

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

February 2014

Key outcomes

SINGLETON OFFICE

Northern Region

Mudgee Region to receive dedicated compliance personnel

- Planning & Infrastructure (P&I) announced the expansion of its regional compliance coverage to include an officer monitoring mining projects within the Mudgee region.
- Meetings with relevant mine staff and site inspections at the three Mudgee mines have been planned.

Hunter Valley

Surface water management during rain events

- In anticipation of rainy weather, staff carried out inspections at Mt Owen and Liddell mines to monitor compliance with the management of surface water runoff.
- P&I requires appropriate water management plans for all mining operations.
- The inspections found that the two mines' management plans were being satisfactorily implemented.

Blast Fume Management

- On 19 February, Mt Arthur Coal fired a blast that resulted in a fume that affected the Mitchell Line industrial estate near Muswellbrook.
- On 21 February P&I representatives met with mine representatives to discuss the incident and the mine's fume management processes, to minimise the risk of similar events recurring in the future.
- Compliance staff members are continuing to investigate this incident and will consider what response is necessary when the investigation is finalised.
- The mine has already committed to making a number of changes to its blast management strategy – including using a different type of explosive – and has engaged an independent consultant to review its processes.

SYDNEY OFFICE

Gullen Range Wind Farm investigation

- On 26 February, P&I requested that the proponent of the Gullen Range Wind Farm stop work on a number of turbines after a compliance investigation found they were being built in unauthorised locations.
- The variations identified by compliance officers ranged up to to 187m.
- In response, Gullen Range Wind Farm ceased construction work on 16 turbines being built closer to residential properties and committed to lodging an application to modify its project.

- This application will be subject to a full and rigorous assessment by P&I, in consultation with key government agencies and council, and the community through public exhibition.
- In the event P&I's assessment finds that the relocated turbines are unacceptable the agency will consider its options, which include ordering rectification works or taking legal action against the wind farm.

Planning and Infrastructure's key compliance actions in February are summarised on the next page:

