



**NSW
Resources
Regulator**

MONTHLY BUSINESS ACTIVITIES REPORT

August 2020



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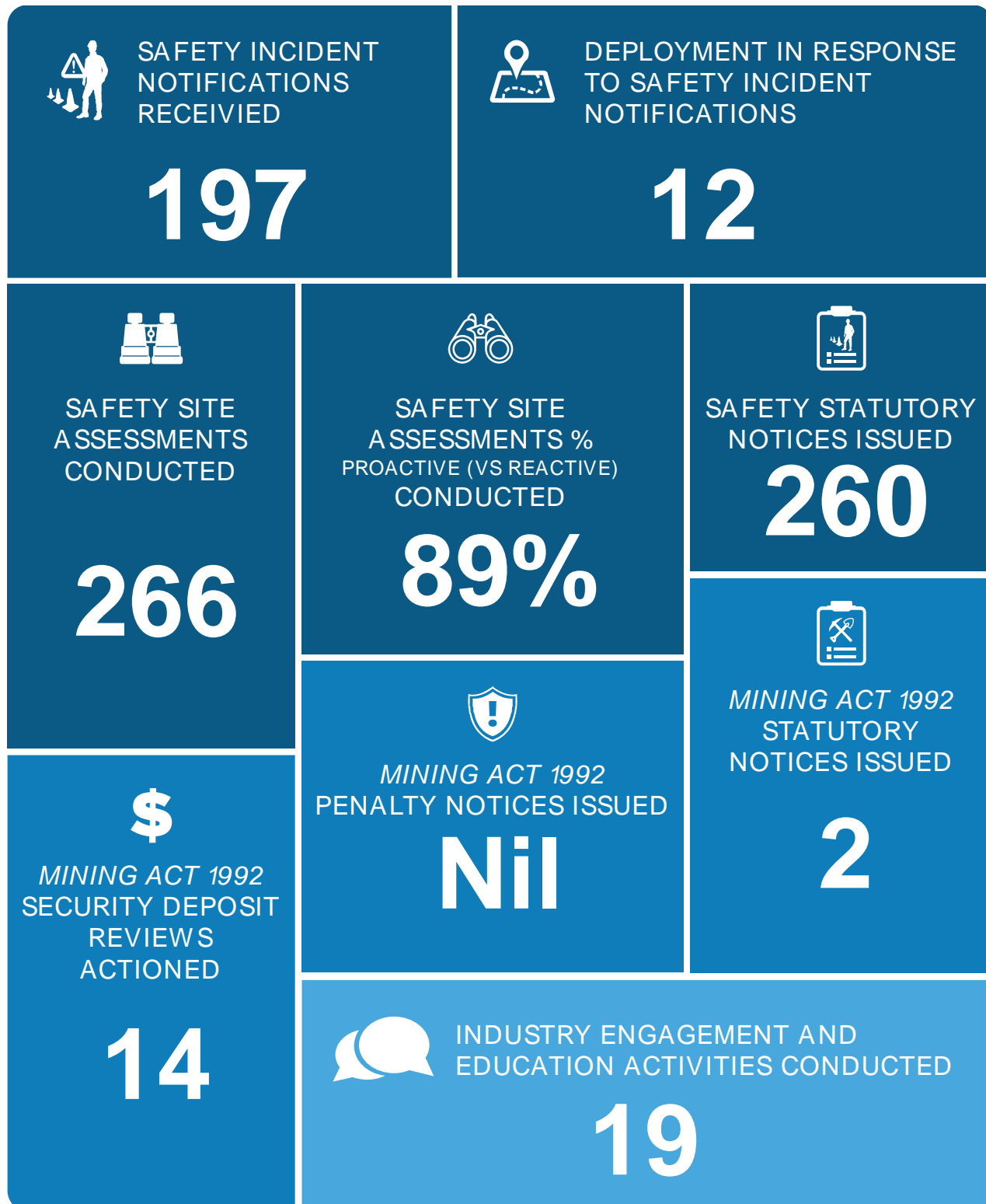
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Activities at a glance

Summary of our regulatory activities in August 2020



Key enforcement actions

We commenced [prosecution proceedings against Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd](#) in the NSW Land and Environment Court for alleged breaches of the state's mining laws in August. The matter relates to Exploration Licence EL6243, which forms part of Whitehaven Coal's Narrabri operations located at Boggabri.

An [investigation report](#) and [incident animation video](#) was released following a dangerous blasting incident that occurred at Albury Quarry, Ettamogah in April 2018. During the routine overburden blast large pieces of debris and rock were launched into the air striking three light vehicles that remained in an exclusion zone at the quarry. The report describes the investigation we conducted into the cause and circumstances of the incident and provides the investigation findings and recommendations to industry.

Safety incidents of note



A worker was found unresponsive in a load haul dump machine on the main travel road at an underground coal mine. Attempts to revive the worker were unsuccessful. Read the [Investigation Information Release](#).



A rigid haul truck rolled over the side of a haul road at an open cut industrial minerals mine, coming to rest on the edge of a steep drop. The operator was wearing a seatbelt and suffered a minor injury. Initial enquiries suggest that sunlight interfered with the driver's line of sight, causing the worker to drive into the bunding that was not adequate to hold up the truck. The truck drove over a large rock in the bund wall and tipped over. Mine operators should ensure that bunds are designed, constructed and maintained to a standard that is suitable to protect workers from harm.

Principal hazard management plans for roads or other vehicle operating areas should consider factors that may affect operator visibility or ability to control a vehicle such as sunlight, fog, or dust obstructions that may affect lines of sight. This incident also highlights the importance of wearing a seatbelt while operating mobile plant.



A worker's arm became caught in the tail pulley on the main drive of a screening plant belt at an open cut construction materials mine. The worker removed a guard to view the belt tracking and attempted to remove the roc by hand. The machine was at idle when the incident occurred. We recently published an [Investigation Information Release](#) about a similar incident. Mine operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety associated with the operation, maintenance and cleaning of plant. Mine operators and workers must ensure that when guarding around plant is removed for maintenance or cleaning purposes, all energy sources are isolated.

