



**NSW  
Resources  
Regulator**

# Monthly business activities report

MARCH 2019



## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Published by NSW Resources Regulator

**Title:** Monthly business activities report - March 2019

**First published:** June 2019, data current at 10 April 2019

**Authorised by:** Chief Compliance Officer

**CM9 Reference:** DOC19/405824-1

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# Activities snapshot

## Activities at a glance

### SUMMARY OF REGULATORY ACTIVITIES - MARCH 2019



## Safety incidents of note

On 13 March 2019, in response to a series of reported roof falls, the NSW Resources Regulator inspectors attended Wongawilli mine near Wollongong to assess the adequacy of risk controls in place to protect workers from roof failure. While at the mine, inspectors identified several safety issues with the mine's conveyor system; mine travel roads and production methods, which resulted in a total of three section 195 notices being issued. Following a further roof fall and consideration of the issues, the Chief Inspector of Mines issued a [stop work order](#) on the 19 March 2019.

The NSW Resources Regulator also responded to an incident at [Metropolitan Colliery](#) in the Illawarra Region on the 21 March 2019 after being notified that workers had been withdrawn from the mine following the detection of high levels of carbon dioxide and methane gas. The Regulator has subsequently commenced a causal investigation into the incident.

The NSW Resources Regulator's [weekly incident summary](#) references any recently published safety publications. The alerts section provides further details about any dangerous and serious safety incident notifications received in March 2019.

## Communication highlights

The NSW Resources Regulator issued a [safety bulletin](#) into the rise in dozer incidents. Recently, there has been several incidents in which machines have overturned. In each case, the operator was placed at risk of suffering serious injuries.

The NSW Resources Regulator attended a mine operator and community engagement meeting at Condobolin on the 7 March 2019. The NSW Resources Regulator's presentation outlined our role as a high hazard regulator to the Clean TeQ Community Committee.

The NSW Resources Regulator presented a Mechanical Engineering update on recent electric shock incidents to Engineers Australia, Mining Electrical Mining Mechanical Engineers Society at Maitland.



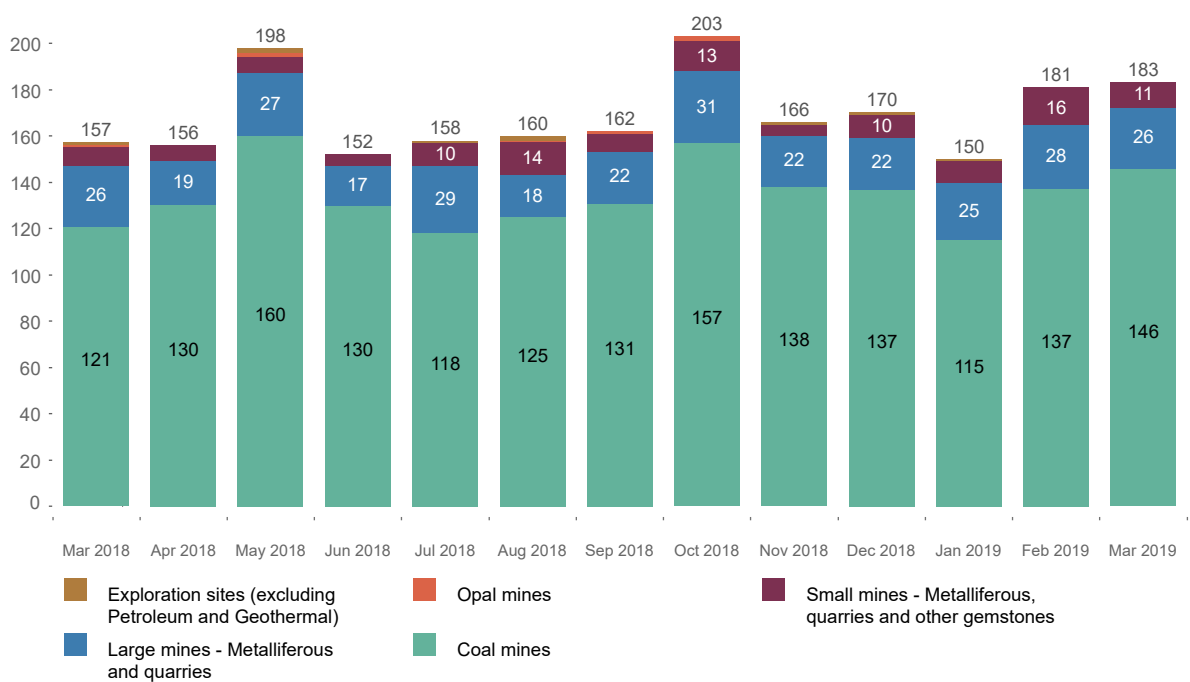
# Work, health and safety activities

## Safety incident notifications received

In March 2019, 183 incidents were notified to the NSW Resources Regulator by mining operations.

