



COMPLIANCE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2014

The Department of Planning and Environment's Compliance team works in communities across NSW to ensure projects, such as mines, industrial sites, major developments and infrastructure, are meeting the strict conditions included in their approvals.

The team works closely with the community, local councils and other state and federal government agencies to investigate potential breaches and carry out enforcement where necessary. Information from community members is an important way the team learns about issues to investigate. Enforcement can range from negotiating fixes, issuing penalty notices and in serious cases, criminal prosecutions.

Below is a snapshot of some of the team's activity in September.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

- **Northern Tablelands and Central West**

Community engagement

- The Department's Compliance team met with the following community stakeholders:
 - Gunnedah Shire and Narrabri Shire councillors to provide an overview of compliance functions in the region
 - Three local landholders near Boggabri to discuss nearby mining operations
 - Attended the community consultative committee meetings at the Wilpinjong and Ulan mines to introduce compliance staff and gain a better understanding of community issues.

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Hunter Valley**

Stormwater management inspection

- After recent heavy rain, the Department's Compliance team inspected the Integra Coal Mine near Singleton to check how stormwater management systems were performing. As the mine is not operating, the team was concerned these systems might not be checked frequently enough by mine staff, however no issues were found.

PROTECTING WHERE YOU LIVE

- **Northern Tablelands and Hunter Valley**

Coal mine inspections

- The Department Compliance team conducted twenty coal mine inspections, eight of which were unannounced, to confirm the mines were meeting their conditions of approval:
 - Rocglen Mine (near Gunnedah)
 - Tarrawonga Mine (near Boggabri)
 - Boggabri Coal Mine (near Boggabri)
 - Ulan Coal Mine (near Mudgee)
 - Moolarben Coal (near Mudgee)
 - Duralie Coal (near Mudgee)
 - Mount Arthur Coal (near Muswellbrook)
 - Drayton Mine (near Muswellbrook)
 - Mount Owen Complex (near Muswellbrook)
 - Bulga Coal (near Singleton)
 - Bengalla (near Muswellbrook)

- Rix's Creek (near Singleton)
 - Integra Coal Mine (near Singleton)
 - Mt Thorley – Warkworth (near Singleton)
 - Dartbrook (near Muswellbrook)
- The only compliance issue was at the Bulga mine where part of a coal stockpile was found to have spontaneously combusted. The Department issued a directive to the mine to make its coal storage management practices safer and is working with the mine to ensure it complies.

- **Northern Tablelands and Hunter Valley**

- *Coal mine surveillance*

- The Department Compliance team carried out unannounced surveillance of the following coal mines to ensure they were meeting approval conditions:
 - Rix's Creek (near Singleton)
 - Integra Coal Mine (near Singleton)
 - Bengalla (near Muswellbrook)
 - Drayton Mine (near Muswellbrook)
 - Mount Owen Complex (near Muswellbrook)
 - Mt Thorley – Warkworth (near Singleton)
 - Tarrawonga Mine (near Boggabri)
 - Boggabri Coal Mine (near Boggabri)
 - Maules Creek (near Boggabri)
 - Liddell Coal (near Singleton)
 - Wambo Mine (near Singleton)
- No significant issues were observed.

- *Blast fume management strategy*

- Coal mines in the Gunnedah region have been asked to rate and record fumes generated by all mine blasts, as well as prepare a blast fume management strategy for the Department's approval. This follows the success of similar programs in the Hunter Valley, Mudgee and Gloucester regions.

- **Sydney**

- *Fines issued to Allied Mills, Picton*

- On 15 September two penalty notices with a total of \$6,000 in fines were issued to the Allied Mills food processing facility at Picton for failing to carry out heritage conservation work on a nearby scarred tree and for failing to review its Operational Environmental Management Plan, which is required by the project approval.

- *Epping to Thornleigh Third Track project inspection*

- The Department's compliance and infrastructure assessment teams inspected the Epping to Thornleigh Third Track (ETTT) project. Compliance checks were carried out at a number of locations including Beecroft, The Crescent, Cheltenham Station, the M2 crossing, Devlins Creek and Beecroft Road. Work observed included rock stripping, tunnel boring and work to preserve the original convict-built causeway over Devlins Creek.
- Dust, noise and vibration management practices were also observed and discussed on site. All dust emissions were being managed appropriately and contained within the site.

- *Fines issued to Redox industrial facility, Minto*

- On 15 September two penalty notices worth a total of \$6,000 in fines were issued to Redox regarding its Minto warehouse and distribution centre failing to comply with approval conditions by storing prohibited dangerous goods. The Department is continuing enforcement action to ensure no further offences occur.

COMPLIANCE COUNTER

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	SEPTEMBER	2013/14 TOTAL
Compliance audits conducted	0	1
Inspections and surveillance carried out	29	106
Compliance meetings held	37	129
Review of reports	50	191
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	116	427
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES		
Successful informal negotiation	2	9
Compliance advisory letters issued	33	93
Compliance warning letters issued	8	27
Orders imposed	0	1
Penalty notices and fines imposed	4	9
Prosecutions	0	2
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	47	141