

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

March 2011

SINGLETON OFFICE

ACTIVITY TYPE	MONTHLY TOTAL	2010-11 TOTAL
Audits	0	1
Inspections	19	88
Meetings	19	57
Surveillances	5	17
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	43	163
Negotiated outcomes	0	4
Advisory letters	4	12
Warning letters	4	5
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	1
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	0	0
Penalty Notices	1	2
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	9	24
Complaints received	17	95

HEAD OFFICE

Audits	0	8
Inspections	5	41
Meetings	3	11
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	8	60
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	0	7
Warning letters	0	16
Enforceable undertakings	0	1
Notices to produce information and records	2	5
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	1	1
Penalty Notices	0	1
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecution	0	1
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	3	32

JINDABYNE OFFICE

Audits	0	3
Inspections	9	16
Meetings	0	2

<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	9	21*
Negotiated outcomes	0	1
Advisory letters	2	2
Warning letters	0	0
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	0	2
Penalty Notices	0	0
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	2	5*
TOTAL ACTIONS		
Compliance monitoring	60	244
Enforcement	14	61

* Jindabyne office currently doesn't have 2010-11 figures before December 2010.

SINGLETON OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Investigation of a blast fume incident

- On March 15, the Singleton office received five complaints about fume from a blast at the Hunter Valley Operations coal mine. An investigation commenced immediately, with a visit to the mine site the next day. The Department found a number of drill holes containing explosives had flooded after heavy overnight rainfall, and the blast had been fired for safety reasons and to avoid additional fume.
- The mine's approval includes a condition to implement best practice to minimise fume, and the investigation by the Singleton office will focus on whether the blast complied with this condition. The Department is continuing its investigation.

Fine issued for noise exceedance

- The operator of the Mt Owen Complex (Ravensworth East pit) was fined \$3000 for a noise exceedance, recorded around 12.40pm on March 11. The blast recorded 129.9dBL and exceeded the 120dBL noise limit at three blast monitors at Camberwell Village, Camberwell Church and the Green Acres property.
- The Department was notified of the incident by the mine and did not receive any public complaints. The mine's consent allows 5 per cent of blasts to exceed 115dBL, but none are permitted to exceed 120dBL. The mine operator had previously been advised to check blast designs after a separate ground vibration incident in December.

Dust emissions lead to equipment shut down

- Significant dust was observed flowing out of a mine south of Muswellbrook at 3.30pm on March 4 and the Department conducted an on-the-spot inspection. Dust was found coming from bulldozers and trucks loading, dumping and travelling on haulage roads and the offending machinery was stood down.
- The mine did not appear to be carrying out visual checks of dust and regularly assessing weather conditions, as required by its consent, and a formal warning letter was issued by the Department.
- No dust issues were observed during a subsequent inspection the following week.

Noise and dust issues at Warkworth mine

- Residents have raised concerns about noise and dust at the northern end of the Warkworth mine. The Department is working with the mine's operator to ensure adequate monitoring is implemented.
- The mine operator has committed to aerial seeding of a significant portion of bare ground over the Mt Thorley-Warkworth mine site during autumn to minimise dust. Successful germination of the seed will depend on adequate rainfall, but the same technique had some success at a Muswellbrook mine last year.

HEAD OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- An inspection and subsequent investigation of a residential and child care development at Warriewood found the proponent had not complied with a number of conditions of approval, required to be met before work commenced on site or a construction certificate was issued. The Department issued an order to rectify these matters, which were subsequently addressed to the Department's satisfaction.
- Three inspections were conducted of a construction site at Ryde in response to complaints received from nearby residents about dust and a material stockpile. The inspections found the development was generally being constructed in accordance with its conditions of approval.

JINDABYNE OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- An environmental compliance inspection was conducted at Smiggin Holes to ensure appropriate environmental controls were in place during the removal of a redundant fuel tank.
- The Department provided development consent advice to the owner of a commercial premises in Thredbo and fire safety and Building Code of Australia advice to the owner of a ski lodge in Guthega.
- The Department carried out two construction inspections at ski lodges in Thredbo and one construction inspection at a ski lodge in Smiggin Holes as a Principal Certifying Authority.
- Two ski lodges in Perisher Valley were inspected and letters were sent confirming that building upgrade works had been completed to a satisfactory level of compliance.
- Two ski lodges in Charlotte Pass and one ski lodge in Perisher Valley were inspected to ensure compliance of ongoing fire safety and Building Code of Australia works.