imposed by the courts as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?

PROSECUTIONS INVOLVING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, DIVERSION OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE

	RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	DIVERSION	ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE
REGIONAL COUNCILS			
NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL			
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL			
BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL			
HAWKES BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL			
TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL			
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL			
GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL			
ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY	2		
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL		1	
WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL			
SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL			
REGIONAL SUBTOTAL	2	1	0
UNITARY AUTHORITIES			
AUCKLAND COUNCIL		2	
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL			
NELSON CITY COUNCIL			
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL			
TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL			
UNITARY SUBTOTAL	0	2	0
TOTAL	2	3	0

Table 11: Prosecutions involving restorative justice, diversion or other alternative justice

Question 50. How many prosecutions involved restorative justice, diversion or other alternative justice process?

CME REPORTING

Most councils use a variety of methods to report on CME functions, including annual reports, briefings to councillors, and presentations at council committee meetings. To promote transparency, councils also make information publicly accessible by publishing it in annual reports and opening committee meetings to the public. In 2024/25, the majority of councils continue to use three or more reporting channels, with several using all four, ensuring thorough and comprehensive coverage. The 'other' category may include media statements, website and social media.

CME REPORTING CHANNELS

	ANNUAL REPORT	REPORT TO COUNCILLORS	SNAPSHOT	REPORT TO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC	OTHER	TOTAL REPORTING CHANNELS
REGIONAL COUNCILS						
NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL	✓	✓		✓		3
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL		✓	✓			2
BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL	✓	✓	✓	✓		4
HAWKES BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL	✓	✓	✓	✓		4
TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL	✓	✓		✓	✓	4
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL	✓	✓				2
GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL		✓	✓	✓		3
ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY	✓	✓	✓	✓		4
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL	✓	✓		✓		3
WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL		✓		✓		2
SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL	✓	✓		✓	✓	4
UNITARY AUTHORITIES						
AUCKLAND COUNCIL				✓	✓	2
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL	✓	✓			✓	3
NELSON CITY COUNCIL	✓	✓		✓		3
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL	✓	✓	✓	✓		4
TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL	✓	✓		✓		3

Table 12: CME reporting channels



CASE STUDIES

PART 3

THE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (CESIG)

‘BOTTLENECKING’ – MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ROLE IN RMA CME

More than ever the regional sector is being looked to in respect of their effectiveness as the regulator for the RMA. Regional and unitary councils of New Zealand play an integral part in achieving sustainable management of our natural and physical resources.

As well as the regional sector, central government also has a substantial role in RMA compliance, monitoring and enforcement effectiveness, through the various functions of the Ministry of Justice.

Serious breaches of the RMA may result in the regulator (one of the councils) taking a prosecution through the criminal courts or seeking an enforcement order through the environment court.

With the prosecutions there is a clear objective to achieve specific deterrence against the offender who is before the court but also providing a general deterrence to the wider industry or community. Appropriate prosecutions also give the community confidence that the regulator is doing their job. Timeliness of these enforcement actions is important to ensure that safeguards to the environment happen as quickly as possible.

The regulator is time bound in bringing these actions before the court (prosecutions must be initiated within 12 months of the regulator becoming aware of the breach). However, they are often not resolved in a timely fashion through the court process and languish for many months if not years before achieving a deterrence result.

Much of the delay arises from the limited resources available to administer RMA prosecutions. A key strength of the system is that cases must be heard by a District Court Judge who also holds an environment warrant, ensuring the judge has expertise in environmental matters. However, this requirement also means the pool of judges able to progress RMA cases is very small.

The current position in many regions is that the Court allocates one or two days every few months to progress RMA prosecutions under an appropriately qualified judge. As an example, the Waikato Regional Council currently has 17 RMA prosecutions underway. At the next available court date 13 of these are being called. Due to the complex nature of RMA cases, it is likely that only a small handful of these will see any progress on that date, with many, if not all being adjourned off to the next available date, where they will bottleneck again. This has been the model in place for some years meaning that no progress is made for many months. Even at the conclusion of any hearings there are significant delays in receiving decisions from the issuing of reserved judgements.

NATIONAL FORESTRY AUDIT GROUP

Following the on-going Tolaga Bay slash events and the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay, forestry operations have come under increased scrutiny. Since May 2017, councils have monitored forestry activities under the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF), which aimed to provide consistent, nationwide regulation of forestry's environmental impacts.

In November 2023, the NES-PF was updated and renamed the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF). Feedback from the forestry sector indicates ongoing inconsistency in how the standards are applied across different regions, often due to varying interpretations and limited experience among compliance officers. To address these concerns, CESIG agreed in 2023 to establish a National Forestry Audit Group, based on the successful model used for dairy audits.

The purpose of the Group as stated in its terms of reference are "To promote national consistency in the implementation of the NES-CF by setting clear expectations for compliance, monitoring, and enforcement across councils".

The group aims to:

- Advocate collectively on behalf of forestry regulators.
- Conduct regular peer audits of compliance gradings and inspection reports.
- Provide a forum for sharing ideas, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Discuss policy and regulatory matters across industry, local, and central government.
- Coordinate council responses and submissions to regulatory and policy changes.
- Identify issues and provide feedback to CESIG.
- Facilitate resource sharing between councils to promote consistency in site audits.
- Organise training and field visits to build capability and understanding.

Feedback from participating Councils was that they benefited from attending annual, in-person audits to continue to strive for consistency in interpretation and application of the NES-CF. The 2025 Forestry Audit was hosted by Te Uru Rākau in Wellington from 1st to 2nd May 2025. Of the 16 Regional Councils and Unitary Authorities, 14 were represented and had compliance reports peer reviewed as part of the 2025 audit.

Most Councils sent two representatives, which enabled good discussion and decision-making over the two days. It was pleasing to see recommendations from the 2024 audit being implemented by Compliance staff across the regional sector. A total of 108 compliance reports were audited with the results published. Attendees workshopped minimum standards for Significant Non-Compliance compliance ratings for forestry inspections. They also heard from Waikato Regional Council staff on their recent prosecution Waikato Regional Council v Grays Forestry Services Ltd. Discussions were also had on methods and technology for accurately quantifying slash volumes on site and other challenges with enforcing the NES-CF. It is reassuring to see that Councils are predominantly on the same page when interpreting and applying the NES-CF.

USING ENFORCEMENT ORDERS TO STRENGTHEN FORESTRY COMPLIANCE IN TAIRĀWHITI

Gisborne District Council (GDC) has taken action in response to persistent non-compliance within the forestry sector. With increasing concerns around poor harvesting practices, inadequate water controls, and unmanaged slash, GDC successfully applied for and has been granted five enforcement orders through the Environment Court.

Forestry operations in the region have long posed compliance challenges, particularly in high-risk and erosion-prone areas. A pattern of repeat non-compliance and environmental harm prompted GDC to shift its regulatory strategy—placing stronger emphasis on proactive enforcement mechanisms with immediate effect.

Securing these enforcement orders required a substantial investment of Council resources.

Each case involved:

- Detailed site monitoring to assess environmental damage and gather reliable data.
- Extensive evidence collection to meet the legal threshold for court action.
- Close coordination with legal and environmental specialists, ensuring the robustness of each case.

