

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

July 2012

SINGLETON OFFICE

ACTIVITY TYPE	MONTHLY TOTAL	2012-13 TOTAL
Audits	0	0
Inspections	22	22
Meetings	24	24
Surveillances	15	15
Reviews of reports	4	4
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	65	65
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	13	13
Warning letters	1	1
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	0	0
Penalty Notices	1	1
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	15	15
Complaints received	40	40

HEAD OFFICE

Audits	1	1
Inspections	2	2
Meetings	6	6
Surveillances	1	1
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	10	10
Negotiated outcomes	1	1
Advisory letters	0	0
Warning letters	1	1
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	1	1
Penalty Notices	0	0
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecution	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	3	3

JINDABYNE OFFICE

Audits	0	0
Inspections	0	0
Meetings	0	0
Surveillances	0	0
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	0	0
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	3	3
Warning letters	0	0
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	0	0
Penalty Notices	0	0
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	3	3
TOTAL ACTIONS		
Compliance monitoring	75	75
Enforcement	21	21

SINGLETON OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Penalty notice issued to Integra Mine

- On 18 July, the department issued a \$3,000 penalty notice to the operator of the Integra mine, near Camberwell, for a blast which exceeded the relevant overpressure limits on 7 July.
- The blast was measured at 126.1 decibels at one monitor, exceeding the 120 decibel limit and resulting in one complaint.
- After a review of the incident in line with the department's compliance policy, and given a recent history of blasts exceeding the overpressure limit at Integra, the department issued the penalty notice.
- In response to the department's actions, Integra Coal has committed to measures to minimise the risk of further exceedances of blast overpressure limits, including to:
 - Ensure all exploratory or test holes are filled and closed off immediately after completion;
 - Conduct comprehensive checks in the field and review records to check for old drill holes prior to commencing the drill program for the blast;
 - Change sign-off procedures following loading of the explosive;
 - Improve processes to ensure better drilling rig accuracy; and
 - Improve notification to neighbours about blast times.

Complaints for blasting and noise

- The Singleton office received 40 complaints regarding compliance issues during July. These included 23 for noise, four for dust, nine for blasting and four for other compliance matters.
- The department has contacted relevant mines in relation to these complaints. Investigations into a number of complaints are ongoing, while a penalty notice was issued in response to one complaint (see above).

- A large number of the complaints continue to relate to Mt Thorley-Warkworth mine, which was the subject of an independent review for noise earlier this year. However, the proportion of complaints for this mine dropped significantly during July.

HEAD OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Compliance audits of wind farms

- On 16 July the compliance audit of Capital Wind Farm in southern NSW commenced with the installation of noise monitoring equipment that was relocated after a four-week audit at Woodlawn Wind Farm. Noise monitoring at Capital Wind Farm will be completed in mid-August.
- On five occasions during July, department officers visited residents in the vicinity of Woodlawn and Capital wind farms who had requested to speak with the auditors.
- Further information on the wind farm audits is available on the department's website.

Illawarra International Health Precinct

- The department approved a number of documents for the Illawarra International Health Precinct on 25 July, which included a Soil and Water Management Plan and geotechnical methodology.
- Orders made by the Land and Environment Court in May 2012 required the proponent, La Vie Developments, to obtain the department's approval for these documents before commencing the relocation and removal of soil and rock stockpiled on the development site at Penrose, near West Dapto.
- Relocation of the acoustic mound and rock wall, as well as the removal of 50 per cent of the stockpiled material, has now commenced.

Order regarding archaeological disturbance at Wollie Creek

- The department received information in June alleging that archaeological remains had been disturbed during excavation for a commercial development in Sydney's south.
- After an investigation into the claims, the department served an Order on the developer on 30 July to cease development works in the area and investigate the heritage items in accordance with NSW Heritage Office requirements.
- In response, the proponent ceased work and carried out archaeological investigations. The department is reviewing a preliminary report on the findings of these investigations.

Stockpile amenity issues at Sydney rail facility

- The department and local council received complaints about a stockpile of soil and rock left on-site after the completion of Stage 1 of the rail facility.
- Whilst the department's investigation found no breach in respect of the stockpile, it concluded that the stockpile presented unacceptable visual amenity issues for nearby residents.
- On 5 July the department, council and the developer negotiated an agreement to re-contour the stockpile to reduce its height and improve visual amenity.

Disclosure of political donations

- After investigations by the department, a coal mining company was issued with a warning letter on 5 July for one non-disclosure of reportable political donations and three late disclosures.
- Proponents lodging planning applications with the department or Minister are required to disclose any reportable political donations made within the two years prior to the application being made, and up until the application is determined, by persons with a financial interest in the application.

JINDABYNE OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- The department sent letters to two ski lodge lessees in Smiggin Holes and Perisher Valley to advise that fire upgrade works and building audit works had been completed satisfactorily.
- A sub-lessee of a Thredbo ski lodge was notified that works associated with two orders issued by the department in October 2011 had been completed satisfactorily.