

**NSW
Resources
Regulator**

Monthly business activity report

JANUARY 2018



VISION

A safe and responsible mining extractive and petroleum industry

MISSION

To enable and support industry to understand and fulfil its obligations

**NSW
Resources
Regulator**

**SECTOR
REPORTING**

Coal mines

Opencut, underground and coal preparation plants

Large mines

METALLIFEROUS AND QUARRIES

Quarries that produce >900,000 tonnes pa and large opencut or underground metalliferous mines

Small mines

METALLIFEROUS, QUARRIES AND OTHER GEMSTONES

Quarries and other mine types (eg sand, clay, lime) that produce <900,000 tonnes pa, opencut or underground metalliferous mines and gemstone mines

Non-mine

Includes many manufacturers (including OEMs), suppliers, designers, importers, licence holders and registration holders

Petroleum and Geothermal

Onshore petroleum and geothermal production sites

Opal Mines

Opal mines at Lightning Ridge and White Cliffs

Exploration

All notified exploration sites

Document control

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Amendment schedule		
Date	Version	Amendment

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2018). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

Key activities

The Resources Regulator responded to a fatality at Glencore's Glendell open cut coal mine in the Hunter Valley on 17 January 2018. The regulator is investigating whether the death of the 39-year-old contract worker was workplace-related.

On 18 January 2018 the regulator issued Appin Colliery with a notice prohibiting all workers from entering the site's underground workings - except for those undertaking safety-related activities. The notice follows an incident on 8 January 2018 where the mine's surface gas drainage plant failed. A further investigation by the regulator found that the mine failed to follow its trigger action response plan for withdrawing workers after the gas drainage plant stoppage. The notice was lifted on 19 January 2018, and work was permitted to recommence after Appin complied with the regulator's directions.

On 23 January 2018 inspectors responded to a report of a significant ignition of methane at the coal face at Chain Valley Colliery. No immediate injuries were sustained as a result of the ignition. A notice was issued, prohibiting all workers from entering the site's underground workings - except for those undertaking safety-related activities. The prohibition notice remains in place until the regulator has completed its investigation into the cause and circumstances of the incident, and is satisfied that appropriate risk controls have been put into place to ensure workers at the mine are not exposed to risk.

On 25 January 2018 the regulator cancelled mining lease 613 for multiple licence breaches by the titleholder. The mining lease covered the area where the Nymboida Clay Pit once operated, approximately 45 kilometres south of Grafton. Sixteen grounds for cancellation of the mining lease were found during an ongoing investigation. The breaches ranged from failing to provide a mining operations plan, produce an annual environmental management report and rehabilitate the site. There were also occasions where the titleholder illegally mined outside of the mining lease boundary and ignored a statutory direction. Despite the cancellation the titleholder will continue to be regulated by the Department in order to rehabilitate the site.

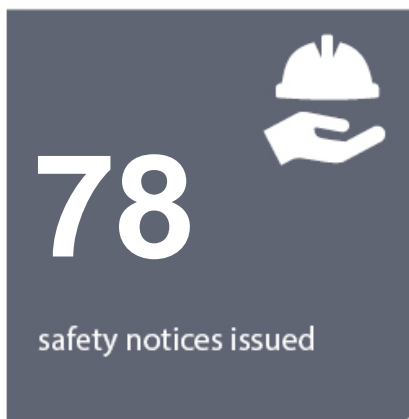
The regulator commenced prosecution proceedings against LakeCoal Pty Ltd and LDO Operations Pty Ltd for alleged contraventions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. The prosecutions are related to the serious injury of a worker at the Mannering Colliery, located approximately 50 kilometres south of Newcastle, on 22 January 2016.

Prosecution proceedings were also commenced against Sibelco Australia Limited for alleged contraventions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. The prosecution is related to the serious injury of a worker at the Salt Ash Sand Plant, located approximately 20 kilometres north of Newcastle, on 1 February 2016.

NSW Planning and Environment has taken all care to ensure the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the information provided in this report. Nothing in this report impacts any duties held by any person under legislation administered or enforced by the department. Compliance with the legislation is a legal requirement. Some persons may have a right of internal or external review of decisions made under the legislation administered or enforced by the department.

