

# Sand Quarries Audit Campaign - Factsheet

February 2016

## What is a sand quarry?

Sand quarries are an extractive industry that excavate or dredge sand from the ground.

## What is a compliance audit?

A compliance audit is a regulatory tool that involves assessing companies adherence to the conditions of approval for a quarry.

Compliance audits:

- are carried out independently from day-to-day regulation of the subject,
- use systematic, repeatable methodology to reach a conclusion, and
- publicly report the outcome of the audit program.

## Why did DP&E audit sand quarries?

Sand quarries provide a critical resource, particularly to the construction industry, with demand continuing to increase as Sydney and the far north coast's population expands and infrastructure is developed. It is important however, that the community has confidence these quarries are operating in accordance with their project approval conditions.

## Why do some quarries have council approval and others have State Significant Development approval?

Some types of development are deemed to have State significance due to the size, economic value or potential impacts that a development may have.

Development that is State Significant Development (SSD) is identified in the [State and Regional Development SEPP](#). A development proposal for a sand quarry is considered SSD if it:

- extracts more than 500,000 tonnes of extractive materials per year, or
- extracts more than 5 million tonnes of sand over the duration of operations, or
- extracts from an environmentally sensitive area of State significance, or
- has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million.

## How many sand quarries have State Significant Development Approval, as at February 2016?

There are currently 28 approved SSD sand quarries in NSW, and these quarries are either operating or yet to commence operating. There are a further 9 SSD sand quarries that are currently being assessed for approval.

## Which quarries were audited as part of DPE 2015 sand quarries campaign?

The sand quarries audit reviewed compliance of a representative sample (19 in total) of state approved sand quarries against their project approval conditions. These quarries were selected as potentially critical resource quarries that were in operational phase or close to commencement of operations.

## When was the audit campaign undertaken?

A sand quarries audit campaign was undertaken by the Compliance Unit of the Department of Planning and Environment, with site inspections completed between May and August 2015.

### What did the audit campaign find?

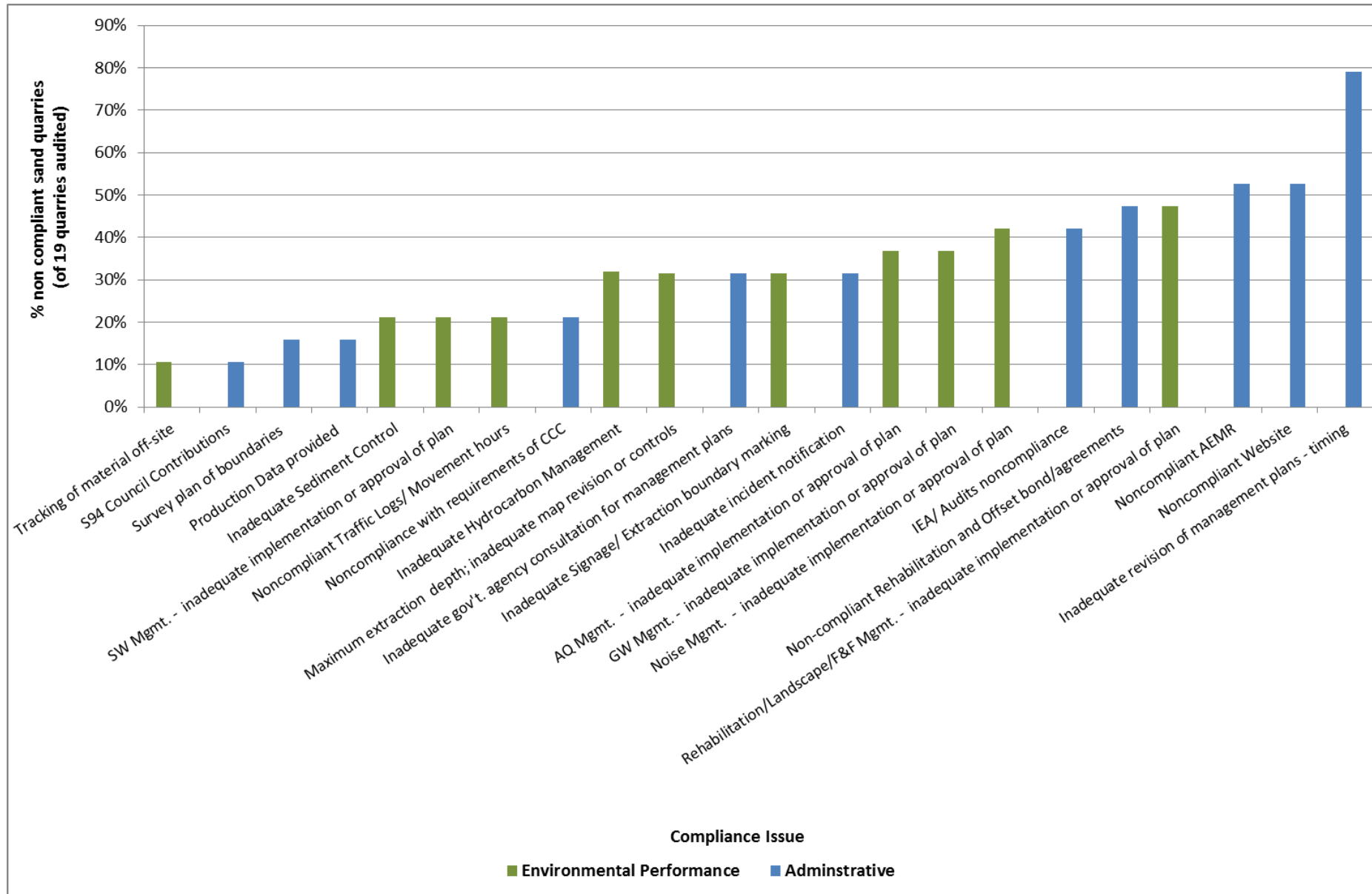
The audit findings are based on evidence gained during the review of all relevant documentation, site inspections of the 19 sand quarries, interviews with various operators' employees and contractors, data collection and verification.