This effort demanded the time and expertise of dedicated compliance officers and investigators over an extended period. Costs incurred included legal advice, environmental assessments, and the direct salary and operational impact on the compliance team. Even after orders were granted, monitoring compliance with court conditions remains a significant draw on staff time, as GDC ensures that companies are following through with remediation.

Despite the heavy resourcing required, enforcement orders have proven to be a highly effective regulatory tool. Unlike prosecutions—which are primarily punitive and can take months or years to deliver outcomes—enforcement orders provide a direct and enforceable mechanism for requiring immediate remedial action.

Key advantages include:

- Immediate on-the-ground improvements, with works undertaken under the direction of the court.
- Clear and enforceable obligations, reducing the likelihood of delay or evasion by responsible parties.
- Stronger regulatory presence, reinforcing GDC's commitment to environmental protection and setting a clear expectation for industry accountability.

GDC's strategic use of enforcement orders has sent a strong message to the forestry sector: non-compliance will be met with firm, timely, and effective enforcement. While the process is resource-intensive, the return in terms of environmental outcomes and public trust justifies the investment.

Importantly, this approach has also contributed to positive shifts in behaviour and compliance attitudes within parts of the forestry industry, with some companies now engaging earlier and more constructively with Council. The use of enforcement orders has also created space for greater community involvement, allowing active participation in environmental advocacy and oversight—bringing a stronger sense of local accountability and shared guardianship.

THE AQUARIUS JOURNEY AT ORC

In 2019, the Otago Regional Council (ORC) began a project to replace its Environmental Data system. A key part of this project was improving how ORC manages and delivers environmental compliance data. Back in 2019 the work was manual and time-consuming. A system was required that could bring everything together and make it easier for teams to access, understand, and act on the data.

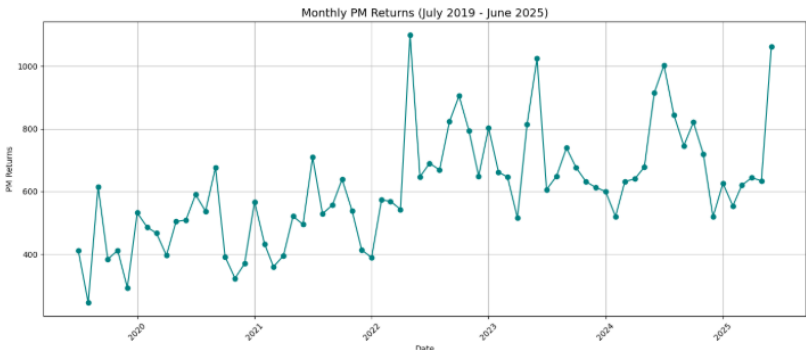
Since then, ORC has built a system that does exactly that. Aquarius now plays a central role in managing water use and compliance. It brings together real-time monitoring, consent conditions, and Council generated State of the Environment data into one place. The data is presented through easily accessible, user-friendly dashboards and maps.

One of the most significant improvements has been in managing compliance with consent conditions. Dashboards bring together all the key elements in one place, including live flow data, rolling statistics, consent limits, and environmental thresholds. These dashboards create a clear view of each consent that makes it easy to see what's happening at a site.

Compliance staff no longer need to dig through spreadsheets. Everything is right there, ready for review. This has made compliance assessments faster, more consistent, and easier to action.

During minimum flow events, Aquarius displays river monitoring sites and consents side by side, giving teams a shared view of the situation. This has improved coordination and supported faster, more confident responses. Alongside this, automated alerts notify consent holders when minimum flows are activated, helping them stay compliant and reducing the need for follow-up.

Consent Performance Monitoring 2019-2025



Over time, the data clearly shows the efficiency that Aquarius has brought to water metering and discharge monitoring. In the early years, returns were steady as the system was being established. As Aquarius matured and more processes were automated, the volume of returns began to grow. From 2022 onward, there was a consistent increase in activity, reflecting both improved efficiency and greater system use. By 2024 and 2025, the system was regularly handling high volumes, with several months exceeding 900 returns. This trend highlights how long-term investment in system and process improvement and making the best use of data collected both by Council and consent holders can lead to improved monitoring outcomes.

TE AHU A TURANGA – MANAWATŪ TARARUA HIGHWAY

This past year, Te Ahu a Turanga – Manawatū Tararua Highway opened, which connects Palmerston North to Tararua and beyond. Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) consents and compliance team had a huge role monitoring environmental compliance throughout this project. A highlight of the project for the team has been the collaborative working relationships that developed with iwi and hapū.

The project took five years to complete, and throughout that time the team monitored approximately 43 resource consents, 16 management plans and 50 site specific plans across the 12 kilometres of new road. This required compliance officers to conduct weekly site inspections and weekly reports. The project has been the largest project Horizons regulatory team has ever had to tackle and at the peak of the project required three full time staff dedicated to it.

The physical environment of the project had its challenges with high rainfall, steep slopes, high risk soils alongside known sites of cultural significance and a wide designation corridor weaving through a major windfarm. This meant the Compliance Officers had to take a team approach working alongside our iwi, hapū and the wider Alliance to ensure the project was kept on track.

During this collaboration, the Horizons project team discovered that Horizons goals aligned with iwi partners goals, and this helped the project to meet its environmental compliance obligations. The team created some strong working relationships with iwi and hapū and were able to overcome most challenges by blending mātauranga Māori with the legal framework of the RMA. An approach which was valued on both sides.

Across the five years of the project, a 97-98% full compliance rating was achieved. This is unprecedented for a project of this size and complexity and reflects the power of a positive collaborative working environment between local government and iwi/hapū at place.

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi - With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive.

GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
ENFORCEMENT ORDER

A rural landowner illegally reclaimed and diverted a stream in the Wellington Region with the intent of straightening the channel. This significantly increased erosion and deposition on a downstream neighbouring property.

There were several complex issues when making an enforcement decision particularly considering the options of a prosecution and/or enforcement order. In the end an enforcement order was applied for by GWRC principally due to the urgency to address worsening downstream impacts and the ability to recover costs.

The offender was relatively cooperative. However, the enforcement order stipulated that all remediation works must be carried out under the supervision of a suitably qualified environmental professional to prevent the offender from carrying out the works themselves. The key remediation works to restore the stream to its natural course were successfully implemented in early 2025.

The use of this enforcement order was not without its challenges. These included the requirement for the offender to obtain resource consents from both GWRC and the relevant Territorial Authority prior to undertaking the required remediation, finance challenges impacting the ability of the offender to pay for the works, and the risk that the lawful stream diversion would fail.

LAND USE CHANGE DETECTION MONITORING TOOL

In 2024, the Northland Regional Council (NRC) commissioned Pattle Delamore Partners (PDP) to develop a geospatial Land Use Change Detection Monitoring Tool aimed at supporting NRC’s environmental compliance and enforcement capabilities. Built on ArcGIS Online and Experience Builder, the platform enables councils to detect and quantify land cover changes using satellite imagery across a structured grid-based framework.

The solution monitors almost 1.5 million hectares of land, divided into ~2,400 grid cells, each measuring 2.5 km by 2.5 km. The satellite imagery for these grid cells is interrogated weekly for cloud-free imagery, ensuring consistent and timely updates across the region.

The tool uses freely available Sentinel-2 satellite imagery to establish a baseline of near cloud-free conditions. It then compares this baseline with newer imagery to identify changes in soil exposure, vegetation density, and surface water coverage. These changes are visualized through interactive dashboards and imagery viewers, allowing users to monitor activities such as land clearance, wetland encroachment, unconsented irrigation, and forestry operations.

The platform has proven to be both cost-effective and operationally impactful, supporting proactive compliance monitoring with minimal overhead. While the baseline solution uses 10-meter resolution imagery, PDP have designed it to integrate higher-resolution datasets where greater precision is required, offering flexibility based on monitoring needs and budget.

Importantly, the tool is adaptable across multiple sectors, including agriculture, forestry, coastal management, and urban development. Its flexibility allows us to tailor the tool to their specific monitoring priorities, making it a valuable asset in the evolving compliance monitoring and enforcement landscape.



WINERY WASTEWATER

The Marlborough District Council (MDC) runs strategic risk monitoring programmes, with winery waste monitoring a priority programme. Given that the wine industry contributes approximately 20% of Marlborough's GDP and supports one in five jobs in the region, it is essential that MDC achieves its project objectives by utilising the 4Es model: Engage, Educate, Enable and Enforce.

To support these objectives, MDC actively engages with wineries and stakeholders through onsite visits, annual pre-harvest workshops and collaborative meetings. These interactions are designed to promote compliance, foster open communication, share industry issues, and achieve positive outcomes. Council works closely with Wine Marlborough to amplify and provide consistent messaging through industry publications and encourages members to proactively reach out if they anticipate challenges in meeting consent conditions and permitted activity standards.

This year, MDC extended its support by hosting a post-harvest workshop in partnership with Wine Marlborough, attended by approximately 50 industry members. The workshop focused on smaller wineries and showcased cost-effective waste management solutions. Presenters shared practical experiences, including modernising wastewater systems and improving discharge fields, while offering balanced insights into the benefits and limitations of their approaches. These initiatives underscored the value of tailored, scalable solutions for small-scale operations.

For the wine industry, ongoing RMA compliance is crucial. The consequences of non-compliance extend beyond regulatory penalties – and include industry reputation, and restrictions to overseas market access. In contrast, proactive education and knowledge-sharing foster operational efficiencies, improved compliance, and supports enhanced market access. Ultimately, this contributes to a sustainable, resilient, and commercially successful industry, region, and environment.

ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES THROUGH PERMITTED ACTIVITY MONITORING IN THE BAY OF PLENTY

Permitted activities—those not requiring a resource consent—are often underestimated in terms of environmental risk. However, non-compliance with permitted activity rules can lead to significant environmental harm. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) initiated a proactive monitoring programme to address this gap, focusing on high-risk activities and using innovative tools to ensure compliance.

Key focus areas and outcomes:

FOCUS AREA	1. Water Takes – Overuse and Aquifer Stress	2. Earthworks – Sediment Control Failures	3. On-Site Effluent Treatment Systems (OSETs) – Wastewater Risks
ISSUE	A kiwifruit orchard exceeded the permitted water take limit by over 20 times.	Uncontrolled earthworks led to sediment runoff, degrading water quality.	Outdated systems caused untreated discharges and groundwater contamination.
ACTION	Investigation revealed 26,000 m ³ of unauthorized extraction, resulting in a \$42,000 fine.	Remote sensing and GIS tools were used to detect non-compliant sites.	Enforcement and engagement led to major upgrades, including a \$500,000 investment in one case.
OUTCOME	The property obtained a consent for 79,000 m ³ /year, highlighting the importance of transparency and sustainable water use.	42 sites were brought into compliance, moving over 200,000 m ³ of material annually with improved erosion controls.	24 systems now treat and discharge 177 m ³ /day under approved conditions.

Innovative Compliance Strategies

- Two-Up Inspections: Paired officers for consistency and safety.
- Weekly Debriefs: Shared learnings to align enforcement approaches.
- Inspection Matrix: Risk-based prioritisation of monitoring efforts.
- Remote Sensing: Real-time detection of environmental stress indicators.

Collaborative and Strategic Shifts

- Partnered with Zespri to embed compliance into industry sustainability goals.
- Advocated for integrating frontline insights into policy development.
- Positioned the programme to align with RMA reforms emphasizing fewer consents and stronger monitoring.

Conclusion

BOPRC’s permitted activity monitoring programme has:

- Legalised over 1.1 million m³ of water takes.
- Improved sediment and wastewater management.
- Demonstrated that proactive, tech-enabled, and collaborative compliance strategies can deliver significant environmental benefits.



REGIONAL SCORECARDS

PART 4

The following pages are summaries of the key data for the regional and unitary councils on an individual basis. They enable councils to quickly and easily communicate the findings of the national scale analysis as it applies to them, and to use these figures as a basis for regional scale performance improvement. All pages contain identical categories of information, all of which is based on tables found elsewhere throughout the report.

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

NATIONAL SUMMARY



5,304,400
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



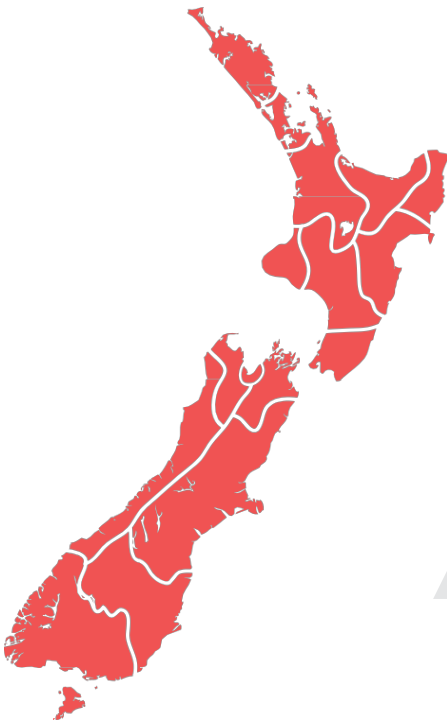
7%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



268,000 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$418,787m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME EMPLOYEES	659
FTE/1000	0.18

CONSENTS



220,070
ADMINISTERED



76,317
REQUIRED
MONITORING



75%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT

INCIDENTS



26,075
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



97%
RESPONSE RATE

ENFORCEMENT

392
WARNINGS
ISSUED

4,887
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

2,280
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

17
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

56
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

82
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



204,000
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



9%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



13,778 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$11,178m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