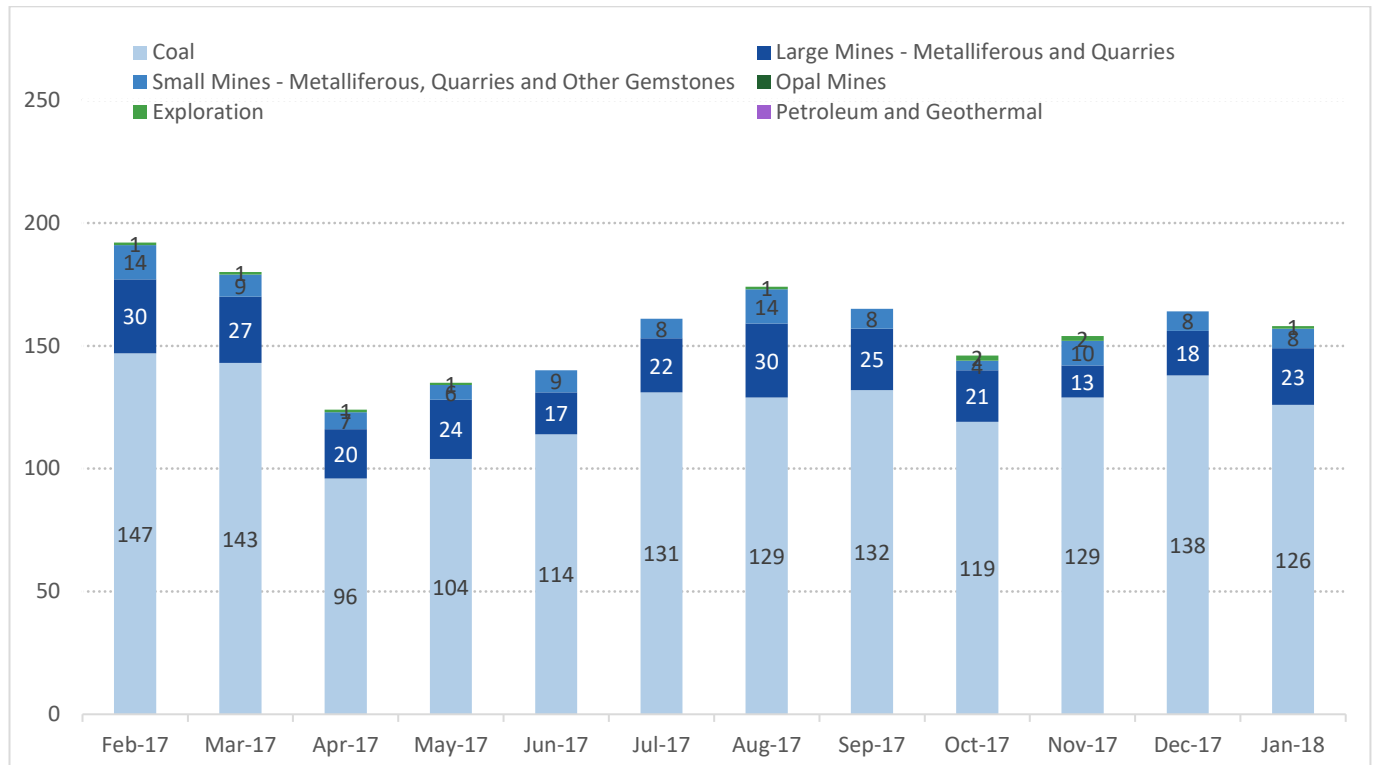
Activities

Below is a snapshot of the NSW Resources Regulator's activities for January 2018.



Incidents and complaints

Incidents and complaints notified to the regulator by sector. Incident classifications and weekly incident summaries are available on our [website](#).



