

Effective management of water resources in rural Canterbury

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INTRODUCTION

This talk will cover:

- Water meter requirements
- Pressure on water resources
- The compliance process
- Enforcement action
- Media – help or hindrance?
- Learning outcomes

Pressure on water resources

- Water use in Canterbury - huge issue
- Stricter enforcement measures in place
- People care about fairly apportioned use of water
- 3rd year of drought
- Uptake of water-take metering world first - numbers and new technologies
- 5 year staged process to ensure compliance across the board but now at the tail end

Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010

- Keep track of allocated water
- Collectively manage water user groups
- Effective compliance monitoring
- Understand water resources and eco-systems
- Planning for future growth
- Effective enforcement ‘backstop’

HOW THE REGULATIONS WILL WORK

▶ THE REQUIREMENTS WILL COME INTO EFFECT AUTOMATICALLY.

This means that:

- » if you already hold a consent that is covered by the regulations, you will not need to go through a consent review process before the regulations will apply to you
- » if you are applying for a consent that would be covered by the regulations, they will apply whether or not they are written into your consent conditions.

Councils can add additional or more stringent requirements

The regulations set bottom-line requirements. This means they:

- » override more lenient requirements on affected consents (from the date the regulations come into effect on that consent)
- » allow regional councils to impose and enforce additional or more stringent requirements (such as telemetering and/or the installation and use of a datalogger).

Councils can require measurement and reporting for other takes

Regional councils are still able to impose measuring or reporting requirements on water takes not covered by the regulations (such as consented takes for less than 5 litres per second, or takes considered to be non-consumptive under the regulations).

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

- ▶ Please read your water take consent conditions to determine your allowed rate of take. You need to know your allowed rate of take to see if you are covered by the regulations and the date by which you must comply.

If the regulations apply, check your consent conditions to see whether your current obligations are more lenient, exactly the same, or more stringent than each of the requirements in the regulations.

If in doubt, contact your regional council – it is responsible for enforcing the regulations.

Having established your compliance obligations, consider what practical steps you may need to take – such as installing a new water measuring device or system, or upgrading your existing equipment. Your regional council can direct you to useful guidance material, including information on selecting a water meter, and the contact details of qualified installers and verifiers.

We recommend you make any necessary changes well in advance of the final date for compliance.

For more information on the regulations, please visit the Ministry for the Environment website: www.mfe.govt.nz



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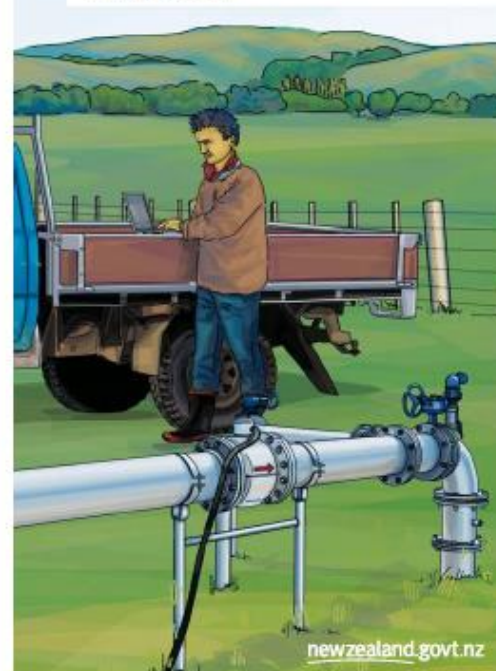
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MEASURING AND REPORTING WATER TAKES

- ▶ An introduction to the Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010



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Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Time line for compliance

- Nov 2012 - 20l/s and over
- Nov 2014 - 10-20l/s
- Nov 2016 - 5-10l/s
- (unless consent specifies a different date)
- Under 5l/s, no requirement for water meter



How big is the task?