34

FTE/1000

0.16

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



9,021
ADMINISTERED



4,889
REQUIRED
MONITORING



92%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



1,248
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

6
WARNINGS
ISSUED

241
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

153
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

2
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

3
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

0
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL



531,700
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



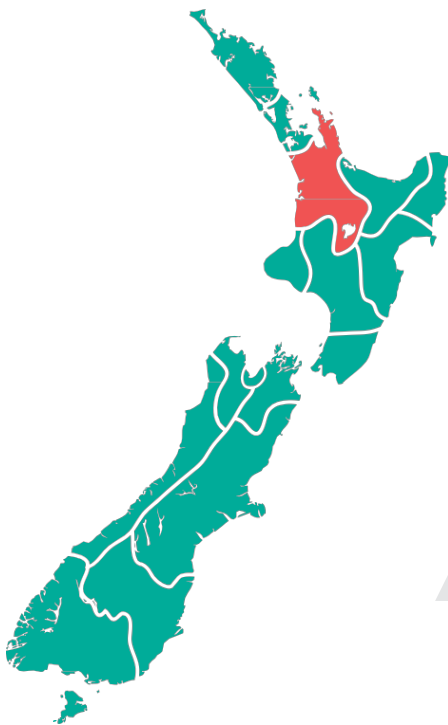
11%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



24,147 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$36,474m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF

FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

59

FTE/1000

0.11

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



13,386
ADMINISTERED



1,360
REQUIRED
MONITORING



100%+
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



1,518
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

165
WARNINGS
ISSUED

103
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

20
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

3
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

12
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

16
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL



353,300

NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



9%

POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



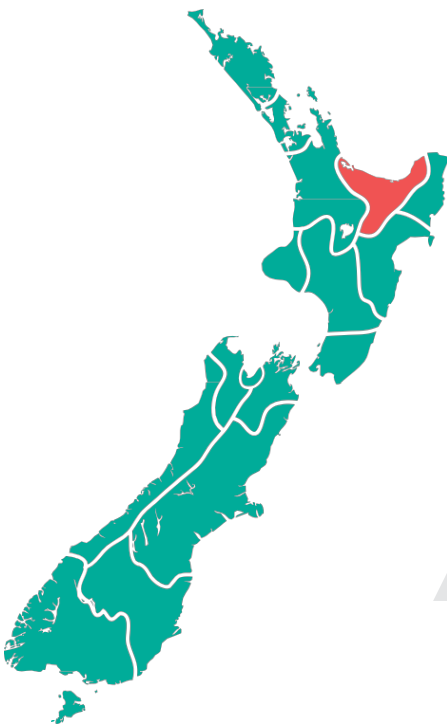
12,303 KM²

GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$23,901m

GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

39

FTE/1000

0.11

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



8,720

ADMINISTERED



6,139

REQUIRED
MONITORING



81%

CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT

NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



2,039

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%

RESPONSE RATE

NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

0

WARNINGS
ISSUED

183

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

38

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

4

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

2

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

HAWKES BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL



184,700
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



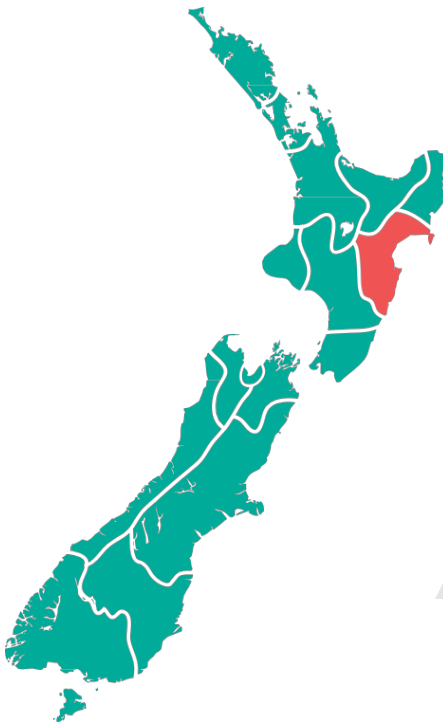
6%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



14,138 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$11,993m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

20

FTE/1000

0.11

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



8,561
ADMINISTERED



3,825
REQUIRED
MONITORING



52%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



718
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



93%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

23
WARNINGS
ISSUED

17
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

35
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

4
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

3
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL



130,500
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



7%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



7,256 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$11,140m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

39

FTE/1000

0.30

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



4,222
ADMINISTERED



2,260
REQUIRED
MONITORING



100%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



382
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

0
WARNINGS
ISSUED

114
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

81
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

0
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

5
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL



262,100

NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



5%

POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



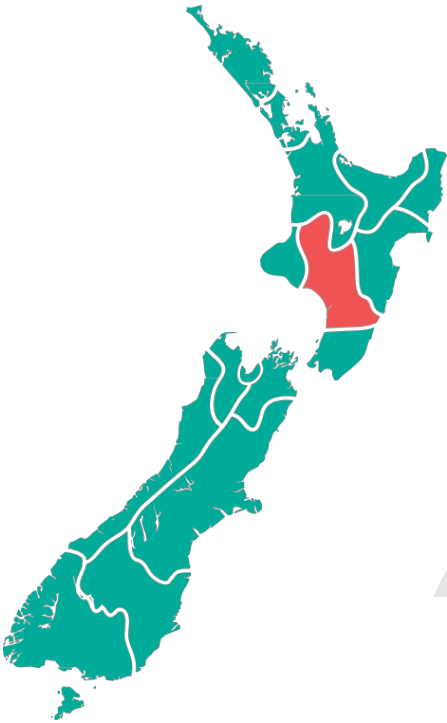
22,220 KM²

GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$15,683m

GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

23

FTE/1000

0.09

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



5,609

ADMINISTERED



1,896

REQUIRED
MONITORING



100%+

CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT

NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



904

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%

RESPONSE RATE

NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

16

WARNINGS
ISSUED

115

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

80

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

1

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

4

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

7

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL



549,800

NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



4%

POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



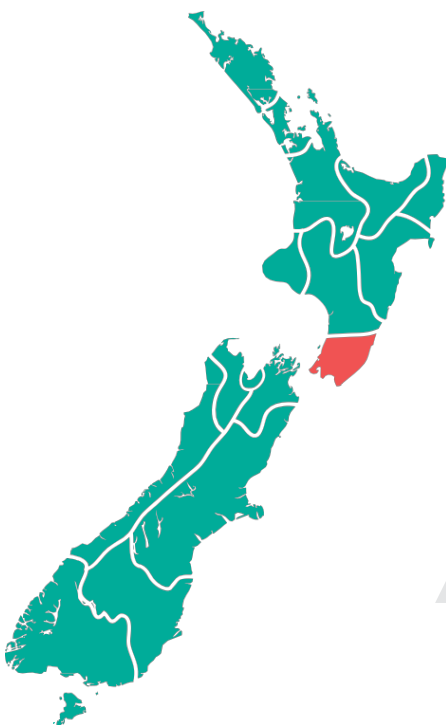
8,142 KM²

GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$51,008m

GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

24

FTE/1000

0.04

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



8,053

ADMINISTERED



2,377

REQUIRED
MONITORING



88%

CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT

NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



1,385

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%

RESPONSE RATE

NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

30

WARNINGS
ISSUED

39

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

68

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

1

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

0

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY



691,100
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



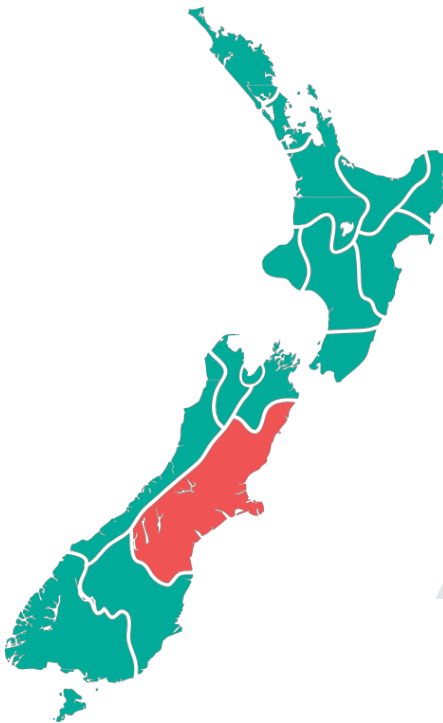
10%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