Work Health and Safety activities

Safety incident notifications

FIGURE 1. SAFETY INCIDENT NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED BY SECTOR - AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

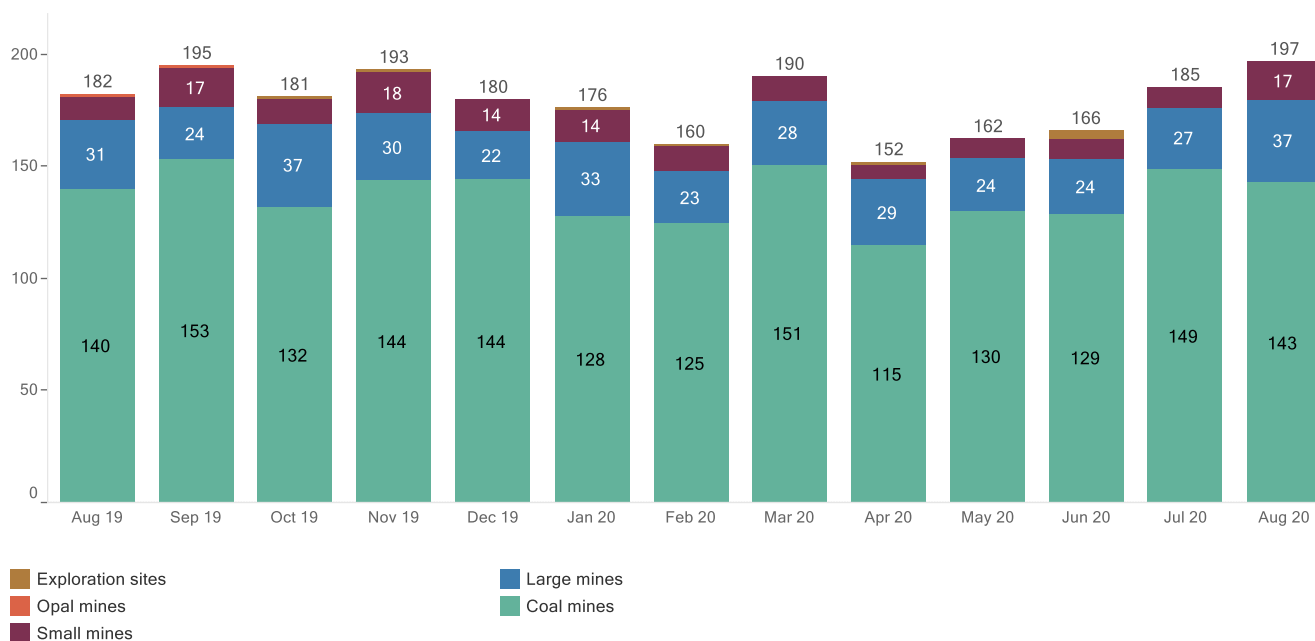


TABLE 1. DETAILS OF SAFETY INCIDENTS WHERE INSPECTORS WERE DEPLOYED - AUGUST 2020

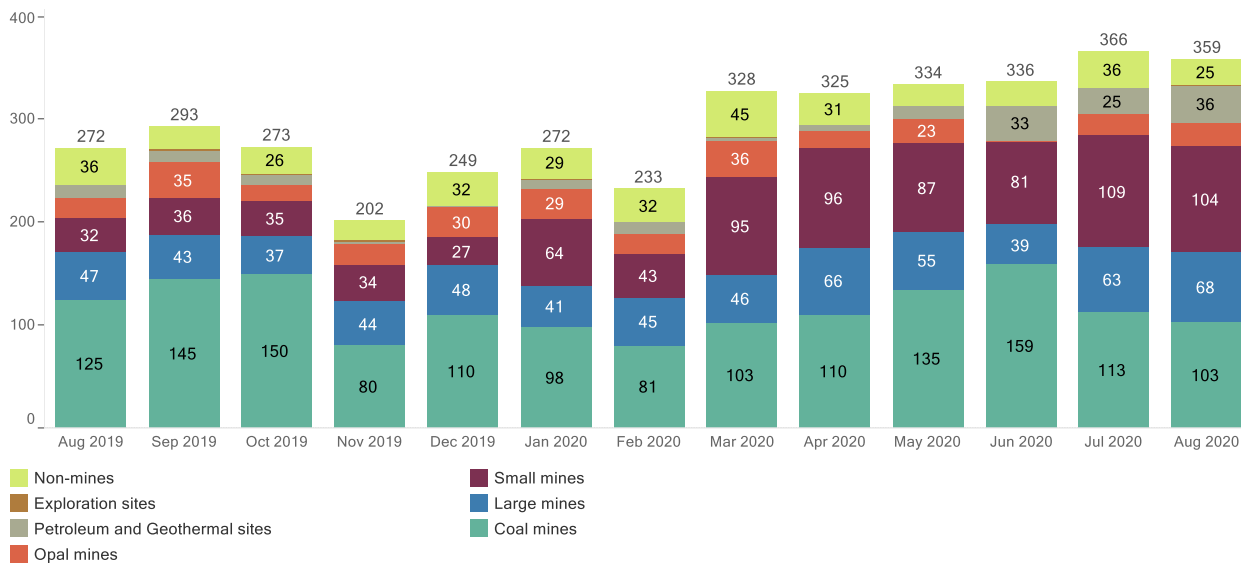
DATE NOTIFIED	SECTOR	INCIDENT
5 August	Coal mine Surface	An empty haul truck was travelling around a corner when the rear axle box wheel assembly detached from the main truck frame. The retaining bolts for the trunnion pin failed, allowing the trunnion pin to dislodge.
5 August	Large mines Metalliferous and quarries Surface	Dust hygiene monitoring resulting in the detection of two incidents of results exceeding 0.05mg/m ³ respirable silica per cubic metre.
6 August	Small mines Metalliferous, Quarries and Other Gemstones	A rigid haul truck rolled over the side of a haul road, coming to rest on the edge of a steep drop. The operator was wearing a seatbelt and suffered a minor injury.
10 August	Coal mine Surface	A light vehicle turned in front of a haul truck at an intersection, narrowly avoiding a collision.