Of the 183 incidents notified in March 2019, there were 19 incidents where the NSW Resources Regulator deployed inspectors for further investigation. See the table below for further detail.

**FIGURE 1. SAFETY INCIDENT NOTIFICATIONS BY SECTOR - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019**





The NSW Resources Regulator deployed to the following incidents described in the table below.

**TABLE 1.** DETAILS OF INCIDENTS WHERE INSPECTORS WERE DEPLOYED - MARCH 2019

Date notified	Location	Incident
2 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	A roof fall occurred which meant that the N3 production panel lost its return ventilation path. Gas levels in the N3 panel were noticed to rise to 0.45% Methane from 0.1 and 8ppm CO from zero.
2 Mar	Large mines, Metalliferous and Quarries - Underground	Electric shock after moving pump starter box and reconnection of power.
4 Mar	Coal mines - Surface	Reject bin steel plate walkway floor at the conveyor CV-D 1001 discharge end failed under the operator creating a hole. There were no reported injuries.
5 Mar	Coal mines – Surface	Maintenance worker struck in face by hydraulic fluid under pressure whilst standing on ladder disconnecting a hydraulic hose on a 350-tonne excavator track adjuster.
6 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	Operator struck on helmet and shoulder by a coal packer that fell against mesh that was being removed for partial pillar extraction in 808 panel A hdg 12 to 13 c/t.
8 Mar	Coal mines – Surface	The dump body of a semi-trailer has rolled on to its side while tipping into the clean coal hopper for the CHPP. The turntable connection between the trailer and the chassis had failed and separated.
10 Mar	Coal mines – Surface	Operator saw smoke rising from an electrical cable tray. After inspection the operator hosed the cable with water and received an electrical shock.
11 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	A large piece of RIB - 5.5m Long x 1.0m High and 0.3m thick slumped onto floor next to fitter’s foot. The rib failure was below the clay band mid seam (Wybrow Seam).
11 Mar	Coal mines - Surface	Major oil fire on excavator. The machine had been back in service for one hour after maintenance. Fire erupted and the suppression system was activated. Four water carts used to control fire. There were no injuries sustained. The mine was placed into shut down until the fire scene was recovered.
14 Mar	Large mines, Metalliferous and Quarries - Underground	During a planned shutdown for the relining of the mill a maintenance brake failed. Metal parts were ejected from the brake unit. No reports of injury.



Date notified	Location	Incident
19 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	Catastrophic engine failure resulting in an oil fire. The operator activated the on-board fire suppression system. No reports of injury.
20 Mar	Small mines, Metalliferous and Quarries - Surface	Excavator roll over.
21 Mar	Coal mines - Surface	A loaded rear dump truck was tipping the load on the RL185 South Pit Dump, the tip edge slumped approximately two metres, not allowing the truck to move forward.
21 Mar	Large mines, Metalliferous and Quarries - Underground	Whilst completing the last 1.5metres of the intake shaft with the raise bore reamer the head detached from the stem and fell to the bottom of the shaft.
21 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	Gas pushed from the longwall in Bulli seam (CO <sub>2</sub> and CH <sub>4</sub> ). The undermanager withdrew everyone from the mine. Power is now off to the underground mine.
22 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	Dump valve fluid was spraying towards the DCB. The supply was isolated and an investigation commenced.
23 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	A shear cylinder on the Eagles Continuous Miner Joy 12CM30 was hosed up incorrectly. Hydraulic oil and pressurised air escaped from the hose and sprayed onto the wrist of electrician.
24 Mar	Large mines, Metalliferous and Quarries - Underground	Hydraulic oil onto hot engine components caused the fire in an underground vehicle.
25 Mar	Coal mines - Underground	The TG gas sensor of the Mini Wall return was above 5% CH <sub>4</sub> but the sensor approx. 300m outbye didn't record above 0.86% CH <sub>4</sub> . As per the mine's withdrawal TARP all persons had been withdrawn to the surface.

