

## **COMPLIANCE REPORT – OCTOBER 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 October.*

### **WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**

- **Coal mine inspections – Northern Tablelands and Hunter Valley**
  - The Department's Compliance team conducted seventeen coal mine inspections, seven of which were unannounced, to confirm the following mines were meeting their conditions of approval:
    - Sunnyside Mine (near Gunnedah)
    - Tarrawonga Mine (near Boggabri)
    - Boggabri Coal Mine (near Boggabri)
    - Maules Creek (near Boggabri)
    - Werris Creek (near Quirindi)
    - Narrabri Coal Mine (near Narrabri)
    - Wambo Mine (near Singleton)
    - Hunter Valley Operations (near Singleton)
    - Mount Owen Complex (near Muswellbrook)
    - Bulga Coal (near Singleton)
    - Bengalla (near Muswellbrook)
    - Moolarben (near Mudgee)
  - No significant issues were observed.
  
- **Coal mine remote surveillance – Northern Tablelands and Hunter Valley**
  - The Department's Compliance team carried out unannounced remote surveillance of eleven coal mines to ensure they were meeting approval conditions:
    - Rix's Creek (near Singleton)
    - Mt Thorley – Warkworth (near Singleton)
    - Tarrawonga Mine (near Boggabri)
    - Boggabri Coal Mine (near Boggabri)
    - Maules Creek (near Boggabri)
    - Liddell Coal (near Singleton)
    - Ravensworth (near Singleton)
    - Glendell (near Singleton)
    - Ulan (near Mudgee)
    - Wilpinjong (near Mudgee)
    - Moolarben (near Mudgee)
  - No significant issues were observed.

- **Fine issued to Maules Creek Coal Mine – Northern Tablelands**
  - A \$3000 penalty notice was issued to Maules Creek Coal Mine for failing to operate its community consultative committee according to the Department’s guidelines by not inviting or providing information about three consecutive meetings to Greening Australia, the committee’s environmental group.
  - Community consultative committees are a way for mines to work openly with the community, local councils and other groups on any issues around the mine’s operation and environmental performance.
  - The mine fully cooperated with the Department during the investigation and is working to replace Greening Australia as the committee’s environmental group following its resignation.

## PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Fine issued to Mount Owen Coal Mine – Hunter Valley**
  - A \$3000 penalty notice was issued to Mount Owen Coal Mine for allowing stored coal to heat up, smoulder and require watering. During watering coal and water overflowed onto Hebden Road (which was closed to traffic at the time) and into Yorks Creek.
  - The Department’s view is that the mine did not remove the coal from the transfer bin in a timely manner.
  - The mine fully cooperated with the Department during the investigation. Since the incident, the mine has remediated Yorks Creek and the shoulder of Hebden Road, and has put in place further controls to prevent a similar event reoccurring.

## PROTECTING WHERE YOU LIVE

- **Fine issued to Liddell Coal Mine – Hunter Valley**  
*Fine issued to Liddell Coal Mine*
  - A \$3,000 penalty notice was issued to Liddell Coal Mine for exceeding its approval’s blasting air pressure limits at the nearby state heritage listed Chain of Ponds Inn.
  - The mine fully cooperated with the Department during the investigation and subsequently changed how it manages blasts. Since the changes there have not been any other blasting compliance issues.

## COMPLIANCE COUNTER

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	OCTOBER	2013/14 TOTAL
Compliance audits conducted	1	3
Inspections and surveillance carried out	29	135
Compliance meetings held	40	169
Review of reports	49	240
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	119	547
<b>ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES</b>		
Successful informal negotiation		9
Compliance advisory letters issued	25	118
Compliance warning letters issued	4	31
Orders imposed	1	2
Penalty notices and fines imposed	4	13
Prosecutions	0	2
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	34	175