Inspections, audits and targeted assessments

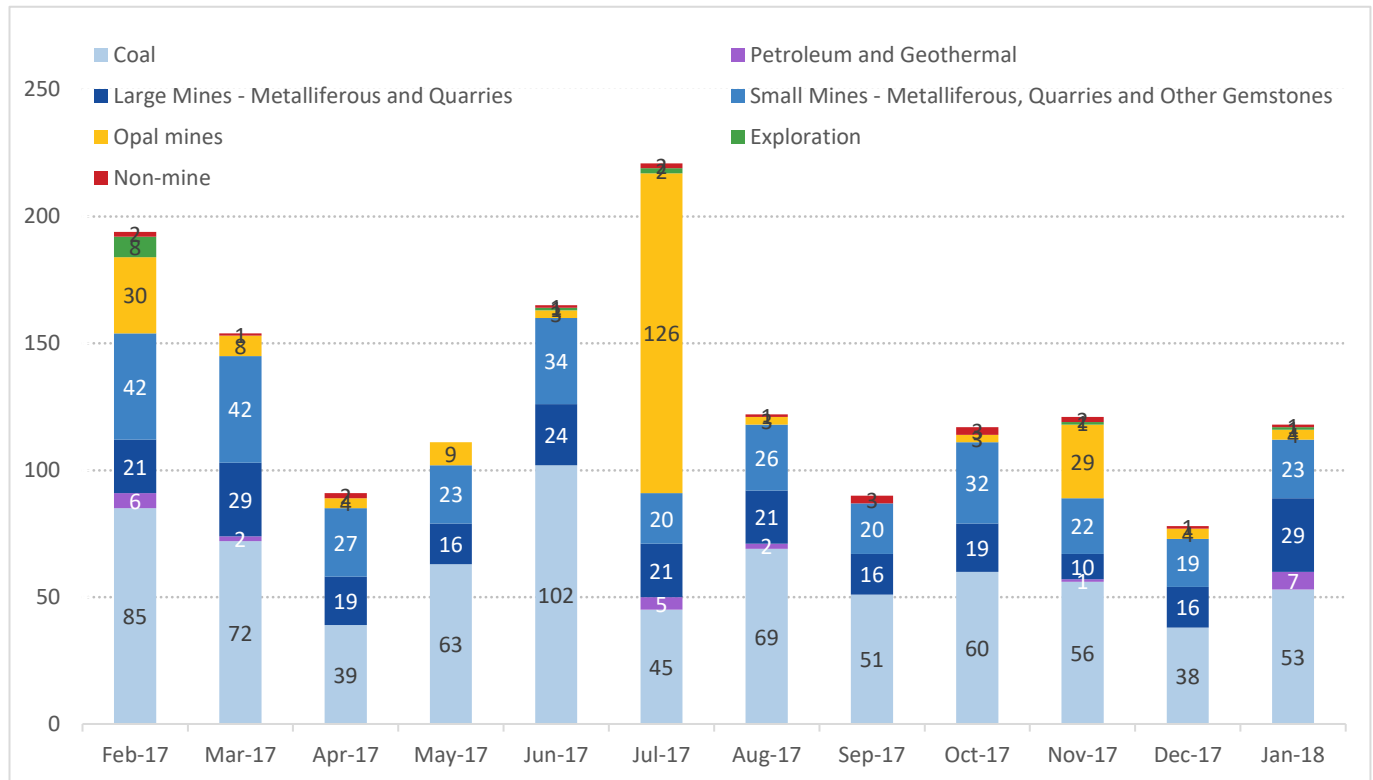
Reports on our compliance activities are available on our [website](#).

