

COMPLIANCE REPORT – FEBRUARY 2015

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 February

PROTECTING WHERE YOU LIVE

- **Hunter Valley, North West and Central West**

Coal mine inspections

- The Department's Compliance team conducted 11 coal mine inspections to confirm the mines were meeting their approval conditions:
 - Aberdare East (near Cessnock)
 - Tarrawonga (near Gunnedah)
 - Mt Arthur (near Muswellbrook)
 - Bulga (near Singleton)
 - Boggabri (near Boggabri)
 - Narrabri (near Narrabri)
 - Werris Creek (near Tamworth)
 - Maules Creek (near Boggabri)
 - Willpinjong (near Mudgee)
 - Moolarben (near Mudgee)
 - Mt Thorley-Warkworth (near Singleton)
- No significant issues were observed.

- **North West and Central West**

Coal mine surveillance

- The Department Compliance team carried out unannounced surveillance of the following coal mines to ensure they were meeting their approval conditions:
 - Rocglen (near Gunnedah)
 - Moorlarben (near Mudgee)
- No significant issues were observed.

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND OUR HERITAGE

- **Hunter Valley**

Community concern regarding the management of Aboriginal heritage items

- The Department was contacted by members of the community who were concerned that earthwork being carried out as part of the Bulga coal mine extension near Singleton was affecting Aboriginal heritage artefacts that were not known to exist on the site.
- The mine extension's strict conditions of approval require the project to protect any previously unidentified Aboriginal heritage artefacts.
- In response, the Department's Compliance team asked the mine to stop work until the team was able to meet with members of the community on-site the next day to listen to their concerns in detail.

- The Compliance team carried out an investigation and found that artefacts on the site were being salvaged correctly and were in line with what previous heritage studies predicted would be on the site, which means they did not change the already established heritage significance of the site.
- The investigation also found that the artefacts were being salvaged in line with the project's approval and its approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
- The Compliance team reported its findings to the concerned community members and allowed the project team to continue the approved earthwork.

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

- **Greater Sydney**

- Community concern regarding major infrastructure project compliance*

- The Department has been contacted by members of the community who were concerned about traffic management around the Epping to Thornleigh Third Track rail project.
 - Minimising traffic impacts is one of the many conditions that the Department imposed on the project when it was approved.
 - In response, the Department's Compliance team carried out two rounds of unannounced surveillance to ensure the project was complying with traffic management conditions in its approval.
 - The surveillance found the project was complying with its traffic management requirements.
 - The Compliance team will carry out further random, unannounced surveillance as the project continues, to ensure traffic requirements continue to be met.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	February 2015	2014/2015 TOTAL
Compliance audits conducted	10	13
Inspections and surveillance carried out	28	183
Compliance meetings held	29	198
Review of reports	33	273
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	100	667
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES		
Successful informal negotiation	0	9
Compliance advisory letters issued	15	133
Compliance warning letters issued	0	31
Orders imposed	0	2
Penalty notices and fines imposed	0	17
Prosecutions	0	2
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	15	195