44,633 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$51,675m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

73

FTE/1000

0.11

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



24,204
ADMINISTERED



2,865
REQUIRED
MONITORING



92%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



3,796
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



75%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

81
WARNINGS
ISSUED

96
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

121
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

2
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

6
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

8
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL



256,300
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



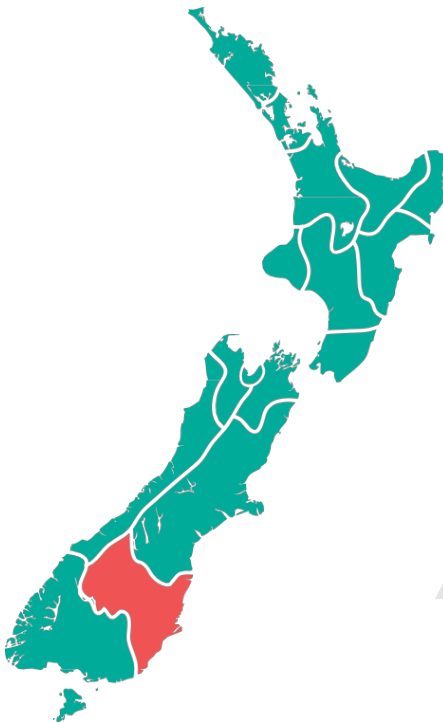
8%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



31,280 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$18,226m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF

FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

39

FTE/1000

0.15

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



7,557
ADMINISTERED



2,500
REQUIRED
MONITORING



100%+
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



1,407
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

5
WARNINGS
ISSUED

56
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

62
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

1
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

2
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

2
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL



34,600

NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2023



6%

POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



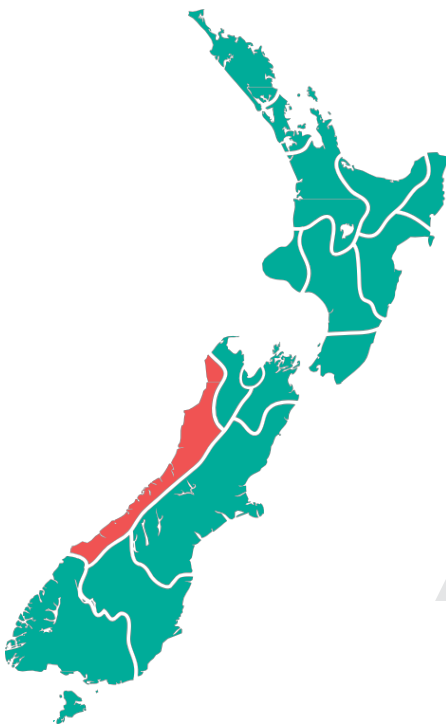
23,277 KM²

GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$2,597m

GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

14

FTE/1000

0.40

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



3,511

ADMINISTERED



1,270

REQUIRED
MONITORING



69%

CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT

NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



189

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%

RESPONSE RATE

NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

2

WARNINGS
ISSUED

11

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

10

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

1

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

3

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



105,700

NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



4%

POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



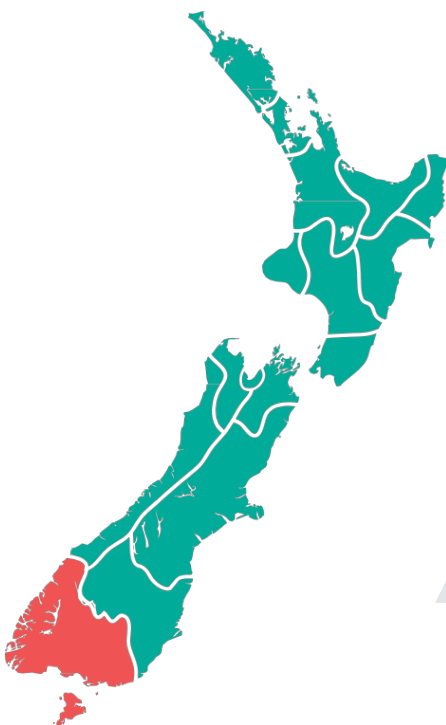
32,184 KM²

GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$8,839m

GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

21

FTE/1000

0.2

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



4,494

ADMINISTERED



3,820

REQUIRED
MONITORING



71%

CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT

NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



880

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%

RESPONSE RATE

NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

37

WARNINGS
ISSUED

28

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

23

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

3

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

1

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

AUCKLAND COUNCIL



1,780,100
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



7%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



5,945 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$157,281m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES 221

FTE/1000 0.12

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



92,550
ADMINISTERED



34,014
REQUIRED
MONITORING



21%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



8,555
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

0

WARNINGS
ISSUED

3,727

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

1,491

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

11

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

33

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS



53,100
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



6%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



8,386 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$2,938m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF

FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

19

FTE/1000

0.35

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



8,012
ADMINISTERED



1,029
REQUIRED
MONITORING



65%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



376
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



90%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

3
WARNINGS
ISSUED

108
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

31
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

5
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

2
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

1
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

NELSON CITY COUNCIL



54,400
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



2.4%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



447 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$4,024m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES 8

FTE/1000 0.14

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



742
ADMINISTERED



543
REQUIRED
MONITORING



100%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



1,678
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

0

WARNINGS
ISSUED

9

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

9

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

1

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

0

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL



52,000
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



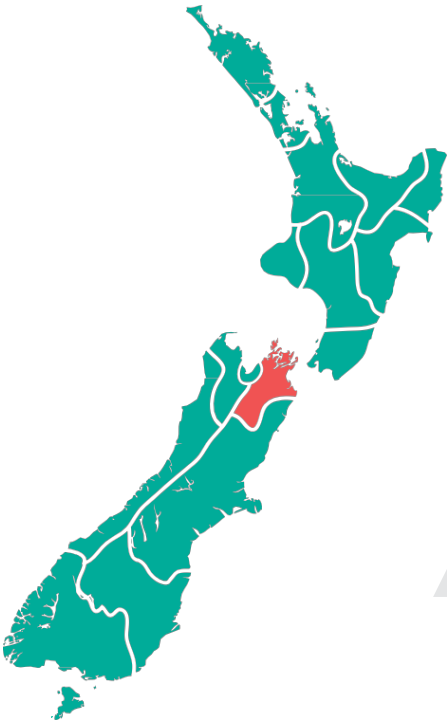
6%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



10,773 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$4,383m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES **14**

FTE/1000 **0.26**

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



19,138
ADMINISTERED



3,524
REQUIRED
MONITORING



78%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



371
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

6

WARNINGS
ISSUED

25

ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

38

INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

0

ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

0

PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

0

PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

CME METRICS REPORT 2024/2025

TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



59,800
NEW ZEALAND POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2024



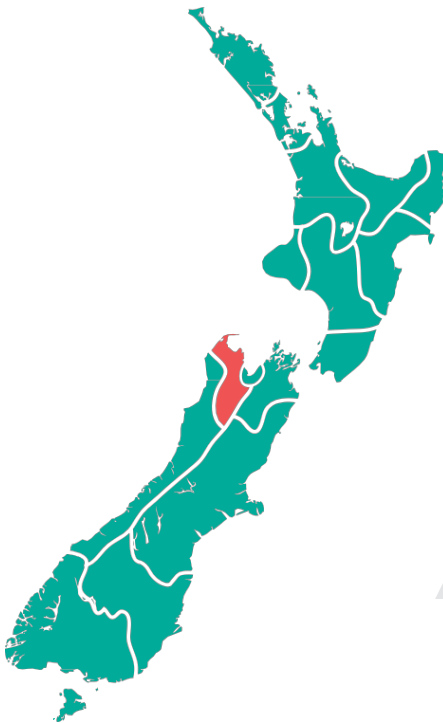
9%
POPULATION GROWTH
2019-2024



9,764 KM²
GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\$3,558m
GDP TO MARCH
2024



CME STAFF



FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES

14

FTE/1000

0.23

NATIONAL AVERAGE 0.18

CONSENTS



4,290
ADMINISTERED



4,006
REQUIRED
MONITORING



52%
CONSENTS MONITORED
OF THOSE REQUIRING IT
NATIONAL AVERAGE 75%

INCIDENTS



629
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED



100%
RESPONSE RATE
NATIONAL AVERAGE 97%

ENFORCEMENT

18
WARNINGS
ISSUED

15
ABATEMENT NOTICES
ISSUED

20
INFRINGEMENT FINES
ISSUED

3
ENFORCEMENT ORDER
APPLICATIONS

2
PROSECUTIONS
CONCLUDED

1
PROSECUTIONS IN
PROGRESS

METRICS SURVEY QUESTIONS

APPENDIX 1

1. Which council are you completing this survey on behalf of? [Regional/ Unitary]
2. And this is for?
 - Northland Regional Council
 - Waikato Regional Council
 - Bay of Plenty Regional Council
 - Hawkes Bay Regional Council
 - Taranaki Regional Council
 - Horizons Regional Council
 - Greater Wellington Regional Council
 - Environment Canterbury
 - Otago Regional Council
 - West Coast Regional Council
 - Southland Regional Council
 - Auckland Council
 - Gisborne District Council
 - Nelson City Council
 - Marlborough District Council
 - Tasman District Council
3. What is your name and contact details?

COMMITMENTS TO IWI

4. In no more than 300 words describe your regional key commitments to work with iwi/Māori on CME. For example, joint management agreements or other co-management agreements.

Note: The report author may contact you for further information or clarification of your response.

CME OPERATIONS (MANAGING THE WORKLOAD)

5. Does your council register/count:
 - an individual “incident” per notification?
 - one incident per event, regardless of the number of separate complainants?

6. How many notifications (complaints) were received from members of the public (or other sources, but excluding information from council monitoring activity) relating to environmental incidents or potential breaches of environmental regulation?

This might include information from, for example, emergency services attending an incident or perhaps a council staff member observing something while on other duties, but excludes information from council monitoring activity.

- No. of individual complaints/calls?
 - No. of individual incidents logged?
 - Unknown
7. How many of these notifications were responded to by council?
This response may be in any form – e.g. phone call, site visit, desktop audit
8. How many of these notifications were physically attended by council staff? If one incident had multiple visits, only count this as one.
9. How many of these notifications were confirmed as breaches of the RMA or subsidiary instruments?
10. How many of the breaches were for:
- Breach of a resource consent
 - Breach of a National Environmental Standard
 - Breach of a Permitted Activity Rule
 - Breach of a Permitted Activity Rule and/or National Environmental Standard

RESOURCE CONSENTS AND PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

11. How many individual, active resource consents exist in your region?
Exclude Land Use Consents where the activity is completed e.g. Land use subdivisions where the subdivision is complete and certificates issued or land use – building where the building has been constructed.
12. How many consents required monitoring during this period, in accordance with your monitoring prioritisation model/ strategy?
13. How many of these consents were monitored (including desktop audit) in the period?

COMPLIANCE GRADINGS

From 2020/2021 onwards all councils adopted the four compliance gradings, these questions were removed.

14. What grades do you apply to non-compliance? (e.g. technical non-compliance, significant noncompliance)
- Fully Compliant
 - Technical/Low Non-Compliance
 - Moderate Non-Compliance
 - Significant Non-Compliance
 - Other (please specify)

15. What were the levels of compliance with consents according to the grades you use?

Note 1: Numbers provided under each grade is per monitoring event not per consent. E.g. a consent may be monitored 4 times in the year; on one occasion it may be Technically Non-Compliance and on three occasions it may be Fully Compliant, this would add 3 to the total of Fully Compliant and one to the total for Technical Non-compliance.

Note 2: The compliance grade is based on the condition with the worst compliance grade e.g. a consent with five conditions Fully Compliant and one condition Moderate Non-Compliance has an overall compliance grade of Minor Non-Compliance.

Note 3: Daily telemetry water readings where compliance with water take limits is continuously monitored are to be excluded from compliance grade totals.

- Fully Compliant
- Technical/Low Non-Compliance
- Moderate Non-Compliance
- Significant Non-Compliance
- Other (please specify)

MONITORING PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

16. Which permitted activities do you have a monitoring programme for?

- Agriculture (excluding dairy)
- Aquaculture
- Construction
- Culvert installation
- Dairy
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Industrial Stormwater
- Mining
- Oil and gas
- Stock exclusion
- Tourism
- Vineyards
- Wineries
- Wintering
- Other (please specify)
- We don't have a monitoring programme for any permitted activities

17. What was the number sites visited?

Count each site once even if it had multiple visits

18. What is the criteria used to determine frequency of monitoring or if site visit made?

19. Please select any of the following that apply to the permitted activities

- Monitored under regional PA rule
- Monitored under NES (or other regulation)
- Requiring Notification

20. What is the type of monitoring done?

21. What is the frequency of monitoring done?

MAKING DECISIONS ON PRIORITIES

22. What basis is used for determining what notifications/complaints/incidents are physically attended and with what urgency or priority?

