

9.0 MONITORING

9.1 Procedures to Monitor and Review this Plan

In accordance with Section 79 of the Resource Management Act, a full review of this Plan is required to commence no later than 10 years after it becomes operative. There is also provision for a review of the Plan within this ten year period if required either by the ARC, or by any other person. Similarly, Section 35 of the Act requires that the ARC gather such information as is necessary to carry out effectively its functions.

The monitoring which the ARC will carry out is outlined below.

9.1.1 *Compliance Monitoring*

All farm dairy washwater treatment and disposal systems will be monitored at least annually. The ARC will maintain a computer database of the information received. ARC staff will make return visits to farms where non-compliance is recorded. The costs of follow up compliance monitoring or visit(s) in relation to a valid complaint will be borne by the consent holder or permitted activity holder.

9.1.2 *System Monitoring*

The performance of washwater disposal/treatment systems will be monitored through the analysis of compliance data. The consent holder may be required to undertake treatment system performance monitoring in special circumstances, for example, where a disposal system is a discretionary activity and the ARC considers that significant environmental impacts may occur if the system is not operated correctly.

Non-compliance with conditions of resource consents will initially result in a visit by an ARC officer. If there is further on-going non-compliance, enforcement action could result. The costs of such visits by ARC officers, or of visits in relation to a valid complaint will be borne by the consent holder, or permitted activity holder, rather than by ratepayers or operators in general. Where there is on-going non-compliance with conditions for a permitted activity, the discharge from the treatment/disposal system may need to be authorised by a resource consent.

9.1.3 *Environmental Monitoring*

The monitoring of effects on specific receiving environments may be undertaken periodically by the ARC in order to assess the effectiveness of a particular treatment/disposal system. In special circumstances, environmental monitoring by the consent holder may be required, if in the opinion of the ARC, significant impacts on receiving water might result from the discharge. Self-monitoring conditions, if imposed, would take into account the practicalities of such monitoring.

The ARC's long term baseline monitoring programme will continue to monitor water quality in the Auckland region and the results will to some degree reflect the performance of treatment systems on a catchment-wide basis, although results can not be extrapolated to the performance of individual systems.

The above monitoring will help ensure that the objectives, policies and rules in this Plan are achieved and will help formulate future management decisions. It is expected that such monitoring will enable the ARC to further understand the extent and effects of farm dairy discharges and evaluate the effectiveness of current methods. This information will be used to update and change consent conditions as appropriate.

If the above monitoring shows provisions of the Plan are not adequately achieving the objectives, the appropriate parts of the Plan will be reassessed and may be reviewed through the relevant procedures of the Act.