Targeted assessments undertaken

Mine	Type	Topic
Mt Owen Complex	Fatigue – Surface Coal	Site assessment conducted

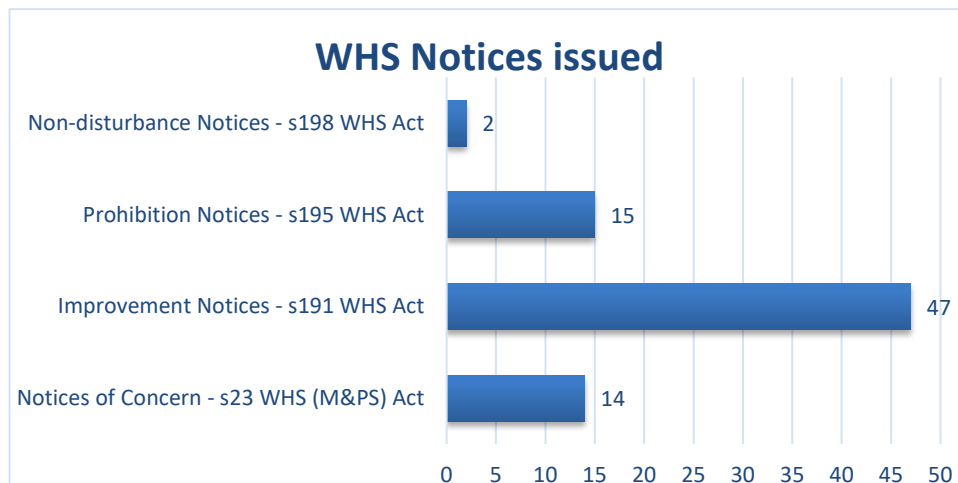


Safety inspections

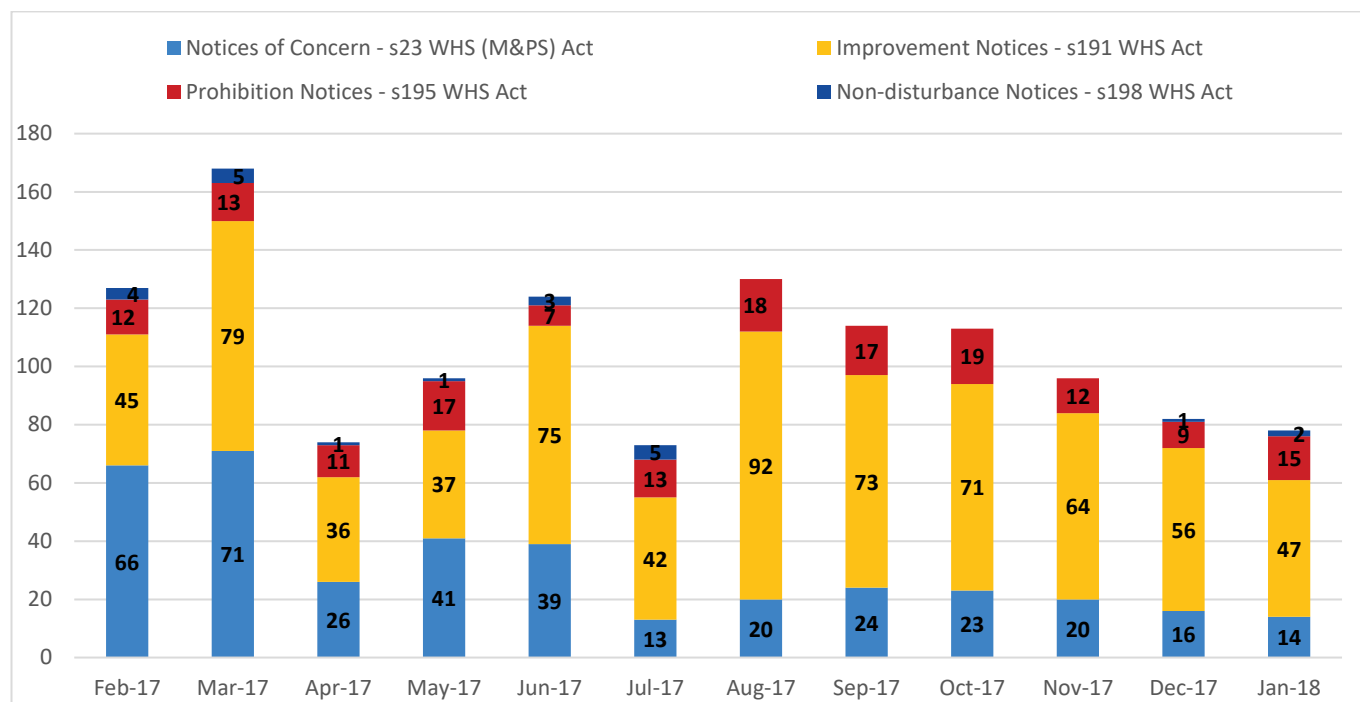


Enforcement actions

Our [Compliance and enforcement approach](#) is available on our website.



