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Miners fined over environmental breaches

The Department of Planning and Environment has fined two mine operators in the State's north-west for breaching their approval conditions.

Idemitsu and Whitehaven Coal have each been fined for breaches occurring at their Boggabri, Tarrawonga and Maules Creek mines.

The breaches of the mines' conditions involved:

- Unauthorised clearing and failure to notify in accordance with conditions at Boggabri Mine (Idemitsu issued with two fines)
- Failing to carry out weed control around Tarrawonga Mine (Whitehaven issued with one fine)
- Failing to carry out feral animal control at Maules Creek Mine (Whitehaven issued with one fine).

The four fines total \$12,000 and carry directions to rectify the breaches. Further action will be taken if the breaches are not rectified.

The NSW Government recently strengthened penalties for this kind of environmental breach, but the breaches occurred before that new law took effect.

“Under the new rules, these breaches would have attracted fines of \$60,000 in total, the most severe penalties for these types of infractions in the country,” the spokesperson said.

“We have also doubled the number of compliance officers to ensure that mines are doing the right thing.”

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