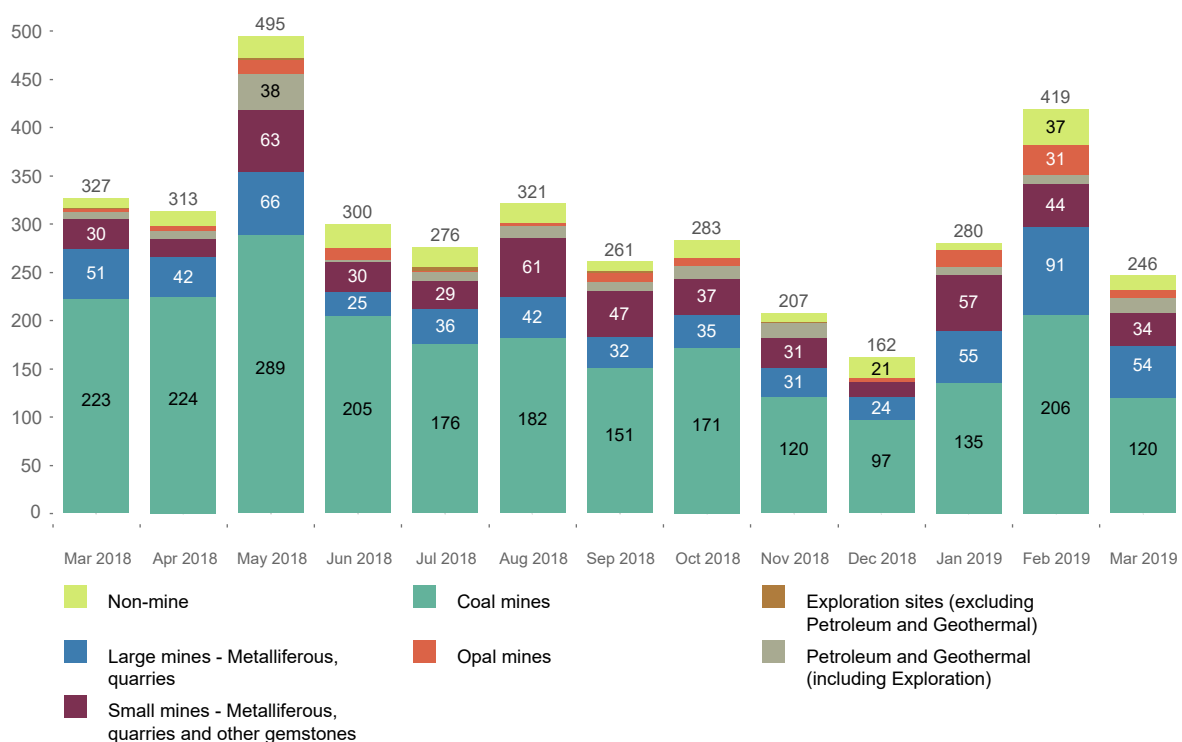


## Safety assessments

In March 2019 a total of 246 safety assessments were conducted across all mining sectors, a decrease of 173 compared to the previous month. Of the 246 assessments, 120 occurred in the coal sector (or approximately 49%).

Notably, the preceding month (February) saw a spike in activity primarily due to 89 targeted intervention assessments conducted by the NSW Resources Regulator at coal and large mines. The reactive, desktop assessments related to principal mining hazard identification.

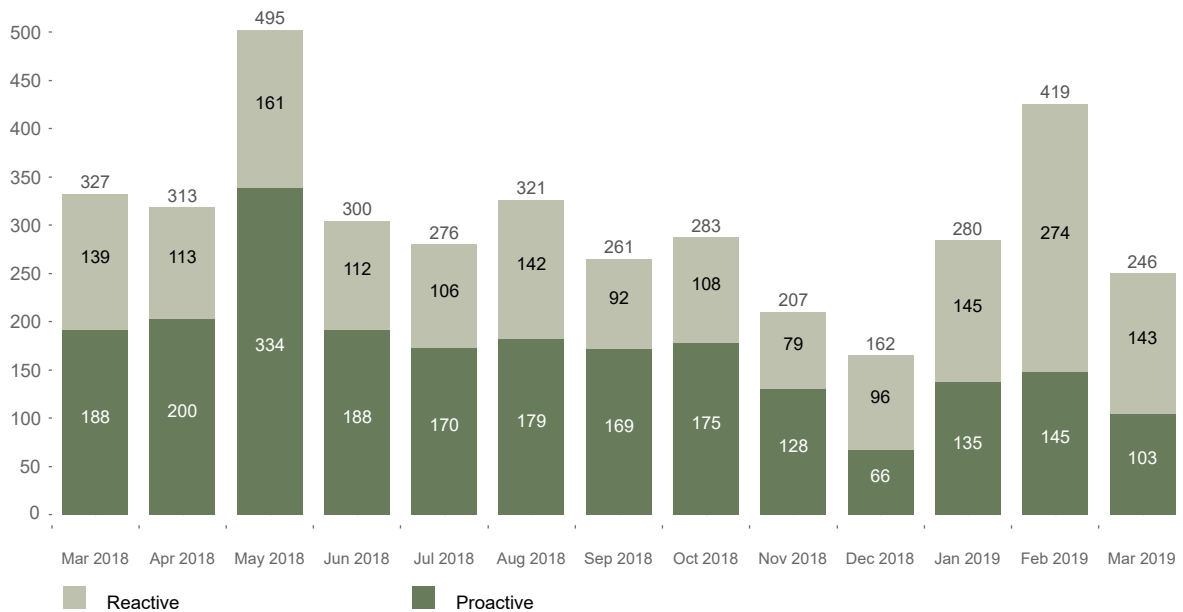
**FIGURE 2. ALL ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES BY SECTOR - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019**