WHS notices issued



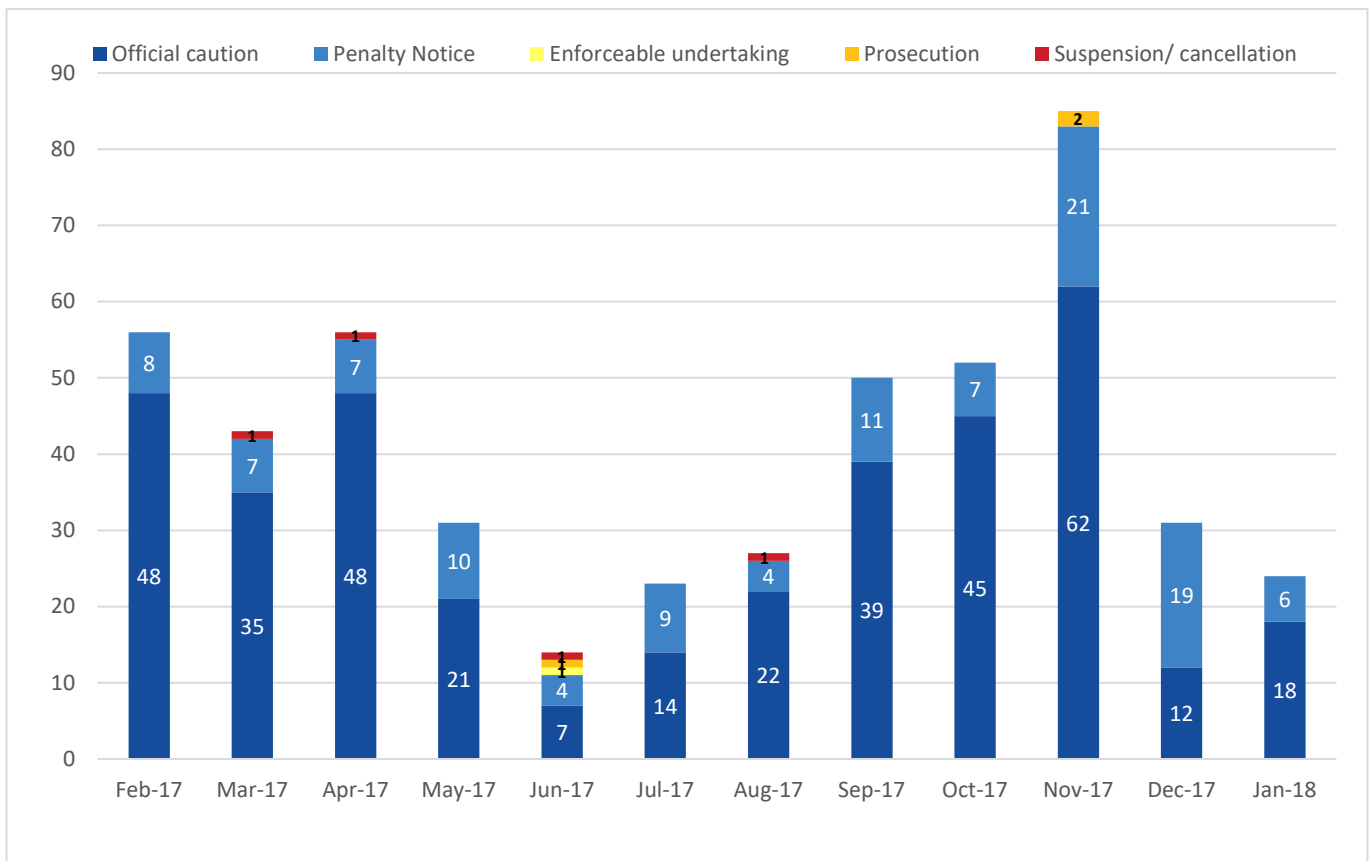
Prohibition notices issued (s195 WHS Act)