DATE NOTIFIED	SECTOR	INCIDENT
12 August	Coal mine Underground	Two fitters were at pit bottom servicing and inspecting an SMV as the operator of a Brumby attempted to reverse past the SMV, striking one of the fitter's left ankle and foot with the rear wheel of the Brumby.
13 August	Large mines Metalliferous and quarries Surface	An electrician was removing an insulator from a disconnected 22kV trailing cable. When the worker tried to remove the second insulator, their hand came in contact with one of the phase pins and suffered an electric shock. When the three-phase pins were tested, two read zero voltage while the third gave a reading of 108VDC. Subsequent testing returned readings of zero voltage on all three pins.
18 August	Large mines Metalliferous and quarries Underground	During shaft-lining operations, a winch cable snapped, resulting in a shotcrete hose-reeler moving about two metres and hitting the back of the shaft-lining rig. Up to 700 kilograms was suspended from the shaft-lining rig at the time. The lining rig weighed about 12 tonnes and was on the ground near the shaft opening. The cable reeler weighed about two tonnes and was behind the lining rig.
21 August	Coal mine Underground	A worker was found unresponsive in a load haul dump machine (LHD) on the main travel road at an underground coal mine. Attempts to revive the worker were unsuccessful. The LHD was running at the time the worker was found.
25 August	Coal mine Underground	A worker was hit on the leg while helping to remove a power pack from a longhole drill. The work group entered the area to remove the power pack, which was on a trailer. The regular access road was blocked, which led to the LHD approaching from the opposite direction. The trailer needed to be rotated 180 degrees in the roadway to hook up the trailer. During the rotation of the trailer, an operator entered the no-go area and was hit on the leg.
26 August	Coal mine Surface	A 30-tonne excavator conducting rehabilitation work was being walked backwards when one track rode up onto a rock pile, causing the excavator to overturn. The operator suffered a bump on the head.
28 August	Small mines Metalliferous, Quarries and Other Gemstones	A worker's arm became caught in the tail pulley on the main drive of a screening plant belt. The worker removed a guard to view the belt tracking and put hand in to remove a rock. The machine was at idle when the incident occurred.
31 August	Coal mine Surface	A 12V light system was in close proximity to grinding and air arc gouging on the tub of a dragline. The 12V power supply was wrapped in heat blanket to protect it and a welding screen was in place between it and the work. The 12V lighting breakout box and light cabling caught alight. Workers in close proximity extinguished the flames.
TOTAL		12

Safety assessments

Safety assessments commenced

FIGURE 2. SAFETY ASSESSMENTS COMMENCED BY SECTOR – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Proactive and reactive safety assessments

Proactive assessments include targeted assessments and planned inspections. Assessments conducted in response to incident notifications, targeted interventions, high risk activity notifications and action requests are reported as reactive assessments.

In August 2020, 69% of all site and desktop safety assessments were proactive. Of the 266 site assessments conducted, 89% were proactive.

FIGURE 3. SAFETY ASSESSMENTS COMMENCED BY CATEGORY AND NATURE – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

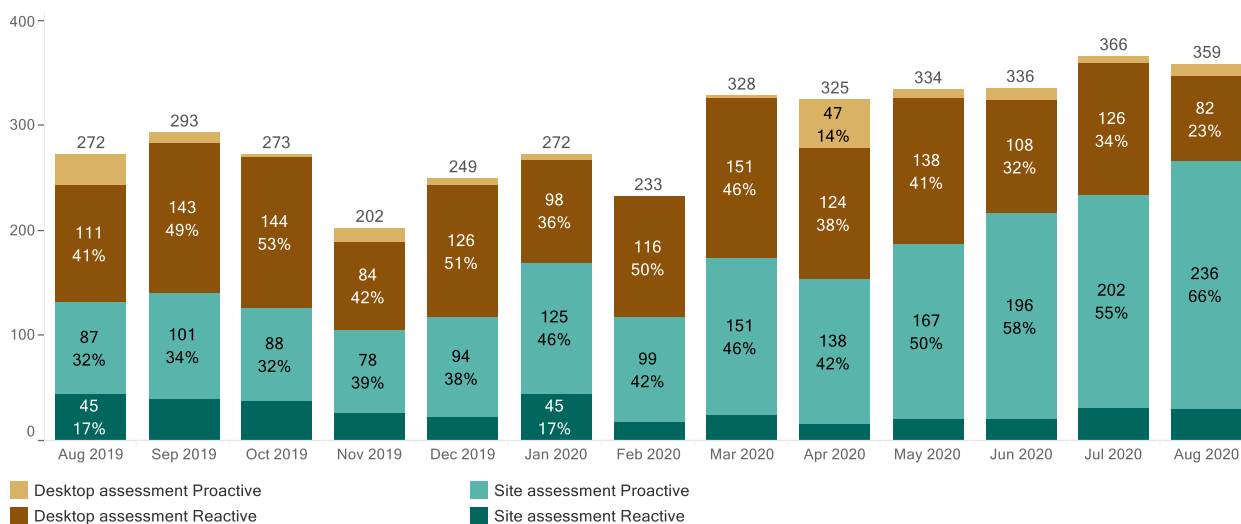
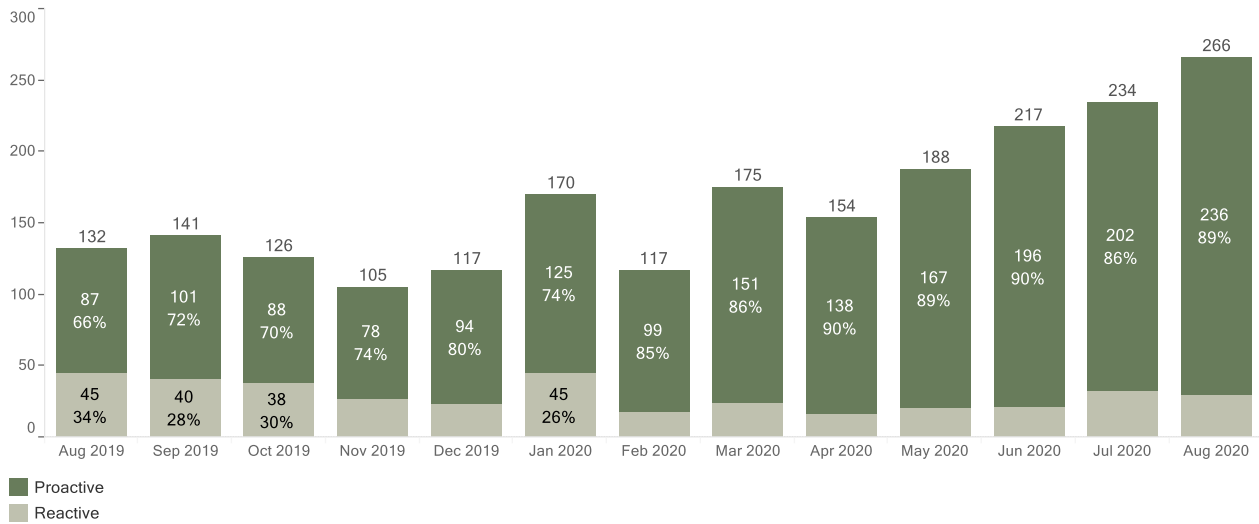