## Proactive and reactive safety assessments

In March 2019, 103 out of the 246 (42%) of the assessments were considered proactive in nature. Targeted assessments and planned inspections are proactive assessments. Reactive assessments are conducted in response to notifications and requests including incident notifications, targeted intervention assessments, statutory notifications and enquiries.

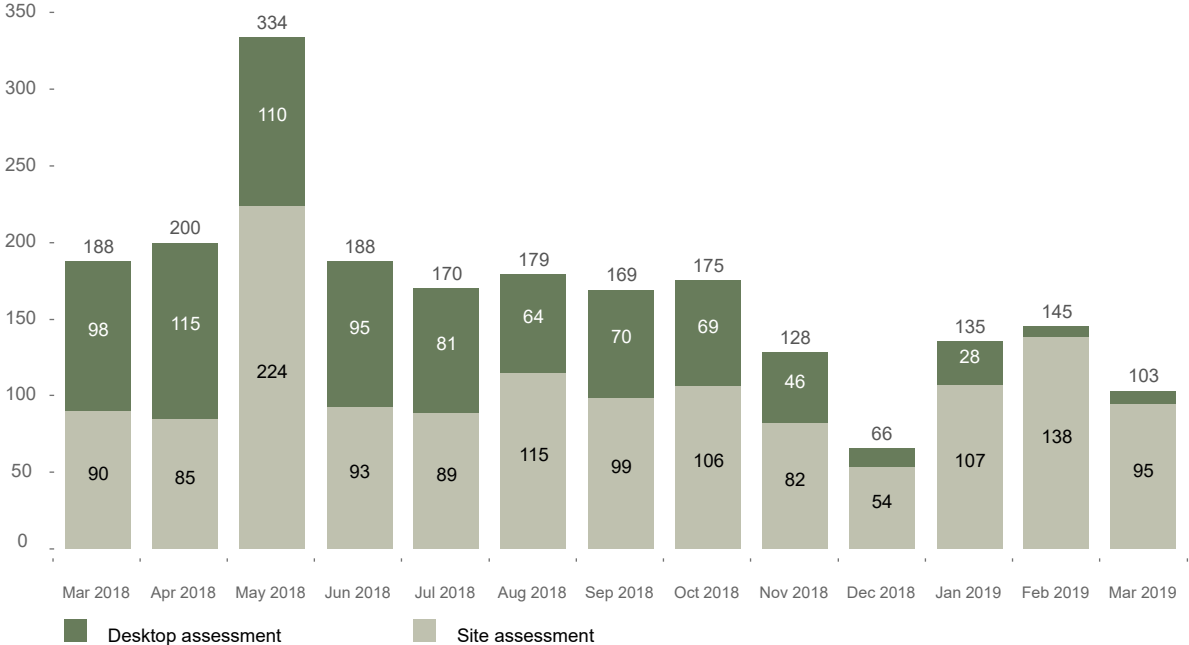
**FIGURE 3.** ALL ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES BY NATURE - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019



# PROACTIVE ASSESSMENTS

In March 2019, 95 of 103 (92%) of the proactive assessments were site assessments.

**FIGURE 4.** PROACTIVE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES BY TYPE - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019

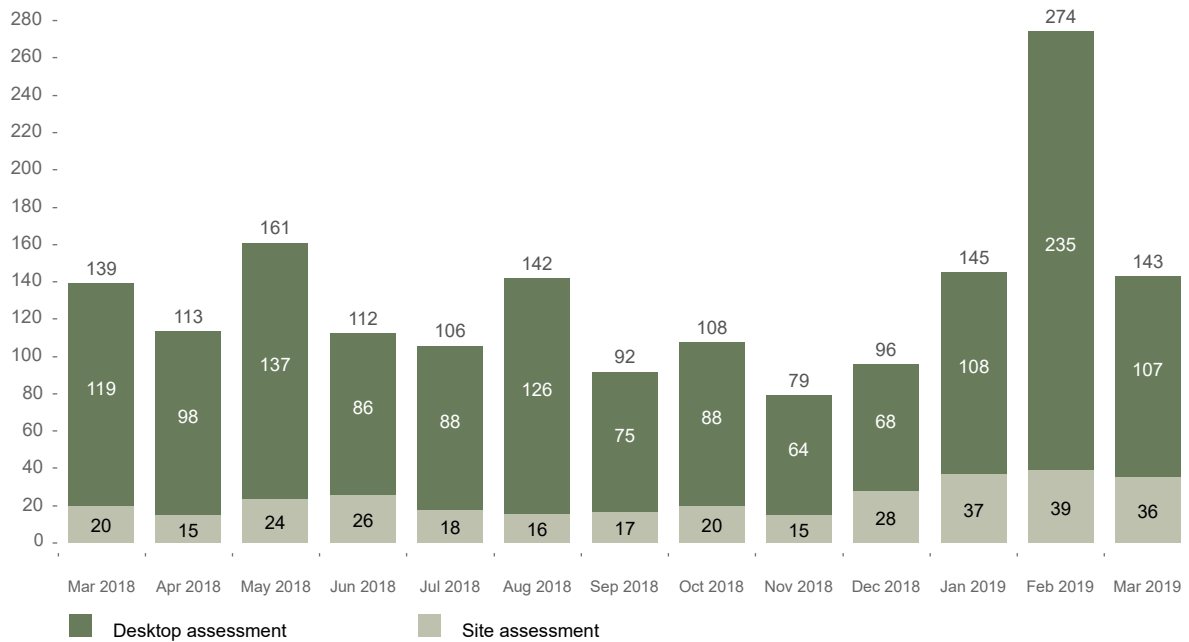


## REACTIVE ASSESSMENTS

In March 2019, 36 of 143 of the reactive assessments were site assessments.

Of note, the preceding month (February) saw a spike in activity primarily due to 89 targeted intervention assessments conducted by the NSW Resources Regulator at coal and large mines. The reactive, desktop assessments related to principal mining hazard identification.

**FIGURE 5. REACTIVE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES BY TYPE - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019**



## Targeted assessment programs

Under the proactive assessment program, the NSW Resources Regulator conducted two targeted assessments on two principal mining hazards in March 2019. Details are listed in the table below.

**TABLE 2. DETAILS OF TARGETED ASSESSMENTS - MARCH 2019**

Hazard	Mine
Airborne contaminants	Liddell
Diesel exhaust emissions	Wongawilli

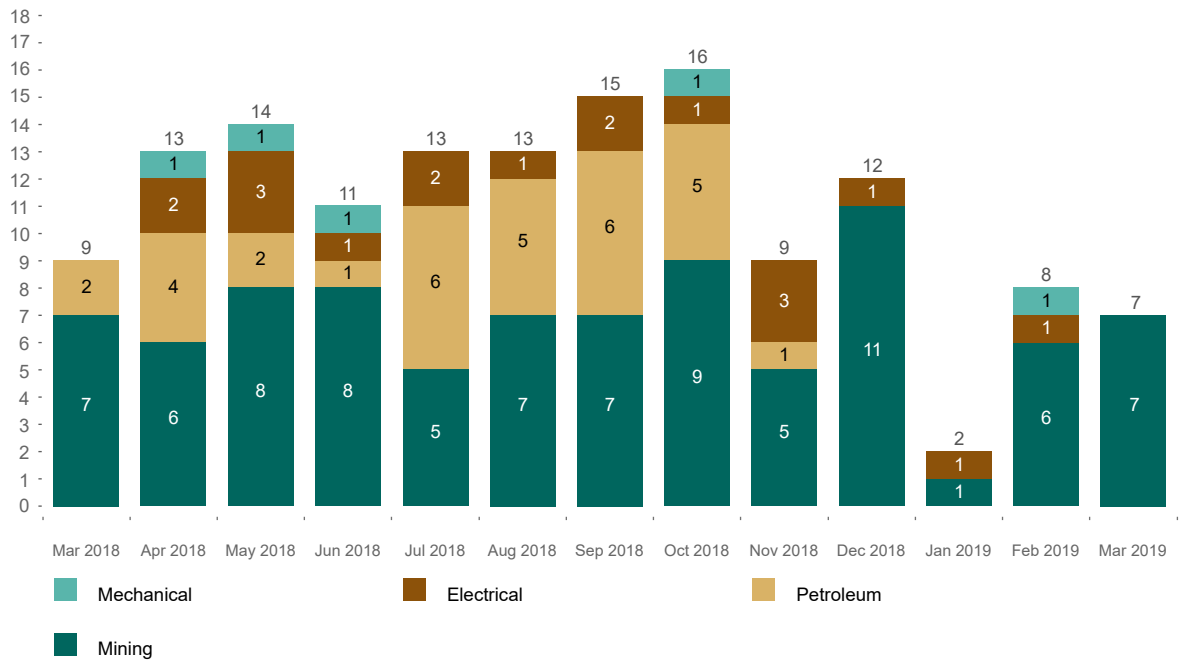


# High risk activity notifications and exemptions

## HIGH RISK ACTIVITY NOTIFICATIONS

The figure below summarises notifications of high-risk activity by engineering discipline under the Work, Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014.

**FIGURE 6.** HIGH RISK ACTIVITY BY ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019



**TABLE 3. HIGH RISK ACTIVITY NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED - MARCH 2019**

Mine	Legislation*	Type of notification	No
Moolarben Coal Operations - Underground	Schedule 3 Clause 16(1)(d)	Pillar reduction.	1
Appin Colliery	Schedule 3 Clause 15	The formation of a pillar other than a conforming pillar.	3
Appin Colliery	Schedule 3 Clause 7(2)(a)	Working in inrush control zone - potential source of inrush can be inspected.	1
Ulan West Operations	Schedule 3 Clause 4	Development of a new mine entry (including by sinking a shaft or drift or raise boring).	1
Appin Colliery	Schedule 3 Clause 16(1)	Secondary extraction by longwall mining, shortwall mining or miniwall mining.	1
Total			7

\* Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014

## EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

No exemption applications were granted in March 2019.





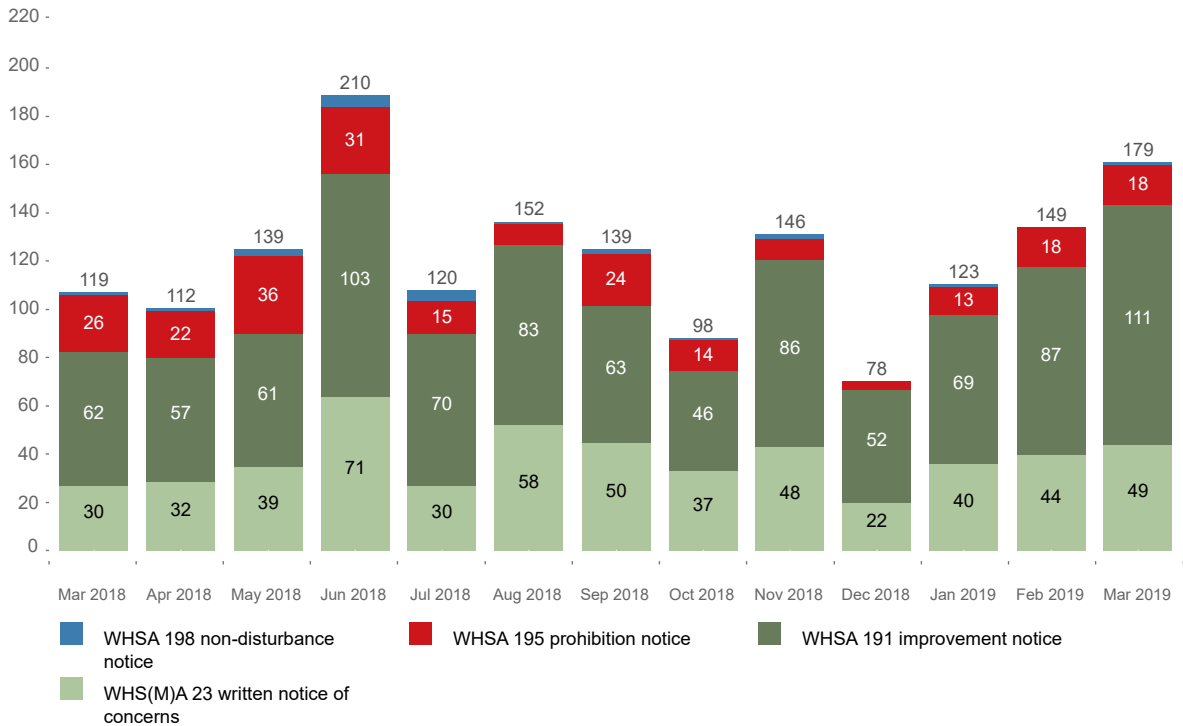
# Compliance activities

## Safety notices issued

In March 2019, the NSW Resources Regulator issued 179 safety notices, up 30 from 149 in February 2019.

Compared to the same month in 2018, the number of safety notices was up by 60 safety notices.

**FIGURE 7.** NOTICES ISSUED BY NOTICE TYPE - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019



## Prohibition notices issued

In March 2019, the NSW Resources Regulator issued 18 prohibition notices under section 195 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

**TABLE 4.** PROHIBITION NOTICES ISSUED - MARCH 2019

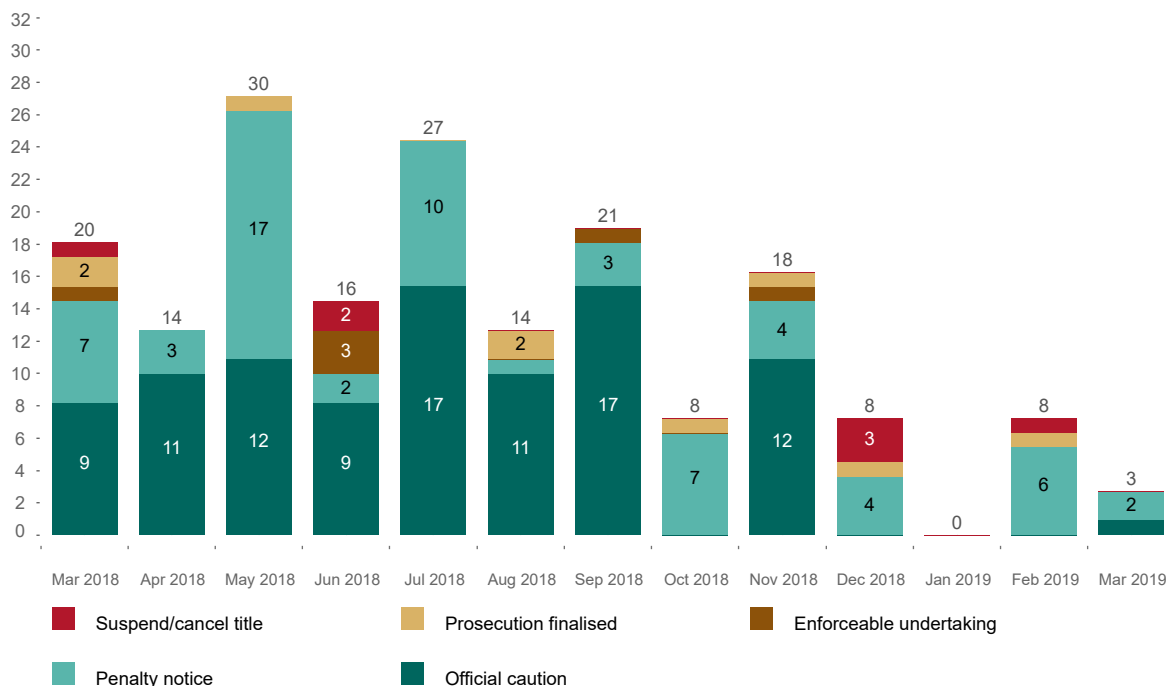
Issued to PCBU	Mine	Prohibited activity
Broken Hill Operations Pty Ltd	Rasp Mine	Assessing electrical apparatus or plant, while a voltage above extra low voltage is present inside the enclosure.
Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd	Wilpinjong Coal Mine	No work is to continue on the strip down of the track frame (from Digger 1010) located at Pit 1 lay down area.
Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited	Ashton Coal Mine (Coal Processing Plant)	Accessing the top of the rejects bin. Subject to direction 1, this does not prevent access for the purpose of undertaking (i) a structural integrity assessment, or (ii) repairs as an outcome of the aforementioned structural integrity assessment.
Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd	Rixs Creek Mine	Coal haulage from the south Coal Handling Process Plant to the train loading facility.
Endeavor Operations Pty Ltd	Endeavor Mine	Operating Atlas Copco Truck (Plant No. HT 34) for production activities.
Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited	Mt Arthur Coal Preparation Plant Operation Area	Robson Contractors re-handling coal on the Mt Arthur Coal Preparation Plant Stockpiles.
Wongawilli Coal Pty Ltd	Wongawilli Colliery	Operating the Hicks 2, Eyre, Shortland and Thompson Conveyor Belts.
Chris Rogers	Wongawilli Colliery	Accessing inbye of 83ct Eyre district.
Wongawilli Coal Pty Ltd	Wongawilli Colliery	Operating of Conveyors J7, MW2, MW1, MN2 and MN1.
Wongawilli Coal Pty Ltd	Wongawilli Colliery	Coal production by the pillar extraction method.
Muswellbrook Coal Company Limited	Muswellbrook Coal Company	Mining activities in Strip 21 extension and Muswellbrook inter-burden bench area of the mine.
CMOC Mining Pty Limited	Northparkes Mines	Using inching drive systems on Mills 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Young Mining Co Pty Ltd	Thuddungra Mine	Using the workshop forklift as an elevated work platform.
Wild Plant Hire Pty Ltd	Wild Quarry	Accessing top of pug mill stablemen silo by the currently fitted access system.
Andrew Hyslop	Metropolitan Colliery	Accessing underground parts of the mine.
Andrew Hyslop	Metropolitan Colliery	Longwall face production.
Boral Resources (NSW) Pty Ltd	Boral Dunmore Quarry	Using CAT D9R Dozer for earth moving activities without a serviceable fire suppression system.
Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	Wandoona Sand Pit	Using Cat 773 dump truck other than for the purpose of complying with the directions contained in this notice.
Total		18