23. Describe how you determine which consents are monitored and how frequently?

If there is a prioritisation model or compliance strategy, add link

24. Describe the basis, which was used for determining what, if any, permitted activities were monitored.

If there is a prioritisation model or compliance strategy, add link

STAFFING LEVELS

25. How many FTEs does your council have who carry out monitoring roles?
Include contractors.
26. How many FTEs does your council have who carry out environmental incident or pollution response roles?
Include contractors.
27. How many FTEs does your council have who carry out investigation or enforcement roles?
28. How many FTEs does your council have who carry out a combination of the above roles?
Note 1: Include contractors
Note 2: Only answer this question if you have not included these staff in questions 21, 22 or 23
29. How many FTEs does your council have in CME support roles?
This includes administrative roles, e.g. staff who assist with issue of notices, reminder notices, upload of unpaid infringements to MoI.
30. Across this area of council work (CME) on average for the year, how many vacancies have been carried?
Number of vacancies during the year/ Average length of vacancies
31. What have been the most significant factors influencing retention and recruitment of CME staff?
32. At the time of answering this question what is your staff's CME experience at council?
Less than 2 years. Number of staff
2-10 years. Number of staff
Greater than 10 years. Number of staff

CME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

From 2020/2021 onwards all councils had an enforcement and conflict of interest policy, these questions were removed.

33. Who is involved in your process for making decisions about whether to proceed with enforcement action?
- Formal warning
 - Abatement notice
 - Infringement notice
 - Prosecution
- An individual officer can decide*
Officer plus a manager
Panel decision

34. Who are the panel members?

- Formal warning
- Abatement notice
- Infringement notice
- Prosecution

Investigating officer

Investigating officer's manager/Team Leader Enforcement Specialist

Compliance Monitoring Manager

Group Manager/General Manager/Director Chief Executive

Legal Counsel (internal)

Legal Counsel (external) Other (please specify):

35. Is there any other relevant information or comments?
36. What is your process for making decisions to take no formal enforcement action when a breach has been identified?
37. Who makes the decision to take no formal enforcement action when a breach has been identified?
 - Individual officer
 - Officer plus manager
 - Panel manager
 - Other
38. Who has the delegation to authorise filing of charges for a prosecution at your council?

ACTING ON NON-COMPLIANCE

39. What was the total number of actions taken during the period for:

Note: This relates to the instruments issued in relation to the different sections of the Act (listed once for brevity)

- Formal warnings issued
- Abatement notices issued
- Infringement notices issued
- Enforcement orders applied for

Section 9 Use of land

Section 12 Coastal marine area

Section 13 Beds of lakes and rivers

Section 14 Water

Section 15 Discharges of contaminants

Section 17 Duty to avoid, remedy & mitigate

Other breach e.g. Section 22

40. How many notices were issued for non-compliance with a resource consent?
 - Abatement notices
 - Infringement notices
41. How many notices were issued for a breach of a rule and/or NES?
 - Abatement notices
 - Infringement notices

PROSECUTION

42. How many RMA prosecutions were:

Note: For this question please consider an entire case (regardless of number of charges and defendants) as one prosecution.

- Concluded in the period
 - Still in progress in the period
43. What is the total number of individual (person) defendants convicted as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?
 44. For all of these (person) defendants what is the total number of convictions entered against them?
For example, there may be a total of 27 separate convictions entered against a total of nine 'individual' defendants.

PROSECUTION

45. What is the total number of corporate (e.g. Crown, company, body corporate etc.) defendants convicted as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?
46. For all of these (corporate) defendants what is the total number of convictions entered against them?
For example, there may be a total of 30 separate convictions entered against a total of 12 corporate defendants.
47. Total number of convictions against: [see categories for sections of the Act as above]
- *an individual*
 - *a corporate entity*

Total fine potential (Individual total x \$300,000, corporate entity total x \$600,000)

48. What is the total amount of fines imposed by the courts as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?
- Individual fines
 - Corporate fines
49. What other sanctions, if any, have been imposed by the courts as a result of RMA prosecutions concluded in this period?
- *Prison sentence*
 - *Enforcement order*
 - *Reparation*
 - *Community Service*
 - *Discharge without conviction*
 - *Other*
50. How many prosecutions involved restorative justice, diversion or other alternative justice process?
- *Restorative justice*
 - *Diversion*
 - *Alternative justice*
51. Describe any outcomes relating to these processes.
52. Of the prosecutions concluded, and currently in progress, what was the principal industry or activity involved?
- *Concluded*
 - *In progress*
- Water take/abstraction
- Objectionable odour
- Burning
- Wastewater
- Animal effluent
- Industrial discharge
- Forestry
- Wetland clearance/activity
- Works in the bed of river
- Earthworks (sediment discharge)
53. Are there any other principle industries involved in concluded prosecutions?

EDUCATING AND ENGAGING WITH THE REGULATED COMMUNITY

54. Does your council have, or support, any education or engagement projects relating to compliance with the RMA or any of its derivative regulation? For example, workshops for earthworks contractors around erosion and sediment controls. Yes/No
If yes, briefly describe

CME REPORTING

55. What mechanisms does your council use to report CME data to the public? e.g. annual reports, reports to councillors
- *Annual Report*
 - *Report to Councillors*
 - *Snapshot*
 - *Report(s) to Council committee meetings (open to public)*
 - *Other (please specify)*

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

NRC has a range of initiatives to work in partnership with Māori. A key governance mechanism is the Te Ruarangi Working Party, which is an advisory committee of Council established in 2014. The group sits monthly and is made of councillors and iwi and hapu leaders. The Council also has a Natural Resources Working Party which is a committee made up of four iwi and hapu leaders from Te Ruarangi and councillors. The role of this committee is to provide oversight of Council's resource management activities. The Council also has a Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG) which provides freshwater advice to staff around operational freshwater resource management implementation. The Council has also signed four Mana Whakahohe Rohe agreements under the RMA. The intent of agreement includes improving working relationships between tangata whenua and Council and enhancing Māori participation in RMA resource management and decision-making processes.

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

WRC has operative Joint Management Agreements (JMAs) with five 'River' Iwi – Waikato, Raukawa, Te Arawa, Ngāti Maniapoto and Ngāti Tūwharetoa – as required by legislation. A key purpose of JMAs is to provide a framework for Iwi and the Council to discuss and agree processes for enabling co-management of planning, regulatory and other functions within the relevant Iwi's geographic area of interest. For all currently operative JMAs, this includes RMA compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) functions of Council. Whilst each of the JMAs was individually negotiated, there are common themes across all in relation to CME. The key commitments relating to CME within the JMAs generally include biannual operational meetings to discuss monitoring priorities, extent and methods; the potential for Iwi involvement in monitoring and enforcement processes; responses to non-compliance; consent review opportunities; the effectiveness of conditions and the effectiveness of compliance policies and procedures generally. The JMAs require various CME-related information to be provided, at different times – for example, summary updates of enforcement actions (prosecutions, enforcement orders, abatement notices and infringement notices) undertaken by the Council under the RMA for the JMA area. Agreed outcomes and actions from biannual operational meetings will, where appropriate, be reported up to the corresponding co-governance committees. The JMAs have facilitated closer personal and working relationship with Iwi which itself has engendered more effective engagement, co-operation and flow of information in both directions.

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Working in partnership with Māori is a priority for Toi Moana. There are a number of PSGE, Co-Governance arrangements and individual agreements to build the coordination of CME activities with Tangata Whenua. A number of Manawhakahohe Rohe agreements are in development which will also explore opportunities to build our partnership with Māori in CME work. As standard practice tangata whenua are notified early of significant incidents and their insight is sought when it comes to response options, enforcement action and remediation works. We continue to explore opportunities to engage tangata whenua in our response and monitoring activities including training, inspections and responses to incidents. Cultural effects are increasing in their importance and weighting for prosecution cases, particularly when it comes to sentencing decisions.