FIGURE 4. SAFETY SITE ASSESSMENTS COMMENCED BY NATURE – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Safety site targeted assessment program

FIGURE 5. TARGETED SAFETY SITE ASSESSMENTS COMMENCED – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

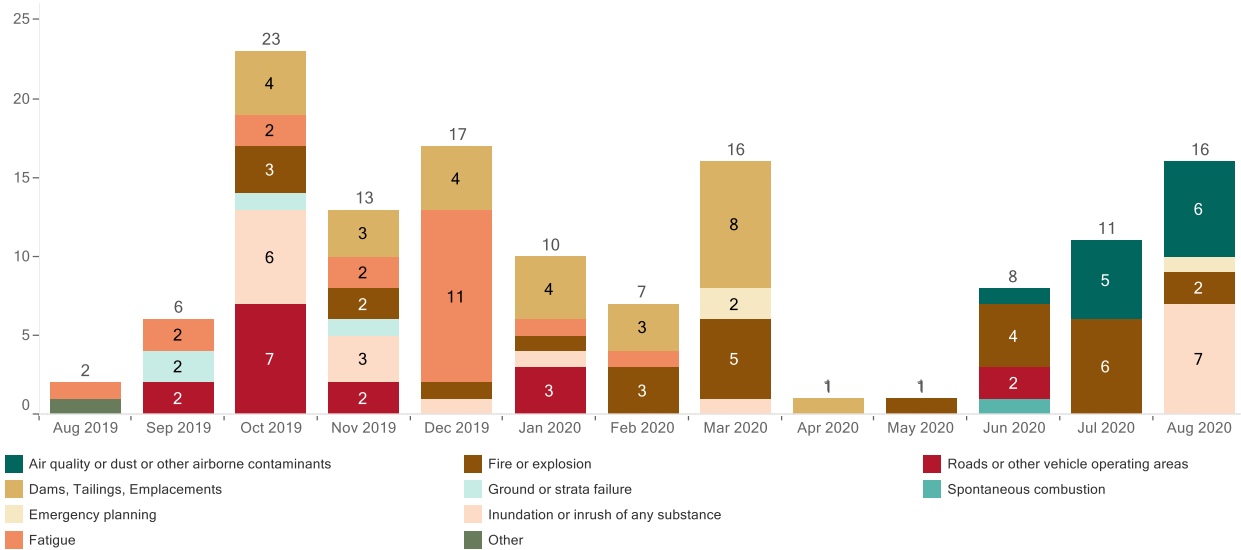


TABLE 2. DETAILS OF TARGETED SAFETY SITE ASSESSMENTS – AUGUST 2020

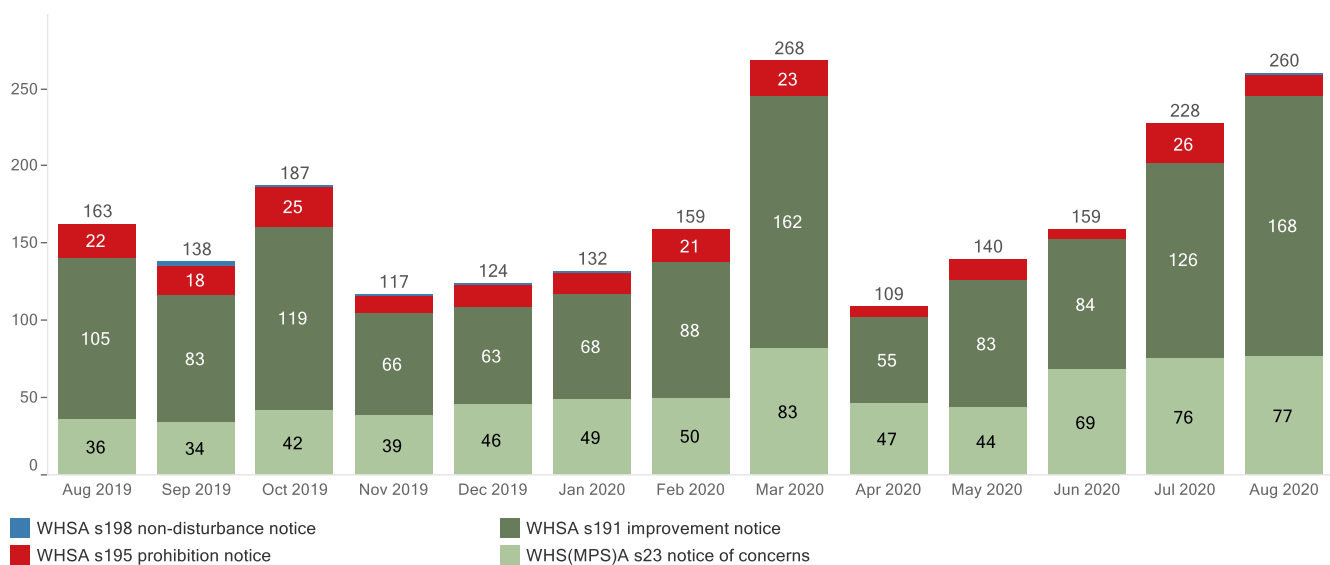
HAZARD	SECTOR	MINE
Emergency planning	Coal mines	Narrabri Colliery
Fire or explosion	Coal mines	Appin Colliery Dendrobium Colliery
Air quality or dust or other airborne contaminants	Coal mines	Hunter Valley Operations Mount Pleasant Operations

