

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

February 2011

SINGLETON OFFICE

ACTIVITY TYPE	MONTHLY TOTAL	2010-11 TOTAL
Audits	0	1
Inspections	12	69
Meetings	10	38
Surveillances	12	12
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	34	120
Negotiated outcomes	0	4
Advisory letters	4	8
Warning letters	1	1
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	1
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	0	0
Penalty Notices	0	1
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	5	15
Complaints received	21	78

HEAD OFFICE

Audits	0	8
Inspections	4	36
Meetings	0	8
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	4	52
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	1	7
Warning letters	1	16
Enforceable undertakings	0	1
Notices to produce information and records	1	3
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	0	0
Penalty Notices	0	1
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecution	0	1
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	3	29

JINDABYNE OFFICE

Audits	0	3
Inspections	3	7
Meetings	0	2

<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	3	12*
Negotiated outcomes	1	1
Advisory letters	0	0
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>	1	3*
TOTAL ACTIONS		
Compliance monitoring	41	184
Enforcement	9	47

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

SINGLETON OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Wambo Homestead

- Staff from the Singleton office are continuing to work with Wambo mine regarding the management of the Wambo Homestead and surrounding structures. The voluntary action plan provided by Wambo listed a number of activities to be completed by the end of February and all had been completed when the homestead was inspected on February 16. This included removing vegetation near the homestead and outbuildings, improving safety for visitors, and sourcing a shipping container to store relics out of the weather.
- Work has commenced on termite control, with 90 termite baits installed. A study is underway to determine if there is any structural termite damage to the buildings and if repairs are required.
- Investigations into improving the stability and weather protection for the homestead and surrounding structures, which will inform the upgrade works, are due to occur in the coming months.
- The next Wambo Homestead inspection is due in April, and it is expected the voluntary action plan will be largely completed by then.

Surveillance and mine site inspections

- Inspections for dust in the open cut coal mines are continuing. During February, compliance officers started conducting regular surveillance inspections which involved driving past the mines or observing them from a location off-site. A total of 12 surveillance inspections were conducted for the month and where dust was observed, the officers conducted an on-site mine inspection, without notice, to determine the source of dust.
- As a result of surveillance activities, the compliance officers conducted three individual mine site inspections. One site was required to shut down equipment, water carts were required to be re-allocated at another site and the third site was found to be satisfactory with no breaches in relation to dust levels.
- A further nine scheduled mine site inspections were conducted in relation to blasting, dust, water run-off and noise. A follow-up inspection where a haulage road had been contributing to dirty water run-off observed some improvements, and the officers will follow up that further improvements are made. Another inspection in response to a noise complaint found unacceptable noise levels and the mine operator was required to relocate noisy machinery away from a neighbouring property.

Bulga blast

- The operators of the Bulga mine notified the Department about a blast on February 8, and a resident lodged a complaint with the Department about a further blast on February 14. The Department's compliance officers investigated both blasts and were satisfied that on each occasion the blasts appeared to be carried out in accordance with relevant conditions. The Department is working further with the mine to reduce fume associated with blasts.
- Compliance officers observed a blast at Bulga mine on February 16 and observed minimal fume, which was contained within the mining area.
- The Department continues to work with Xstrata and other coal mining companies to minimise blast fumes. Through the preparation of the NSW Coal and Gas Strategy, the NSW Government is also investigating the need for additional regulatory and management practices, including to minimise fumes and their potential impacts.

BRIDGE ST OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Following an inspection in January of a regional shooting complex near Goulburn, a follow-up inspection was conducted in February to check on sediment and erosion controls at the construction site. Controls were found to have improved since the initial inspection.
- An inspection of a sand quarry on the South Coast found the quarry's operations to be complying with its development approval.
- A waste facility in western Sydney was inspected following complaints from the public alleging night-time construction activities and the Department's compliance unit is continuing to monitor the facility's operations.

JINDABYNE OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- 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.
- An environmental compliance inspection was conducted at Mount Perisher, Perisher Valley to ensure appropriate environmental controls were in place while ski slope works were being undertaken.
- The Department and a developer reached a negotiated outcome, with the developer agreeing to cease operating a skating facility in Thredbo village for 14 days, so it can be determined if the facility requires development consent.