PCBU	Mine	Details	Prohibited activity
Thiess Pty Ltd	Mount Pleasant Operation – Thiess Pty Ltd	Old underground workings were identified during a drilling process.	There is to be no work associated with the production of open cut coal in any area where it is suspected that there may be old underground workings.
Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd	Tahmoor Colliery	An inspection in the 912 development panel identified a diesel machine operating in a roadway with insufficient ventilation quantity.	Operation of diesel equipment in underground roadways is prohibited where the ventilation quantity is less than that required for the diesel equipment to operate as per the WHS Regulation.
Multiquip Aggregates Pty Ltd	Ardmore Park	An incident occurred involving the failure of a dump truck park brake.	The use/movement of the Case 325 articulated dump truck is prohibited for any purpose other than the testing of the braking system.
Thiess Pty Ltd	Mount Pleasant Operation – Thiess Pty Ltd	Old underground workings were identified during a drilling process.	Any production of coal or removal of overburden within 15m of a coal seam is prohibited where there are potentially unknown underground workings.

PCBU	Mine	Details	Prohibited activity
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd	Appin Colliery	An unrestrained return hose became pressurised and struck a contractor on the head.	Pumping DSI mine-fill strata binder product (polymeric chemical foam) under pressure is prohibited unless the directions of this notice have been remedied to reduce risks to health and safety.
Cristal Mining Australia	Ginkgo Mineral Sands Mine	A worker fell from the steps of an excavator.	Access or operation of the Hitachi Ex 2500 is prohibited.
Boral Resources (NSW) Pty Ltd	Boral Dunmore Quarry	A site inspection identified issues with hitch points.	The opening of doors for the purposes of accepting material raised by the hoist at any level where a harness and lanyard are required to be worn and where an approved lanyard hitch point is not available to workers.
Stoneco Pty Limited	Braeside Quarry	A site inspection identified issues with unsecured explosives.	No storage of explosives or explosive precursors on the mine site unless licensed under the provisions of the Explosives Act 2003.
Stoneco Pty Limited	Timor Limestone	A site inspection identified issues with unsecured explosives.	No storage of explosives or explosive precursors on the mine site unless licensed under the provisions of the Explosives Act 2003.
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd	Appin Colliery	An announced investigation occurred into the non-withdrawal of mine personnel following loss of gas plant suction.	All activities requiring workers to be underground for any purpose other than: conducting inspections to ensure the ongoing safety of the underground workers; or performing maintenance activities on essential ventilation and pumping infrastructure related to the ongoing safety of the underground workings.
MSQ Australia Pty Ltd	Maroota Sandstone	A site assessment carried out to check the safety management system implementation identified issues with a front end loader.	Use of Komatsu front end loader is prohibited on the mine site.
Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd	Moolarben Coal Operations – Open Cut	A person received possible fluid injection injuries when a hose fitting on a high pressure washdown wand failed.	Operation of pressure wash lance hose assemblies as installed on pressure wash units HP8 and HP11 with fixed (non-swivel) connection fittings; and operation of the pressure wash unit HP11 is prohibited.
Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited	Mt Arthur Coal – Mine Operation Area	A truck's rear trailer was raised whilst travelling and made contact with a tunnel resulting in the trailer decoupling.	Trailer B is not to be moved or recovered. The "Orica" access road is not to be used by traffic.

PCBU	Mine	Details	Prohibited activity
LakeCoal Pty Ltd	Chain Valley Colliery	An ignition of methane occurred at the coal face during production.	Entry of persons underground except for a minimal number to undertake essential inspections and maintenance of safety critical plant such as pumping infrastructure.
LakeCoal Pty Ltd	Chain Valley Colliery	A site assessment was carried out to determine the causal factors of a methane ignition.	North heading and North East heading development district activities that liberate methane into the underground mine atmosphere, including the cutting of coal.