HAZARD	SECTOR	MINE
		Ravensworth Operations
	Large mines	Holcim – Lynwood Site
		Peppertree Quarry
		CSA Mine
Inundation or inrush of any substance	Large mines	Cowal Gold Mine
		Cadia East Underground
		New Cobar & Chesney
		Northparkes Mine
		Peak Gold Mine
		Tomingley Gold Mine
	Small mines	Ridgeway Gold Mine
TOTAL		16

Safety compliance activities

Safety notices issued

FIGURE 6. SAFETY NOTICES ISSUED BY NOTICE TYPE - AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Prohibition notices issued

In August 2020, 14 prohibition notices were issued under section 195 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

TABLE 3. PROHIBITION NOTICES ISSUED - AUGUST 2020

ISSUED TO PCBU*	MINE LOCATION	PROHIBITED ACTIVITY
Perilya Broken Hill Limited	Potosi Operations	Use of 'CMC' Volvo Loader in conducting activities on the Potosi ROM pad.
HV Operations Pty Ltd	Hunter Valley Operations	Komatsu 830E trucks are not to be used for production operations. These trucks are identified as having more than 14000 operational hours on the rear axle housing pivoting pin and bearing assembly. The notice does not prevent the use of plant identified above for the purpose of testing, maintenance or repair.
Bald Hill Quarry Pty Ltd	Holbrook Quarry	People entering Bench 4 haul road that lies below the overturned dump truck.
Tomingley Gold Operations Pty Ltd	Tomingley Gold Mine	Vehicle access to the top of the central dam walls.
Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd	Dendrobium Colliery	Running of the Corrimal mains conveyor belt.
MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd	Mount Pleasant Operation	The use of Mount Pleasant coal stockpile dozers for the use of pushing coal into reclaim valves on the coal stockpile. This does not prohibit the use of the stockpile dozers to construct edge protection within the coal stockpile area.
CMOC Mining Pty Limited	Northparkes Mines	Pedestrian access within 30m of the toe of the red stockpile where there is no catch bund.
CMOC Mining Pty Limited	Northparkes Mines	Personnel shall not conduct shaft lining activities using the shotcrete system at the Northparkes E48 vent intake shaft. The following activity is exempt from the prohibition: The recovery of the shotcrete head from the shaft.
Thiess Pty Ltd	Mt Arthur South (Thiess Pty Ltd)	All hot work activities at the area known as the 'Hot Work Area'.
Newcrest Mining Limited	Cadia Valley Shared Surface Infrastructure	Emplacement of tailings into the North Tailings Storage Facility outside of trial activities defined in SHRA0001364.
Peak Gold Mines Pty Limited	Peak Gold Mine	Use of the crusher overhead crane where it may apply load to the damaged column (adjacent to rock breaker/grizzly).
Springvale Coal Pty Limited	Springvale Mine Underground Operation	The movement of the LHD, LHD chains or Power Pack trailer at 27 c/t drilling site of 427 Panel.
Peak Gold Mines Pty Limited	Peak Gold Mine	Access to the platform adjacent to the ore chute while CV01 is operated. Access to the platform adjacent to the Mullock chute while CV01 is operated.

ISSUED TO PCBU*	MINE LOCATION	PROHIBITED ACTIVITY
CMOC Mining Pty Limited	Northparkes Mines	Energising, including mains power and pilot circuits, the equipment fed from the starter that was in use at the time of the electric shock, including the cables and the Jumbo involved in the incident.
TOTAL		14

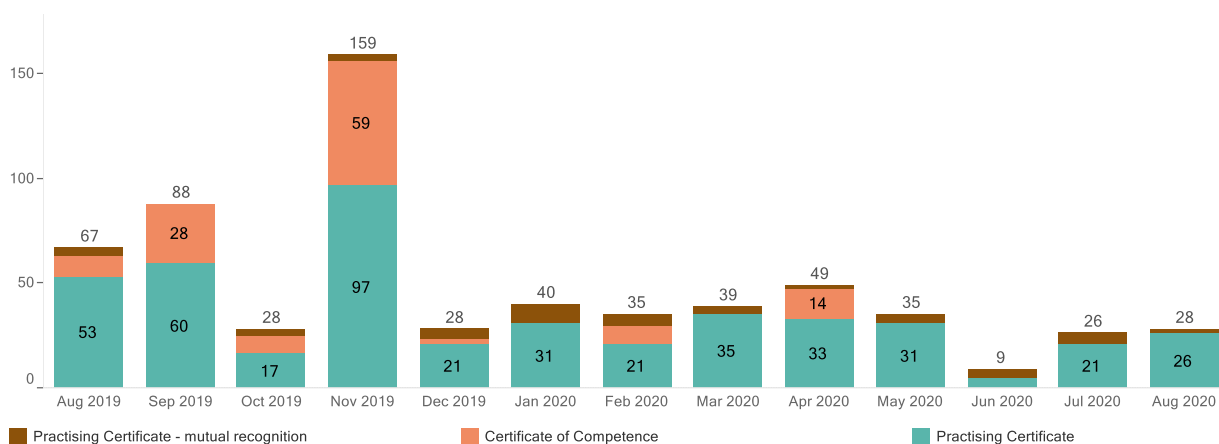
*Person conducting business or undertaking

Safety mining competencies activities

Competence and practising certificate applications

Safety mining competence activities include certificate of competence (mutual recognition). In August, we granted 26 practising certificates and two practising certificates for mutual recognition.

