



COMPLIANCE REPORT – APRIL 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 April.

- **Greater Sydney**

- Epping to Thornleigh Third Track inspections*

- In 2015, the Department's compliance team has conducted six inspections of the rail infrastructure project, including four that were unannounced, to confirm construction activities were meeting their approval conditions.
- The team met with community members during a number of the project's key construction activities, including a rail possession in April.
- No significant issues were observed. The compliance team will continue to work with the community, the project team, the local council and other regulators to monitor the project's compliance.

- **Hunter Valley**

- Quarry environmental and community breaches*

- Compliance officers issued two penalty infringement notices with \$6000 worth of fines to Ardglen Quarry near Murrurundi.
- Despite the fact the quarry is not operating, the Department requires environmental reports to be submitted each year and a community consultative committee (CCC) to operate to ensure the community has a way of raising any issues with the quarry.
- An investigation by compliance officers found that the quarry failed to fulfil either requirement this year.
- The Department has directed the quarry to submit the required reports and re-establish the CCC.

- **Northern Tablelands, Hunter Valley and Northern Rivers**

- *Coal mine and quarry inspections*

- The Department's Compliance team conducted 15 coal mine inspections to confirm the mines were meeting their conditions of approval:
 - Bulga Coal mine (near Bulga)
 - Boggabri Coal mine (near Boggabri)
 - Wambo Coal mine (near Singleton)
 - Rix's Creek Coal mine (near Singleton)
 - Ashton Coal mine (near Singleton)
 - Glendell Coal mine (near Singleton)
 - Bulga Coal mine (near Singleton)
 - Moolarben Coal mine (near Mudgee)
 - Ulan Coal mine (near Mudgee)
 - Wilpinjong Coal Mine (near Mudgee)
 - Narrabri Coal mine (near Narrabri)
 - Maules Creek Coal mine (near Boggabri)
 - Tarrawonga Coal mine (near Gunnedah)
 - Rocglen Coal mine (near Gunnedah)
 - Werris Creek Coal mine (near Gunnedah)
- Wambo, Rix's Creek, Ashton, Glendell and Bulga coal mines were inspected following April's heavy rain to confirm the mines' approved flood management procedures were being correctly followed.
- No significant issues were observed.

- **Central West and Hunter Valley**

- *Coal mine and quarry surveillance*

- The Department's Compliance team carried out unannounced surveillance of the following coal mines and quarries to ensure they were meeting dust management approval conditions:
 - Ravensworth Coal mine (near Muswellbrook)
 - Moolarben Coal mine (near Mudgee)
- Ravensworth mine's Air Quality Management Plan is being revised to strengthen conditions to limit dust generation in windy conditions.

- **North West**

- *Employee transport condition breach*

- Compliance officers investigated a community complaint that Maules Creek coal mine was not complying with a consent condition that required 90 per cent of employees to be transported to the site via shuttle bus, rather than smaller cars, to minimise vehicle movements.
- The Department's investigation found the mine had not met the requirement and issued a penalty infringement notice with a \$3000 fine to the mine.

- **Riverina and Far West**

- *Compliance road trip*

- Compliance officers based in Queanbeyan took a week long ‘compliance road trip’, visiting a range of different types of major developments in different regions to ensure they were meeting their approval conditions, including:
 - Wagga Quarry (near Wagga Wagga)
 - Wagga Gas Works remediation project (near Wagga Wagga)
 - Riverina Oils and BioEnergy (near Wagga Wagga)
 - Tharbogang Quarry and Landfill (near Griffith)
 - De Bortoli Wines (near Griffith)
 - Ginko Mineral Sands Mine (near Broken Hill)
 - Snapper Mineral Sands Project (near Broken Hill)
 - Broken Hill Sand Processing Plant (near Broken Hill)
 - Rasp Mine (near Broken Hill)
 - AGL Broken Hill Solar PV (near Broken Hill)
 - As well as carrying out the inspections, compliance officers took the opportunity to meet with industry staff and learn more about their proactive approaches to meeting their approval conditions.
 - On top of the site visits, the compliance officers met with Griffith City Council and Wagga Wagga City Council to introduce the new compliance team and discuss local compliance and development issues, as well as officers from the Environmental Protection Authority in the region.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	APRIL 2015	2014/2015 TOTAL
Compliance audits conducted	1	14
Inspections and surveillance carried out	41	235
Compliance meetings held	24	142
Review of reports	64	393
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	129	783
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES		
Successful informal negotiation	0	9
Compliance advisory letters issued	31	179
Compliance warning letters issued	0	35
Orders imposed	0	2
Penalty notices and fines imposed	3	22
Prosecutions	0	2
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	34	249