- 3 times more water consents than any other council
- Approx 6000 water take consents (5400 over 10l/s)
- Represents 25% of all consents in region
- Prior to meters, required physical monitoring by compliance officers with portable meters
- Service industry challenges to keep up with demand from Ecan and consent holders

Service Providers

- New industry effectively borne from these regulations
- Providers needed to be upskilled
- Collaboration Workshop held with industry
- Major push to get buy in
- Impressed upon providers need for quick and accurate information due to deadlines set by Ecan and national regulations

Surface water take in action



The process

- “Stock take” started in May to ensure compliance before start of 2016/17 irrigation season
- Identify who and what was outstanding
- 500 missing meters at this point
- Plenty more missing certification and verification
- 97% of all Canterbury's allocated water was being measured before final push

Typical ground water meter



Compliance tools

- Range of enforcement tools to achieve compliance
- Formal written warning
- Abatement notice – to do (install meter)
- Infringement
- Prosecution
- Important to note that all consent holders had received advice letters from us over the years

Phone call to consent holder and post letter

Compliance or response within 10 days

Response

No response

Evidence of
date meter
to be
installed

Surrender/
transfer
bore/
consent

Reduce
take

Evidence of
meter
installed

Temporary
waiver

No action
taken

Abatement
notice

Infringement

Enforcement action

- Lawyer approved abatement notice templates for each scenario
- 4 different templates – included cover letter
- Abatements published on website (advised in abatement notice)
- <http://ecan.govt.nz/our-responsibilities/consents-compliance/monitoring-compliance/Pages/enforcement-tools.aspx>
- Abatements – 94
- Infringements – 3
- No prosecutions – so far!

Water Meter Infringement PE

Offender Details

Full Name: _____

DOB/DL/CN: _____

Address of Consent Holder: _____

Postal service address for company: _____

Phone: _____

Consent number: _____

Bore or SWAP number: _____

File Checklist

This page ☐

Guidesheet ☐

File or field notes ☐

Abatement Notice ☐

Copy of PE ☐

Offence Details

Date abatement notice issued: _____

Date abatement notice was posted/email: _____

Last date for compliance: _____

Date of non-compliance: _____

Date appeal period expires: _____

Was an appeal received Y ☐ N ☐ (Check with Legal section)

Offence Summary RMA Section 338(1) (c)

You have contravened an abatement notice issued by the Canterbury Regional Council on
 in that you did not

☐ install a water measuring device ☐ Install a recording device

☐ carry out a verification test ☐ submit a copy of a verification test certificate

by the date required in the abatement notice being

Location of offence: _____

Evidence

☐ Photographs ☐ Site visit/observation ☐ Admission of non-compliance (file note)

☐ GPS of well ☐ Abatement notice

Infringing Officer Name: Signed: Date:

Principal Advisor Name: Signed: Date:

Regional Manager/Leader: Signed: Date:

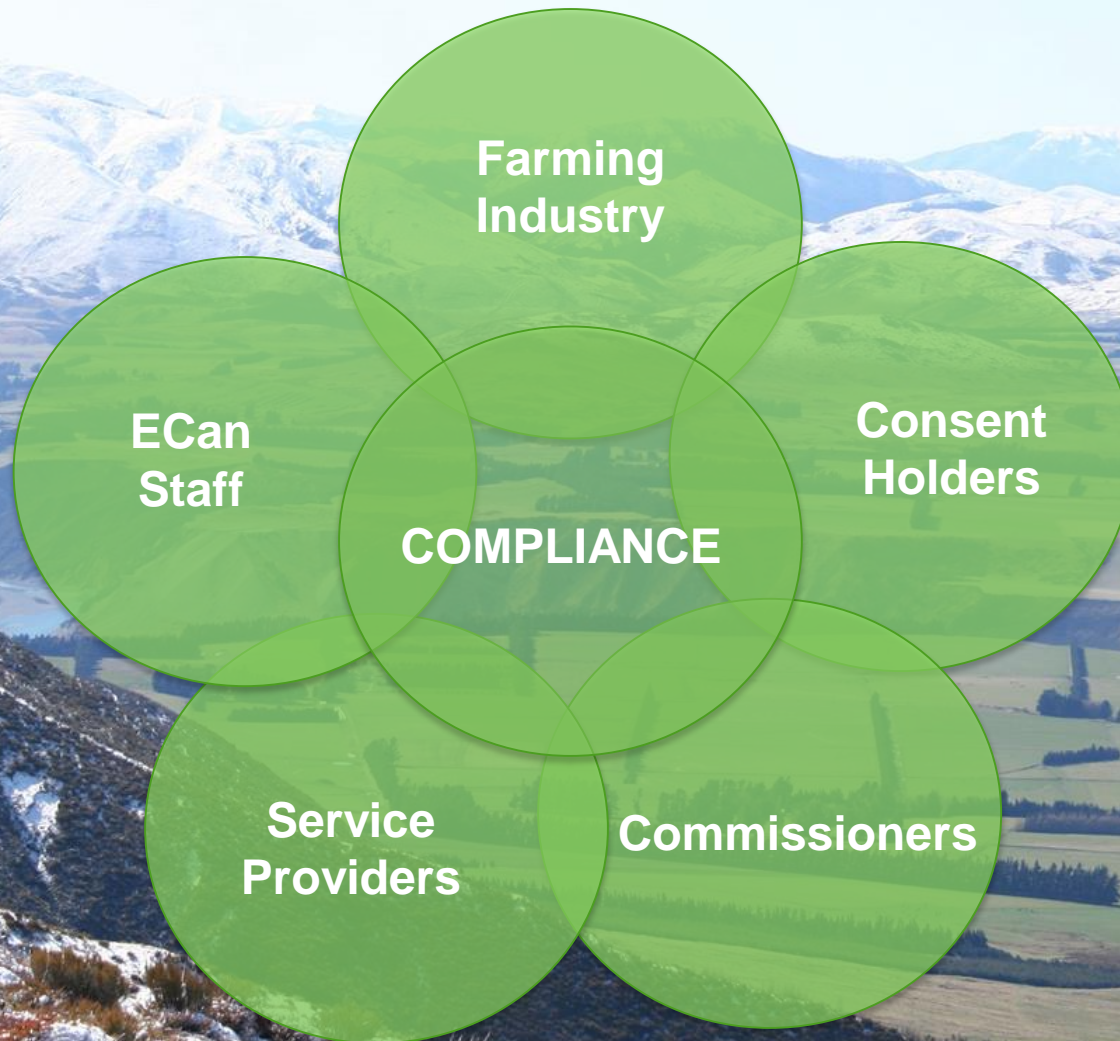
Infringements

- Lawyer checked and approved
- Enforcement Decision Panel did not have to physically sit
- Sped up process

Successes

- Management enabled many staff to work on the project
- Zone committee, Commissioners and CEO all on board gave greater impetus to the project
- Now have full compliance or agreed action plan in place
- Spotlight from interest groups

Whanaungatanga (collaboration)



Challenges

- Many different databases to deal with
- Inaccurate database and reporting
- Consent holders not updating their information
- Service providers not sending correct or timely information
- Delivering project via a “virtual team”

Media – help or hindrance

- Forest and Bird LGOIMAs prompted more urgent action
- Constant LGOIMAs - Communication team posted regular update on website
- Fish and Game and Forest and Bird applied pressure
- Published LGOIMA responses




Bill Bayfield Forest & Bird full interview



Bill Bayfield water meter full interview

YouTube clips for consent holders



RUTH SARSON
(Environment Canterbury Resource Management Officer)

0:08 / 1:37

What is a water meter and how does it work?

Environment Canterbury

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Published on Jul 26, 2016


Environment Canterbury Resource Management Officer, Ruth Sarson explains how a water meter works.

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Water Metering Compliance

Environment Canterbury • 1/5 videos

- 1 What is a water meter and how does it work? Environment Canterbury
- 2 Why is water metering important? Environment Canterbury
- 3 How does a water meter help farmers manage their water consumption? Environment Canterbury
- 4 Peter Townsend on the importance of water Environment Canterbury
- 5 Bill Bayfield water meter full interview Environment Canterbury



Lessons – consent holder ‘buy in’

- Info on website
- Produced factsheets
- “We’re all in this together” attitude
- Publishing of abatement notices created further desire to comply
- Public time line set by CEO
- Zone committees made project a priority
- Dedicated outreach team

Lessons – managing large working group

- 2 dedicated “RMO leaders” of project, Timaru and CHCH
- Most RMOs hands on deck! Plus extra temp staff, consents staff and implementation staff
- Each zone RMO given consents in their zone to deal with
- Start to finish approach
- New databases being built as we speak

Lessons - general

- Media can be used to our advantage
- Increased pressure from media, meant consent holders understood need for compliance
- 5-10 l/s coming on board in Nov 2016, so can take successes and challenges into account
- Many temporary waivers in place, can now apply better management of them
- Zone Committees needed to be on board

Success

“The water meter programme has been hugely successful. The uptake of this programme in Canterbury has been world-leading in terms of the number of installations and a sophisticated service industry that has developed alongside.”

- Bill Bayfield CEO, Environment Canterbury



Any questions?