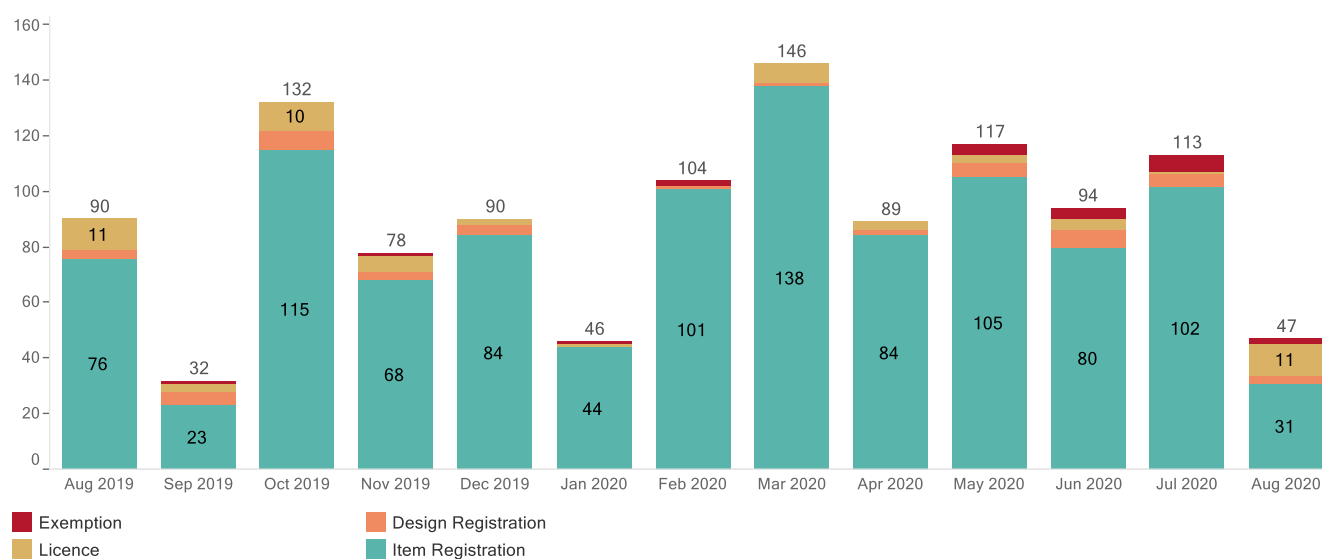
FIGURE 7. COMPETENCE AND PRACTISING CERTIFICATES GRANTED – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Safety mining authorisation activities

Safety mining authorisations include licence applications to carry out prescribed high-level activities, plant item registrations, design registrations and exemptions. During August, 31 item registrations, 11 licences, three design registrations and two exemptions were granted.

FIGURE 8. MINING AUTHORISATIONS GRANTED – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Exemptions

In August 2020, we granted two applications and refused one requesting exemption from specific provisions of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014*.

TABLE 4. EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS GRANTED AND REFUSED - JULY 2020

MINE	REGULATION EXEMPTED*	STATUS
Airly Colliery	Clause 80 (3) b Use of specified cables in a hazardous zone	Granted
Ulan West Operations	Clause 96(1) Mine has at least two exits to the surface that are trafficable by persons	Granted
Ulan West Operations	Clauses 78 (1) and (2)(a) Use of plant in hazardous zone (explosion-protection required)	Refused
TOTAL		3

High risk activities notifications

FIGURE 9. HIGH RISK ACTIVITY NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED BY ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

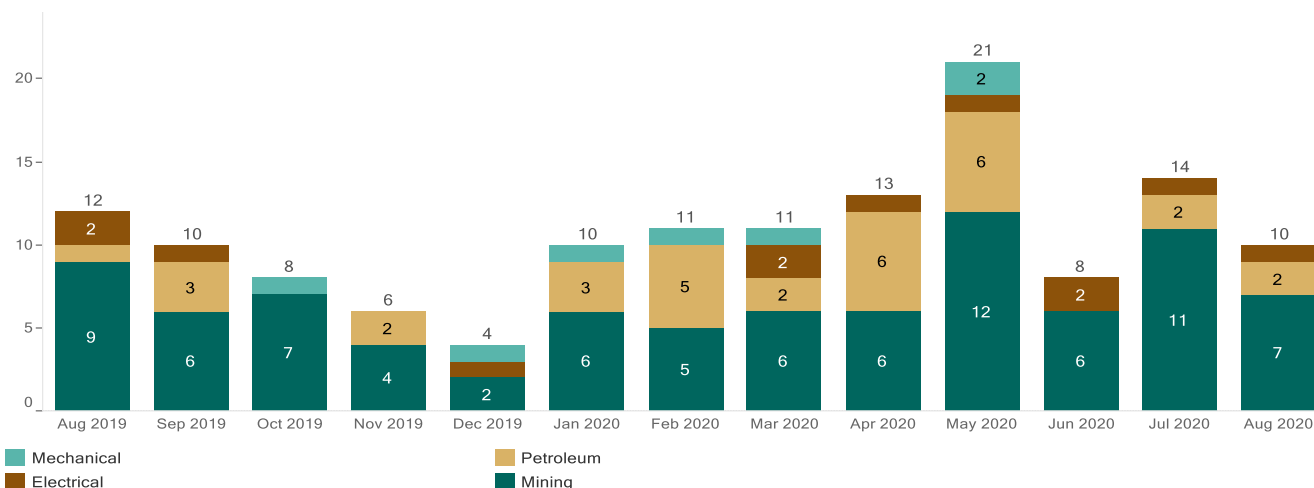


TABLE 5. HIGH RISK ACTIVITY NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED – AUGUST 2020

MINE	LEGISLATION*	TYPE OF NOTIFICATION	NO.
PPL0004 Elizabeth Macarthur 17	Schedule 3 Clause 32	Decommissioning a well	1
Cowal Gold Mine	Schedule 3 Clause 4	Development of a new mine entry (including by sinking a shaft or drift or raise boring)	1
Dendrobium Colliery	Schedule 3 Clause 15	The formation of a pillar other than a conforming pillar	1
Dendrobium Colliery	Schedule 3 Clause 7(2)(a)	Working in inrush control zone - potential source of inrush can be inspected	1
Camden Gas Project - PPL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Schedule 3 Clause 32	Decommissioning a well	1
Tahmoor Colliery	Schedule 3 Clause 10	Sealing (other than emergency sealing), but only if notice has not been given as part of a notice for secondary extraction	1
Bulga Surface Operations	Schedule 3 Clause 27	The establishment, operation, alteration or decommissioning of an emplacement area	1
Tomingley Gold Mine	Schedule 3 Clause 35	The establishment, operation, alteration or decommissioning of a tailings storage facility	1
Atlas Mineral Sands Mine	Schedule 3 Clause 35	The establishment, operation, alteration or decommissioning of a tailings storage facility	1
Tahmoor Colliery	Schedule 3 Clause 18	Carrying out mining operations in an outburst control zone	1
TOTAL			10

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

Mining Act regulatory activities

Mining Act assessments

Proactive and reactive assessments

We undertake both proactive and reactive site assessments. Proactive site assessments include planned inspections, compliance inspections and regulatory audits. Reactive site assessments include assessments conducted in response to lodgement of mining operation plans, annual reports, security reviews, applications to conduct exploration activities, title dealings and action requests.

FIGURE 10. MINING ACT ASSESSMENTS COMMENCED BY CATEGORY AND NATURE – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

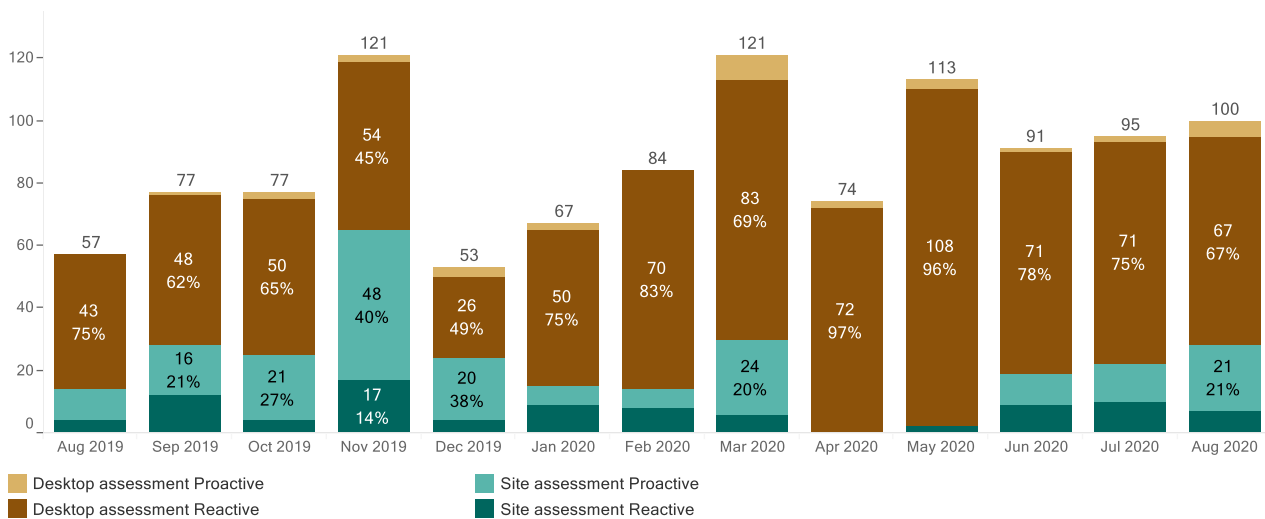
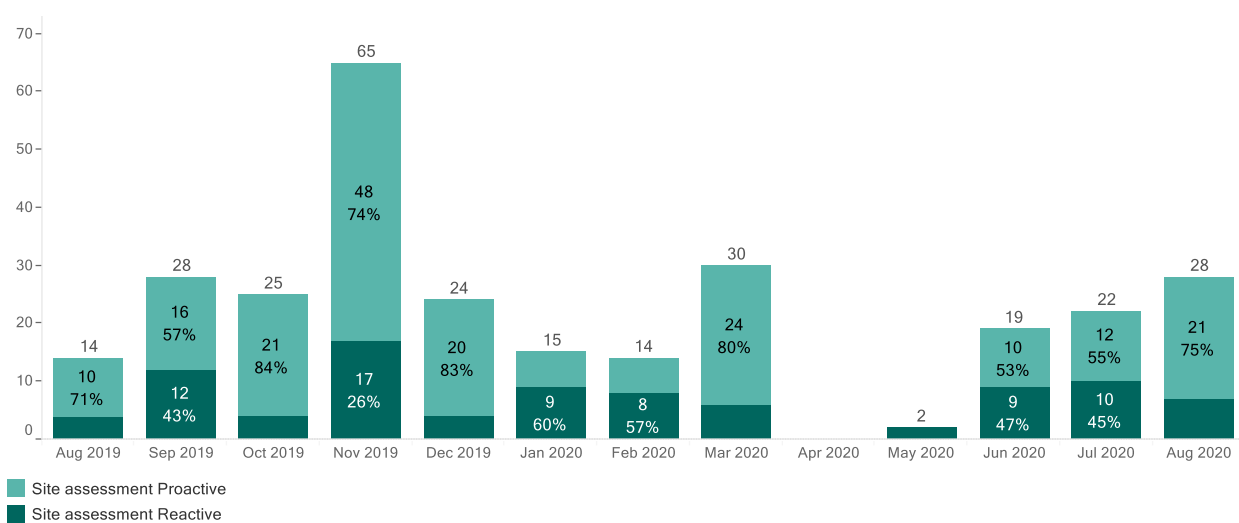