HAWKES BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has a Māori Partnership Group who advises and offers strategic support and leadership to all staff in order to enable effective partnerships, engagement, and meaningful participation with tangata whenua. Council also has the Māori Committee, which includes both elected councillors and 12 representatives nominated by each of the four Ngāti Kahungunu Taiwhenua and Executive in our region. Additionally, there is the Regional Planning Committee, a co-governance group with an equal number of councillors and Post Settlement Governance Entity representatives. This committee works closely together to ensure the effective implementation of plans, processes, monitoring and enforcement. In conjunction with both Committees and Māori Partnerships, Council continue to work closely with Iwi on significant incidents, investigations, and prosecutions and regularly obtains cultural impact statements from Iwi for most prosecutions.

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Council has 3 Iwi appointed representatives on each of its Operations and Regulatory and Policy and Planning Committees. The Council also have a Taranaki Māori Constituency Councillor who is appointed to the Operations and Regulatory and Policy and Planning Committees. This provides for CME input at this level. This Council also have one Pou Takawaenga - Relationship Facilitator. In addition, the Council engages directly with Iwi over major pollution events and prosecutions, obtains victim statements.

HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL

No formal agreements are in place at this stage with Iwi; however, as part of our weekly Interim Enforcement Decision Checks we review all significant non-compliances and Horizons Iwi liaison team are involved and advise which Iwi / hapu need to be notified particularly in relation to environmental discharges. Iwi are also invited to participate in formal investigations in the initial stages of the investigation, rather than just waiting until the end of the investigation.

GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

GWRC has completed workshops with half of our mana whenua partners on how they wish to engage and partner on CME in the future. This may lead to formal agreements going forward.

ENVIRONMENT CANTEBURY

Environment Canterbury continues to provide alerts to Runanga that have requested visibility of pollution events in the region enabling direct advice and assistance. Iwi Management Plans are used to inform enforcement decisions and for some prosecution cases, we may fund Runanga impact statements. However, improving our Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement service is a current organisational priority for Environment Canterbury. We are focusing on how to help resource users comply by focusing on understanding the required work for compliance in a place, ensuring an improved connection to the community and catchment. One aspect of that will be exploring new ways of partnering with Runanga. Our intention is to work directly with one Runanga to experiment on how to partner on Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement work to deliver on outcomes for a place.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

While there are no formal compliance, monitoring, and enforcement (CME) agreements in place with iwi Māori, ORC integrates this within our wider work with Iwi partners Aukaha and Te Ao Mārama by prioritizing engagement and involvement in CME activities. This includes notification of relevant pollution incidents and monthly hui to discuss cases and provide progress updates. Valuable input from iwi partnerships supported the recent review of the ORC's Compliance Plan, which sets CME priorities in the Otago region. During major incidents or comprehensive investigations, iwi partnerships are generally advised and engaged. Iwi Māori provide expertise in cultural impact assessments to assist the court with any cultural effects attributable to the offending (in prosecution cases). The ORC organization has a high-level governance partnership agreement with Mana Whenua. This being Mana-to-Mana which has representatives from the seven papatipu rūnaka across the takiwā that ORC serves. Additionally, we have a governance structure and partnership agreement with iwi Māori called Te Rōpū Taiao, which focuses specifically on how we will jointly protect and care for the whenua and Taiao.

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

The West Coast Regional Council and Poutini Ngai Tahu have signed a Mana Whakahono a Rohe - Iwi Participation Arrangement. The arrangement formally acknowledges the partnership and relationship between Council and Ngai Tahu. The document can be found on Councils web site under Strategies - publications. Te Runanga Ngati Waewae and Te Runanga Makaawhio have representation on Council and in decision making on relevant Council committees such as the Resource management Committee.

SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

As Manawhenua, Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku (tangata whenua) have a deep cultural connection with the work of Environment Southland. The council has mutual responsibilities and obligations toward Māori and its cultural and spiritual values. Our intentions are to ensure Māori values are reflected in the council's decision-making, to assist with the mana and mauri of Southland being preserved and upheld now and for generations to come. Te Ao Mārama Incorporated (the mandated voice of Ngā Papatipu rūnanga ki Murihiku for Local Government and environmental management matters) was one of the key facilitators when the relationship between the council and Manawhenua began in the early 90s. Te Ao Mārama was delegated the responsibility of dealing with councils in relation to local government and environmental matters, on behalf of the four Papatipu rūnanga who hold Manawhenua over all ancestral lands in Murihiku – Awarua, Hokonui, Ōraka Aparima and Waihōpai. For over 25 years the relationship with Environment Southland continues to grow, with various arrangements being developed to ensure smooth and efficient processes for plan development and consents management, an iwi management plan Te Tangi a Tauira, and a partnership to improve Southland's water and land through the People Water and Land programme – Te Mana o te Tangata, te Wai, te Whenua. A notable milestone in the council's relationship with iwi is the inclusion of mana whenua positions on two of Environment Southland's committees. We have a commitment to the responsibility and obligation of improving Southland's local government understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori.

AUCKLAND COUNCIL

Regular contact with 19 mana whenua groups through Kaitiaki forum (hosted by AC). Work specifically on CME includes assistance with impact statements in enforcement proceedings and remediation.

GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council is committed to building and sustaining a true Te Tiriti Partnership with tangata whenua. Whilst there are no specific CME agreements GDC has several relationship and management agreements with Māori stakeholder groups (iwi/hapu, land trusts and others). These include memorandums of understanding, joint management agreements, co-management and co-governance arrangements and joint protocols for a particular site or process. Internally GDC has developed a resource for staff (Te Matapihi) to develop confidence when engaging with Māori. In July 2023 Council commissioned and has since adopted Te Tiriti Compass which provides an articles-based framework to guide the standard to which we hold ourselves in our role as a Treaty partner. These are: Kāwanatanga | Governance Tino Rangatiratanga | Self Determination Ōritetanga | Equity Whakaponu | Protection of customs and faith. Our revised Enforcement Policy (Dec 24) has referred to this, however how we give effect to the Treaty Compass continues to be a work in progress alongside our Matauranga Māori Project Advisor.

NELSON CITY COUNCIL

No formal joint management or other agreements are in place in the CME space (a protocol is in place for council as applicant regarding monitoring and ADP and other agreements are in place at a strategic level). Iwi are sent weekly lists of new applications and requests for ADP and iwi monitor conditions are included where required, in addition to council monitoring.

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Iwi and hapū as kaitiaki are considered in the implementation of Marlborough's CME activities, including notifications, cultural impact and priorities. This includes the provision of cultural impact statements and victim impact statements for sentencing. MDC is working on identifying opportunities to work together in delivery of CME and build relationships between MDC and tangata whenua.

TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

No formal CME arrangements in place with Iwi at present. There is however work being undertaken on the development of a strategy that will enable our approach to Iwi with an objective of striking a formal agreement.