

Annual compliance report

Earthworks and forestry

Activities this report covers

This report covers compliance monitoring for earthworks and forestry sites for the previous year up to 30 June 2017.

What we've done

This year we monitored 171 consents relating to earthworks and forestry sites:

Earthworks							
Year	Complying		Minor non-compliance		Non-compliance		Total
2016-17	83	83% ↑	7	7% ↓	10	10% ↑	100
2015-16	81	78%	16	15%	7	7%	104

Forestry							
Year	Complying		Minor non-compliance		Non-compliance		Total
2016-17	58	82% ↓	9	13% ↑	4	5% ↑	71
2015-16	54	93%	3	5%	1	2%	58

What we've noticed

Earthworks:

The 2016/17 earthworks season was a particularly wet year, resulting in non-compliant discharges of sediment from some sites. This is reflected in the increased level of non-compliance. Due to the poor weather, fewer applications for winter works were granted this year, with only two sites given permission to operate.

We utilise external experts (Southern Skies Environmental) to assist with our compliance programme. We will be continuing to utilise their expertise in the coming year.

Forestry:

In the western part of the region, due to staff changeover some forestry sites could not be inspected prior to 30 June and therefore have had scheduled visits early in the 2017/2018 year.

In the eastern part of the region, the 2016/17 forestry season was hit particularly hard by two severe weather events in the eastern hill country, which led to rainfall exceeding the erosion and sediment control capacity. Many of the inspections were undertaken within a few weeks after two significant weather events had come through. Non-compliance observed was due to direct discharges into waterways as a result of failed erosion and sediment controls from roading/tracking activities associated with forestry operations.

What we'd like to fix or change

On 3 August 2017 a National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) was released by Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). The NES-PF will commence on 1 May 2018. Prior to this we will build on a successful workshop held in the first part of 2017, by looking to run further workshops and engage with the forestry industry regarding implementation of the NES-PF.