Overall, the sand quarries audited were found to be generally operating at a high level of compliance with their conditions or commitments. The audits of the 19 sand quarries identified a 92% compliance with approval conditions. A summary of audit results for the project approval conditions are provided in the table below. The most common non-compliances being:

- inadequate revision and implementation of management plans, such as groundwater and land management plans;
- non-compliant reporting requirements, such as Annual Reviews and websites; and
- implementation of adequate controls to manage extraction depth, which relates to conditions to ensure the groundwater table is not impacted.

### What happens next?

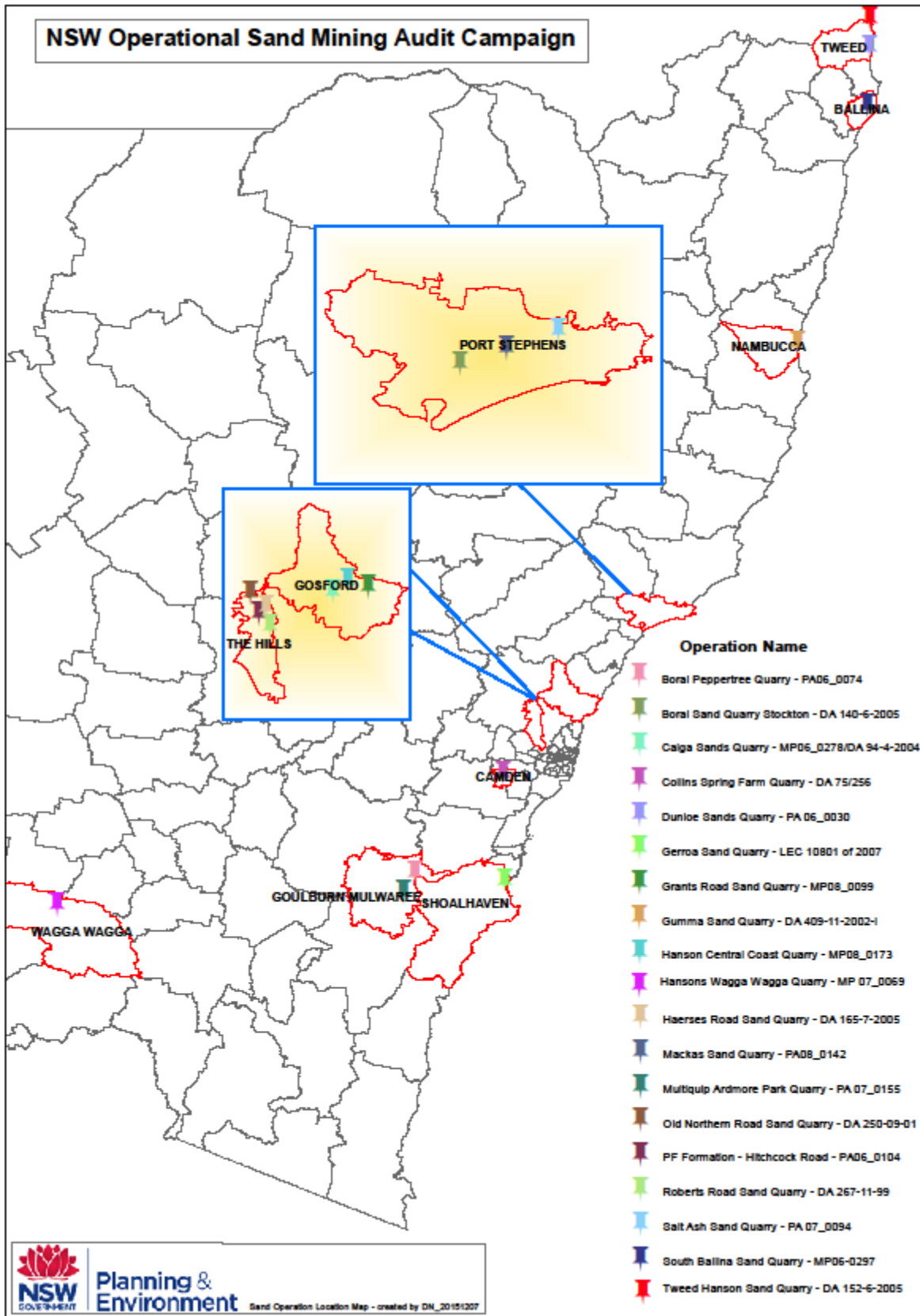
Each of the audited quarry operators will implement an action plan to address the non-compliances and post audit actions identified by this campaign. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment will follow up with each quarry on a regular basis to ensure agreed action plans are being implemented. Progress on actions will be reported in the quarries' respective annual reviews or annual environmental management reports (AEMRs).



