Thursday, 17 December 2015

**Compliance officers inspect mines in the Southern Tablelands region**

The Department of Planning and Environment Compliance Officers inspected two quarries in the Southern Tablelands region in November 2015 to ensure that they were meeting the conditions of their approval.

The Department has doubled the number of compliance officers in the field across NSW to monitor and enforce the conditions placed on State significant development such as mining.

“Our Compliance Officers conduct spot checks without warning, regular inspections and audits as well as work with companies and communities to ensure that companies are sticking to the rules,” a spokesperson for the Department said.

The Department can issue the highest on-the-spot fines in the country for breaches of conditions.

Companies can also be prosecuted in court for breaching conditions, with the most severe breaches attracting fines of up to $5 million.

Quarries inspected by the Compliance Officers were Ardmore Park Quarry within the Goulburn-Mulwaree area and Barina Hard Rock Quarry within the Upper Lachlan Shire area.

The Department Compliance Officers also inspect industry and infrastructure projects. Last month they inspected the Googong Water Cycle Project within the Queanbeyan and Palerang areas.

The Department gave a presentation to the NSW Roads and Maritime Services at their annual environment forum on 30 November 2015.

“RMS is the applicant for various major infrastructure projects across the state, the spokesperson said.

“The forum provided an opportunity for the Department to promote its strengthened compliance, monitoring and complaints management processes.”


**Department of Planning and Environment media contact:** (02) 9228 6128