\* PCBU – Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking

## Key enforcement actions

In March 2019 three enforcement actions were taken under the *Mining Act 1992*, down from eight in February 2019. Compared to March 2018, this was down 17 from 20.

**FIGURE 8.** ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS - MARCH 2018 TO MARCH 2019



**TABLE 5.** KEY ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS - MARCH 2019

Date	Entity	Authority	Action	Amount	Details/direction
20 Mar 2019	Harb Quarries Pty Ltd	ML1224	Penalty Notice	\$2,500	Section 378D Mining Act 1992. Failure to lodge Annual Environmental Management Report.
29 Mar 2019	Marble Aggregate Holdings Pty Ltd	PLL1130	Penalty Notice	\$1,000	Section 292C Mining Act 1992. Failure to pay rent and levy fees.
Total					2

# Education and engagement activities

The NSW Resources Regulator's industry engagement activities for March 2019 are outlined below.

**TABLE 6.** WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS - MARCH 2019

Date	Type of activity	Location	Details
7 Mar	Mine operator and community engagement	Condobolin	Attended Clean TeQ Community Consultative Committee meeting where the NSW Resources Regulator's presentation outlined our role as a high hazard regulator.
15 Mar	Health and safety representative engagement	Cadia Valley Operations	Inspector attended and presented summary of the role of the NSW Resources Regulator.
20 Mar	Glencore exam preparation programmer	Singleton	Provided overview of examination requirements for potential applicants.
22 Mar	Industry seminar	Maitland	Presented a Mechanical Engineering update on recent electric shock incidents to Engineers Australia, Mining Electrical Mining Mechanical Engineers Society.
26 -27 Mar	Education	Lightning Ridge	Mine Safety Awareness Course.
28 Mar	Education	Lightning Ridge	Mine Operators Course.
<b>Total</b>			<b>6</b>



# Publications and alerts

For March 2019, the NSW Resources Regulator published nine media releases, news articles and safety alerts on our [website](#).

**TABLE 7.** MEDIA RELEASES, SAFETY NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS - MARCH 2019

Date	Type	Summary
7 Mar	Mine Safety News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Rise in dozer incidents putting operators at risk</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lightning Ridge course dates</a></li> <li>• Supervision at mines</li> <li>• Hearing Awareness Week</li> </ul>
8 Mar	Weekly incident summary	<a href="#">Week ending 1 March 2019</a>
14 Mar	Media release	<a href="#">Prohibition notices issued to Wongawilli mine</a>
19 Mar	Weekly incident summary	<a href="#">Week ending 8 March 2019</a>
19 Mar	Media release	<a href="#">Resources Regulator shuts down Wongawilli mine over serious safety issues</a>
22 Mar	Weekly incident summary	<a href="#">Week ending 15 March 2019</a>
22 Mar	Media release	<a href="#">Resources Regulator responding to an incident at Metropolitan Colliery</a>
27 Mar	Media release	<a href="#">Resources Regulator heads causal investigation at Metropolitan coal mine</a>
27 Mar	Mine Safety news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Causal Investigation at Metropolitan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Workers injured by high pressure fluid</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Welding-related electric shocks increase</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Rise in vehicle collisions raises concerns</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Stop work order at Wongawilli mine</a></li> </ul>
Total		9