Enforcement actions under the Mining Act



Penalty notices issued (Mining Act)

Date	Entity	Actions	Details
24/1/2018	Neo Resources Limited, EL 6789	Penalty Notice, \$1,000	Fail to pay rent and levy fees (Sec292C Mining Act 1992)
24/1/2018	Neo Resources Limited, EL 7549	Penalty Notice, \$1,000	Fail to pay rent and levy fees (Sec292C Mining Act 1992)
31/1/2018	Peel Mining Limited, EL 8451	Penalty Notice, \$5,000	Fail to lodge report (Sec163C Mining Act 1992)
31/1/2018	Peel Mining Limited, EL 7581	Penalty Notice, \$1,000	Fail to pay rent and levy fees (Sec292C Mining Act 1992)
31/1/2018	Crowl Creek Exploration Ltd, EL 7821	Penalty Notice, \$1,000	Fail to pay rent and levy fees (Sec292C Mining Act 1992)
31/1/2018	Titleholder, MPL297	Penalty Notice, \$500	Fail to pay rent and levy fees (Sec292C Mining Act 1992)

Statutory notifications and exemptions

Information about WHS statutory [notifications](#) and [exemptions](#) is available on our website.

High risk activity notifications received

Mine	WHS (M&PS) Regs provision	Activity
Bulga Underground Operations	Schedule 3, Clause 10	Sealing
Chain Valley Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 16(1)(a)	Secondary extraction by long/short/miniwall mining
Clarence Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 15	Formation of non-conforming pillars
Dendrobium Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 11	Conduct of hot work in a hazardous zone
Dendrobium Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres

Integra Underground	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Mandalong Mine	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Metropolitan Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 18	Mining in outburst control zone
Moolarben Coal Operations - Underground	Schedule 3, Clause 7(2)(b)	Working in inrush control zone
Moolarben Coal Operations - Underground	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Myuna Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 23	First use of explosion barrier
Narrabri Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 15	Formation of non-conforming pillars
PEL0002 Rosalind Park 9	Schedule 3, Clause 31	Well workover
PEL0238 Coonarah 1B	Schedule 3, Clause 33	Suspending a well
PEL0238 Wilga Park 1	Schedule 3, Clause 33	Suspending a well
Tahmoor Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 15	Formation of non-conforming pillars x 2
Tahmoor Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 12	Driving underground roadway that is wider than 5.5 metres
Ulan Underground Mine	Schedule 3 Clause 9	Shotfiring

Exemptions

Mine / PCBU	Status	Details
Nil		

Workshops and education activities

Details of upcoming events are available on our [website](#).

Date	What	Where	Details
15/1/2018	Exercise Planning Meeting	Orange	Meeting with NSW Police Force Regional Emergency Management Officer regarding planning and requirements for exercise requested by the Orange LEMC

Publications and alerts

Our [public comment policy](#) is available on our website.

Date	Type	Summary
11 January	Mine safety update	Weekly incident summary
17 January	Media Release	Fatality at open cut coal mine in the Hunter Valley
17 January	Mine safety update	Mine Safety News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially dangerous mechanical components on opal mine materials handling hoists • Mines and preparing for fires • Working in heat: Stay safe this summer • Regulator publishes guideline for hydraulic safety
17 January	Safety alert	Potentially dangerous mechanical components on opal mine materials handling hoists
18 January	Mine safety update	Weekly incident summary
18 January	Media release	Resources Regulator issues prohibition notice to Appin Colliery
19 January	Media release	Appin Colliery allowed to recommence operations
24 January	Media release	Chain Valley Colliery issued prohibition notice
25 January	Mine safety update	Weekly incident summary

Date	Type	Summary
29 January	Media release	Resources Regulator cancels mining lease in the Northern Rivers
29 January	Mine safety update	Mine Safety News <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety alert: Loader loses brakes and crashes• Health monitoring exemption extended• Guide helps to understand 'mining operations'
30 January	Media release	Resources Regulator begins prosecution proceedings against Hunter mine operator and employer
31 January	Media release	Resources Regulator takes multinational company to Court