

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

March 2014

Key outcomes

SINGLETON OFFICE

Northern Region

Blast fume management

- Mudgee and Gloucester mines are now required to prepare blast fume management plans for the Department's approval. In addition, mines have been requested to start recording blast fume levels from all mine blasts. A similar process was undertaken by Hunter Valley mines in 2012-2013.

Penalty infringement notice issued to Stratford coal mine

- On 25 March 2014, the Stratford coal mine was issued with a \$3,000 fine after the mine reported breaching its consent condition allowing only one train to be dispatched at night.
- The mine reported that on four separate occasions during the night in 2014, two laden trains were dispatched.
- The mine has amended its procedures to prevent it from occurring again.

Hunter Valley

Noise concerns in the Bulga Village

- Of the 25 complaints received during March, 24 were from Bulga residents about noise generated by the Mt Thorley Warkworth mine. This followed an increase in the frequency of complaints about the same issue in the second half of February.
- Singleton compliance officers investigated the complaints on-site, conducting two random night noise assessments, without providing notice to the company.
- The mine also engaged a noise specialist to conduct an intensive monitoring program at multiple sites over seven nights.
- The monitoring conducted by the department and by the noise specialist found that noise levels were and within their consent conditions.

SYDNEY OFFICE

Penalty infringement notice issued to Boggabri coal mine

- On 25 March, a \$3000 fine and warning letter were issued to Boggabri Coal after it failed to properly implement its Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
- The fine was issued after it was found that the mine had marked an Aboriginal scarred tree with water based paint.
- The mine had instructed its ecologists to identify and mark with paint any potential habitat trees prior to clearing and the tree was marked during this process.
- The tree in question had previously been recorded as a scar tree with heritage value.

JINDABYNE OFFICE

- The department issued a structural and building upgrade order for voluntary works to the lessee of a ski lodge in Perisher Valley. The works relate to rectification of water leaks in the roof of the building and some structural repairs.

The department's key compliance actions in March are summarised on the next page.

SINGLETON OFFICE

| ACTIVITY TYPE | MONTHLY TOTAL | 2013-14 TOTAL |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Audits | 1 | 4 |
| Inspections and surveillance | 11 | 129 |
| Meetings | 13 | 98 |
| Reviews of reports | 20 | 65 |
| <i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i> | 45 | 296 |
| Negotiated outcome | 1 | 1 |
| Advisory letters | 16 | 62 |
| Warning letters | 0 | 2 |
| Orders | 0 | 1 |
| Penalty Notices | 1 | 3 |
| Prosecutions | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Subtotal enforcement</i> | 18 | 69 |
| Complaints | 25 | 164 |

SYDNEY OFFICE

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Audits | 0 | 4 |
| Inspections and surveillance | 1 | 32 |
| Meetings | 24 | 126 |
| Reviews of reports | 11 | 95 |
| <i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i> | 36 | 257 |
| Negotiated outcomes | 3 | 34 |
| Advisory letters | 16 | 116 |
| Warning letters | 1 | 10 |
| Orders | 0 | 7 |
| Penalty Notices | 1 | 7 |
| Prosecutions | 1 | 2 |
| <i>Subtotal enforcement</i> | 22 | 176 |

JINDABYNE OFFICE

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----|
| Audits | 0 | 0 |
| Inspections and surveillance | 1 | 26 |
| Meetings | 0 | 3 |
| <i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i> | 1 | 29 |
| Negotiated outcomes | 0 | 2 |
| Advisory letters | 0 | 31 |
| Warning letters | 0 | 0 |
| Orders | 1 | 3 |
| Penalty Notices | 0 | 0 |
| Prosecutions | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Subtotal enforcement</i> | 1 | 36 |

TOTAL ACTIONS

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Audits | 0 | 7 |
| Compliance Monitoring | 82 | 500 |
| Enforcement | 41 | 281 |

