

Report 05.472
Date 5 September 2005
File WP/03/06/03

Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Author Stephen Yeats, Senior Resource Advisor

Dairying and Clean Streams Accord - Progress Report

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress with implementation of the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord in the Wellington Region.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Under the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord (“The Accord”), the Regional action plan for the Wellington Region was developed by Fonterra and staff of the Greater Wellington Regional Council in July 2004 to assist the implementation of the Accord.

The following two of the six targets of the Accord were focussed on by staff during the 2004/05 milking season.

- **Performance Target:**

50% of regular crossing points have bridges or culverts by 2007, 90% by 2012

- **Performance Target:**

100% of farm dairy effluent discharges to comply with resource consents and regional plans immediately

Staff visited all 210 dairy farms in the Region during the season. All effluent systems were inspected for compliance with the resource consents. A survey of all waterway crossings (where a cow race crosses a waterway) was undertaken, with special attention paid to unbridged or unculverted crossings.

4. Comment

4.1 Dairy Effluent

The following table summarises the compliance ratings of the consents to discharge dairy effluent.

Non-Complying	Partially-Complying	Mainly-Complying	Fully Complying
24	20	41	125

The results show the Accord target of 100% compliance has not been met, with 21% of the farms either non or partially complying. 79% were either fully or mainly complying. One abatement notice and one infringement notice were issued in relation to discharge of dairy effluent.

The primary reasons for non-compliance were:

- No resource consent (Five farms)
- Insufficient spread of effluent
- Equipment failure.

4.2 Stock Crossings

The following table summarises the Council's findings relating to the number of waterway crossings:

Total Crossings	Accord Crossings* Unbridged	Non-Accord Crossings Unbridged	Crossings Currently Bridged or Culverted
664	51	70	543

**Accord crossings are defined as crossings used more than twice a week.*

These are preliminary finding only, and are still to be confirmed with Fonterra. Our survey shows that 51 crossings which meet the requirements of the Accord still require bridging or culverting. Fonterra has determined that the target of having 50% of all regular crossings bridged or culverted by 2007 has already been achieved. Greater Wellington's survey shows that 82% of all crossings (including those not covered by the Accord) are already bridged or culverted.

Council and Fonterra will continue to work with farmers to ensure 90% of Accord crossings are bridged or culverted by 2012.

Beyond the Accord, Greater Wellington Regional Council also has responsibility to manage the environmental effects from **all** unbridged or unculverted stock crossings. Strictly speaking, all unbridged/unculverted crossings require a resource consent for a discharge to water under rule 5 of the Freshwater Plan, regardless of the frequency of crossing. There are currently no resource consents granted for such a discharge. This is not something that we as a Council have pursued, knowing that the Accord is being implemented. Council has still to determine the best way to address the environmental effects of those 70 unbridged/unculverted crossings which are not covered by the Accord.

4.3 Other Accord Targets

Fencing of Wetlands. Greater Wellington's analysis shows that there are 25 wetlands on or bordering dairy farms in the Wellington Region. 44% are fenced to prevent stock access. The Accord requires 50% to be fenced by 2007. Council staff will be working on improving uptake with this target this season.

Nutrient Management. The Accord requires 100% of dairy farms to have in place systems to manage nutrient inputs and outputs by 2007. Fonterra are monitoring this target.

Stock Access to Waterbodies. Dairy cattle are to be excluded from 50% of waterbodies by 2007. The Wellington region has the lowest level of compliance with this target nationwide. Fonterra are monitoring this target.

5. Communication

Council will write to each dairy farmer to summarise the results of the survey, and give an outline of the implications for their individual farms.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Stephen Yeats
Senior Resource Advisor

Report approved by:

Ted Taylor
Acting Manager, Planning and Resources.

Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa