

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
MONTHLY AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

June 2014

Key outcomes

SINGLETON OFFICE

Northern Region

Penalty infringement notice issued to Wilpinjong coal mine

- On 27 June 2014, the Department issued a penalty infringement notice to the Wilpinjong coal mine for exceeding the coal processing limit of 8.5 million tonnes set in its approval, following the annual review of the mine.

Engagement with key stakeholders

- The Department met with key stakeholders including the community consultative committee (CCC) for the Wilpinjong coal mine, the Wollar progress association near Mudgee, and the Wards River progress association near Gloucester. The meetings were to introduce compliance staff, provide information on the Department's compliance functions within the region and to listen to community concerns relating to mining operations.

Unannounced inspection of the Maules Creek coal mine

- On 4 June 2014 the Department conducted an unannounced inspection of clearing activities being undertaken at the Maules Creek mine near Boggabri. The inspection confirmed that clearing activities were being conducted in accordance with the approved management plan.
- The approved biodiversity management plan required the company to identify and mark potential habitat trees or features, conduct clearing whilst leaving the identified trees or features in place, isolating the marked trees and features for a minimum of 24 hours (to allow fauna to relocate), and undertake clearing (with ecologists present) of habitat trees or features to minimise impacts to fauna.
- The Department observed the various stages of clearing and reviewed documentation, which confirmed that the mine was complying with the approved management plan.

Hunter Valley

Penalty infringement notice issued to Mt Arthur mine

- A Penalty Infringement Notice was issued to Mt Arthur mine for the failure to effectively minimise visible dust at the mine during an event on 24 June 2014. The dust was being generated as a result of haul trucks dumping overburden material at the mine site.

Annual Environmental Management Review inspections

- It is a requirement in all contemporary mining project approvals that companies submit annual reports, reporting on production rates, environmental performance and community relations. The Singleton office, with the assistance of the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) recently undertook site inspections following the review of 16 annual reports.

- The mines were generally found to be compliant, although most reports identified isolated anomalies in monitoring results, and areas of improvement were identified in all reviews. The management of hydrocarbon contaminated waste was found to be highly variable from one mine to another, and a number of mines were requested to improve management practices in this area. Aerial seeding of bare areas to provide a temporary vegetative cover continues to improve, and this practice is occurring on most mine sites.

SYDNEY OFFICE

Prosecution of Glass Recovery Services Pty Ltd - Penrith

- On 18 February 2014, the Department commenced prosecution proceedings against Glass Recovery Services Pty Ltd (GRS) in the NSW Land and Environment Court, for operating a glass recycling facility without development consent.
- Departmental officers had previously inspected the site and found the facility, which is subject to an application (SSD-5267) currently being assessed by the department, was already under full operation.
- GRS entered a plea of not guilty before the Court on 13 June 2014.
- The matter is next before the Court on 22 August 2014 when a hearing date will be fixed.

Prosecution of Boggabri Coal Pty Limited – Gunnedah Coalfields

- On 29 April 2014, the Department commenced prosecution proceedings against Boggabri Coal Pty Limited in the NSW Land and Environment, for stockpiling overburden in a rock quarry located outside the project boundary of its Boggabri Coal Mine, over the period May to September 2012.
- Boggabri Coal entered a plea of guilty before the Court on 13 June 2014
- The Court fixed the matter for a sentencing hearing on 25 August 2014.
- Boggabri Coal has removed the stockpile.

SINGLETON OFFICE

ACTIVITY TYPE	MONTHLY TOTAL	2013-14 TOTAL
Audits	0	6
Inspections and surveillance	24	176
Meetings	23	141
Reviews of reports	20	119
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	67	442
Negotiated outcome	0	1
Advisory letters	0	75
Warning letters	1	3
Orders	0	2
Penalty Notices	2	8
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	3	88
Complaints	15	201

SYDNEY OFFICE

Audits	0	4
Inspections and surveillance	1	43
Meetings	16	185
Reviews of reports	14	126
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	31	358
Negotiated outcomes	2	38
Advisory letters	10	139
Warning letters	2	17
Orders	0	7
Penalty Notices	0	11
Prosecutions	0	2
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	14	214

JINDABYNE OFFICE

Audits	0	0
Inspections and surveillance	0	27
Meetings	0	3
<i>Subtotal compliance monitoring</i>	0	30
Negotiated outcomes	0	2
Advisory letters	0	38
Warning letters	0	0
Orders	0	4
Penalty Notices	0	0
Prosecutions	0	0
<i>Subtotal enforcement</i>	0	44

TOTAL ACTIONS

Audits	0	10
Compliance Monitoring	98	830
Enforcement	17	348