

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

May 2012

SINGLETON OFFICE

ACTIVITY TYPE	MONTHLY TOTAL	2011-12 TOTAL
Audits	0	0
Inspections	19	155
Meetings	18	170
Surveillances	13	98
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	50	423
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	6	60
Warning letters	0	12
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Draft orders	0	1
Orders	0	3
Penalty Notices	1	6
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	7	82
Complaints received	32	271

HEAD OFFICE

Audits	1	2
Inspections	2	39
Meetings	1	22
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	4	63
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	1	11
Warning letters	1	10
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	1
Draft orders	0	3
Orders	0	0
Penalty Notices	0	7
Court Orders	1	1
Prosecution	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	3	33

JINDABYNE OFFICE

Audits	0	1
Inspections	0	8
Meetings	0	0

<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	0	9
Negotiated outcomes	0	3
Advisory letters	0	2
Warning letters	0	0
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	3	14
Penalty Notices	0	3
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	3	22
TOTAL ACTIONS		
Compliance monitoring	54	495
Enforcement	13	137

SINGLETON OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Annual environmental management report inspections

- The department reviews the annual environmental management reports prepared by all mines in the Upper Hunter to report on production, environment and community matters. Mining companies are required to make the reports available on their websites.
- During May, the department conducted six mine meetings and site inspections to verify each mine's performance against its report for the last 12 months.
- Four of the six inspections were jointly conducted with the Division of Resources and Energy, which reviews mine performance under the environmental provisions of the Mining Act.

Penalty notice for dust emissions

- The operator of the Mt Thorley-Warkworth Mine was issued with a penalty notice on 18 May for \$3,000 for a breach of its consent conditions, which require the mine to implement measures to minimise the emission of dust.
- The penalty notice was issued following an investigation by the department into significant dust emissions from the Mt Thorley-Warkworth mine, near Singleton, on Sunday 13 May. The department found that the mine had failed to minimise offsite dust emissions on that day and had not suspended or modified operations. (*See media release issued 23 May 2012.*)

Management of blast fume from Mt Thorley-Warkworth Mine

- On 10 May, the department checked on the progress of Mt Thorley-Warkworth Mine in establishing the cause of three previous fume events on 2 March, 4 April and 11 April 2012. This followed an earlier meeting in April and a request for the mine to develop a Blast Fume Protocol to minimise the risk of fume.
- The mine advised that a number of changes have been made and there have been no further fume events.
- Meanwhile, the department's compliance unit and NSW Minerals Council organised a fume workshop for Upper Hunter coal mines for June to discuss management of blast fume.

Complaints for blasting and noise

- The Singleton office received 32 complaints regarding compliance issues during May. These included 18 for noise, three for dust, 10 for blasting and one in relation to a recent independent review for noise.
- The department has contacted relevant mines in relation to these complaints. Investigations into a number of complaints are ongoing and any action arising from them will be reported in future monthly reports.

HEAD OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Illawarra International Health Precinct court orders

- On 4 May the Land and Environment Court made orders in respect of the Illawarra International Health Precinct development at Penrose, near West Dapto, as a result of enforcement proceedings brought by the department. *(See April compliance report)*
- On 11 May the department inspected the site to check on required drainage works. The inspection found the erosion and sediment controls and site drainage had significantly improved since the previous inspection in March.

Compliance audit of Cullerin Range Wind Farm

- On-site compliance auditing of three southern NSW wind farms has commenced with the installation of five noise monitors on 21 May at Cullerin Range Wind Farm.
- The noise monitors will remain in place at Cullerin Range, west of Goulburn, for four weeks. They will then be relocated to Woodlawn Wind Farm, and finally to Capital Wind Farm.
- Information on the wind farm audit project is available on the department's website.

JINDABYNE OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Three orders were issued in relation to two ski lodge buildings in the alpine region during May.
- These included two orders requiring fire safety upgrades to be completed and one order requiring minor structural repairs to be undertaken.