

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

February 2012

SINGLETON OFFICE

ACTIVITY TYPE	MONTHLY TOTAL	2011-12 TOTAL
Audits	0	0
Inspections	10	115
Meetings	17	117
Surveillances	5	69
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	32	301
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	4	44
Warning letters	1	12
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Draft orders	0	1
Orders	0	3
Penalty Notices	2	5
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	7	65
Complaints received	36	164

HEAD OFFICE

Audits	0	1
Inspections	2	30
Meetings	1	15
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	3	46
Negotiated outcomes	0	0
Advisory letters	4	10
Warning letters	0	9
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	1	1
Draft orders	0	2
Orders	0	0
Penalty Notices	0	7
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecution	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	5	29

JINDABYNE OFFICE

Audits	0	1
Inspections	1	6
Meetings	0	0

<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	1	7
Negotiated outcomes	0	1
Advisory letters	0	1
Warning letters	0	0
Enforceable undertakings	0	0
Notices to produce information and records	0	0
Draft orders	0	0
Orders	0	7
Penalty Notices	0	3
Court Orders	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	0	12
TOTAL ACTIONS		
Compliance monitoring	36	354
Enforcement	12	106

SINGLETON OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Penalty infringement notice issued to the Integra mine

- On 24 February, the department issued a \$3,000 penalty notice to the operator of the Integra mine, near Camberwell, for generating excessive dust in the western extension of the south pit.
- The fine was in response to an incident on 18 January where the department observed the mine pushing soil over the western highwall (pictured), allowing it to fall some 100 metres to the floor below. This produced excessive dust which could be seen leaving the mine site.
- The incident was reviewed in accordance with the department's Compliance Policy, and as the mine had previously been issued with a warning to minimise dust after a similar incident in October 2011, the fine was issued.
- Integra Coal has subsequently committed to actions to prevent future dust incidents, including removing the sources of dust where practical, providing an additional in-pit water fill point, wetting down work areas during meal breaks and watering down proposed blasting areas prior to loading explosives.



Dust and noise management at Mt Thorley-Warkworth mine

- The department's compliance officers inspected the Mt Thorley-Warkworth mine in February and held the first in a series of meetings with the mine operator to identify what operational changes are needed to comply with the recent approval of the Warkworth Expansion Project, granted by the Planning Assessment Commission on 3 February 2012.
- In particular, the approval updates the requirements for dust and noise management.
- The department will be holding further meetings with the mine operator on implementation of measures required by the new approval.

Complaints for blasting and noise

- The Singleton office received 36 complaints regarding compliance issues during February. These included 28 for noise, two for dust, four for blasting and two for compliance with other conditions (lighting and clarification of approval requirements).
- Of the 28 noise complaints, 19 were from Bulga residents about noise from Mt Thorley-Warkworth mine. An independent review into noise impacts from these mines is underway and the complaints were referred to the review for consideration. The review is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2012.

HEAD OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Penalty infringement for coal mine in Central West

- On 24 February, the department issued a \$3,000 penalty notice to the operator of the Wilpinjong coal mine, near Mudgee, for disturbing a known Aboriginal archaeological site.
- The penalty followed an incident during December 2011 where a site known to contain Aboriginal relics was disturbed during construction of a new haul road.
- The mine's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan outlines the identification and salvage processes to be adhered to prior to the disturbance of a known site. The department investigated the incident and found these processes were not followed.
- Wilpinjong Coal has subsequently committed to implement measures including reviewing and updating the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Illawarra International Health Precinct inspection

- The department inspected the construction site for the Illawarra International Health Precinct, near Dapto, to ensure appropriate controls were in place during the development of sedimentation basins on site.
- The department found sedimentation controls were in place.

Timber mill noise concerns

- The department and representatives from the Environment Protection Authority met with the operator of a timber mill in southern NSW during February to discuss ongoing noise concerns.
- The proponent had previously responded on the noise issues and has now provided a commitment to address the ongoing noise concerns.

Sediment complaints over inner-city construction project

- The department inspected a city construction site in response to complaints about sediment control and hours of work.
- Sediment controls were found to be adequate during the inspection, while the proponent has advised the department that it is operating within approved hours.

JINDABYNE OFFICE - KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Order to require fire upgrade works to Thredbo ski lodge

- The sub-lessee of a ski lodge in Thredbo approached the department in December 2011 in relation to fire safety upgrades and the sub-lessee has submitted a Fire Upgrade Strategy, proposing work throughout the building.
- On 15 February 2012, an Order was issued to undertake works in accordance with the report and requiring the works to be completed by 1 June 2013.

Fire safety inspection at Thredbo

- During February, the department conducted an inspection of a ski lodge in Thredbo to ensure compliance with an Order requiring fire upgrade works.
- The department was satisfied that all works had been satisfactorily completed.