**Table 1: Summary of Non-compliances against approval conditions**

Mine	Approval	Potentially High Risk Non Compliance	Moderate Risk Non Compliance	Low Risk Non-Compliance	Administrative Non-Compliance	Total number of approval conditions assessed
Boral Peppertree Quarry	PA 06_0074	0	0	2	6	169
Boral Sand Quarry Stockton	DA140-6-2005	0	4	2	10	102
Calga Sands Quarry	MP06_0278 DA 94-4-2004	0	2	2	13	163
Collins Spring Farm Quarry	DA 75/256	0	5	1	11	110
Dunloe Sands Quarry	PA06_0030	0	1	8	9	163
Gerroa Sand Quarry	LEC 10801 of 2007	0	0	2	12	221
Grants Rd Sand Quarry	MP08_0099	0	0	0	5	168
Gumma Sand Quarry	DA 409-11-2002i	0	6	8	2	79
Hanson Central Coast Quarry	MP08_0173	0	1	0	4	212
Hanson Wagga Wagga Quarry	MP 07_0069	0	0	0	6	155
Haerses Road Sand Quarry	DA 165-7-2005	0	0	3	15	165
Mackas Sand Quarry	PA08_0142	2	5	2	5	186
Multiquip Ardmore Park Quarry	PA07_0155	0	3	1	8	131
Dixon Sands Old Northern Road Sand Quarry	DA 250-09-01	0	3	12	23	302
PF Formation Hitchcock Rd	PA 06_0104	0	0	7	15	163
Roberts Road Sand Quarry	DA267-11-99	0	0	9	11	140
Salt Ash Sand Quarry	PA 07_0094	0	3	2	9	185
South Ballina Sand Quarry	MP06_0297	0	0	5	9	129
Tweed Hanson Sand Quarry	DA 152-6-2005	0	0	2	16	178

# NSW Operational Sand Mining Audit Campaign



Planning & Environment

Sand Operation Location Map - created by DN\_20151207