FIGURE 11. MINING ACT SITE ASSESSMENTS COMMENCED BY NATURE – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

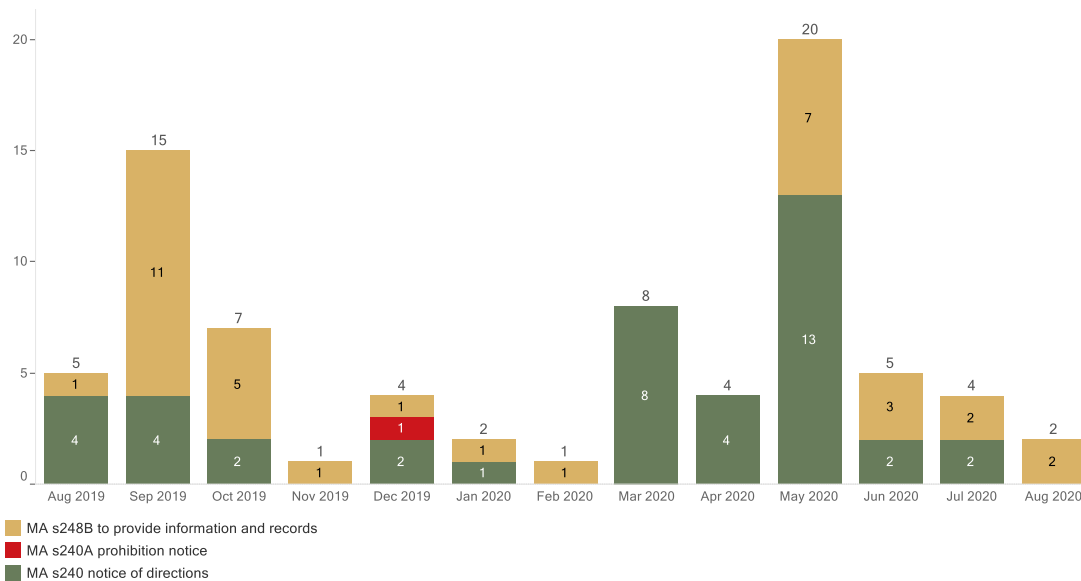


Mining Act compliance activities

Statutory notices issued

In August 2020, we issued two statutory notices under the *Mining Act 1992*.

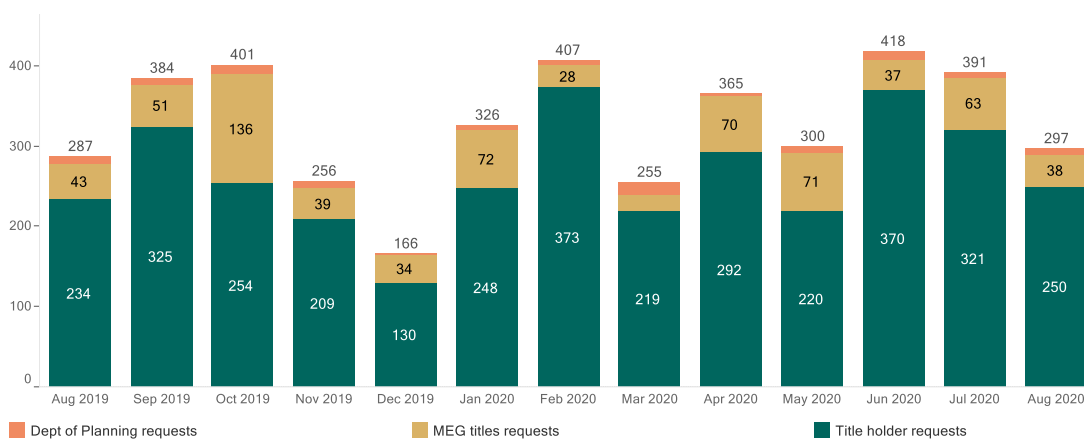
FIGURE 12. MINING ACT STATUTORY NOTICES ISSUED BY NOTICE TYPE – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Mining Act request for service

In August 2020, we actioned 297 requests for service. This included 250 requests from titleholders, 38 from Mining, Exploration and Geoscience concerning the administration of mining authorisations and nine requests from either the NSW Department of Planning or a local consent authority relating to development assessment applications under the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

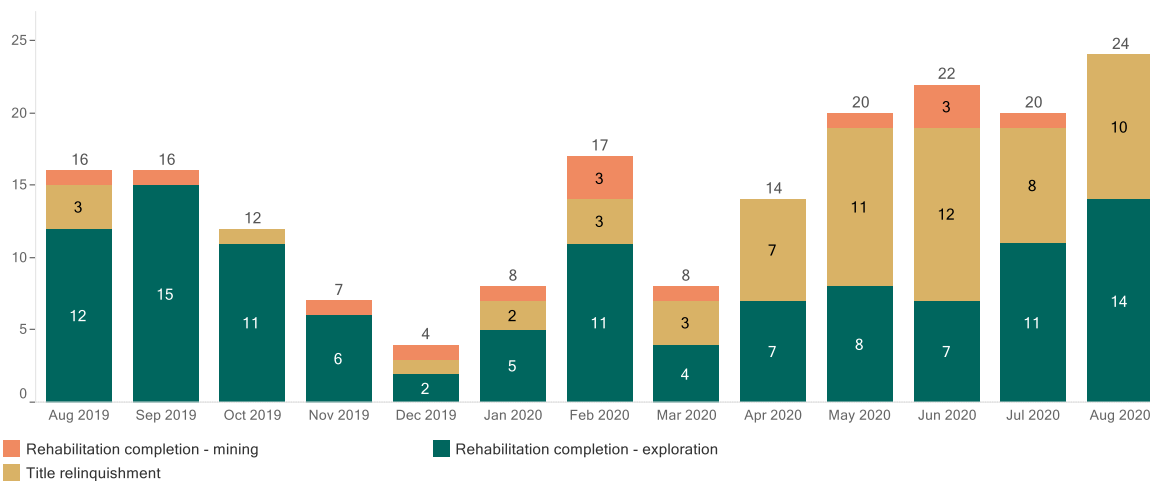
FIGURE 13. REQUESTS FOR SERVICE ACTIONED BY SOURCE – AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Mining Act rehabilitation activities

In August 2020, we actioned 14 exploration rehabilitation completions and 10 title relinquishments.

FIGURE 14. MINING ACT REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY CATEGORY - AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

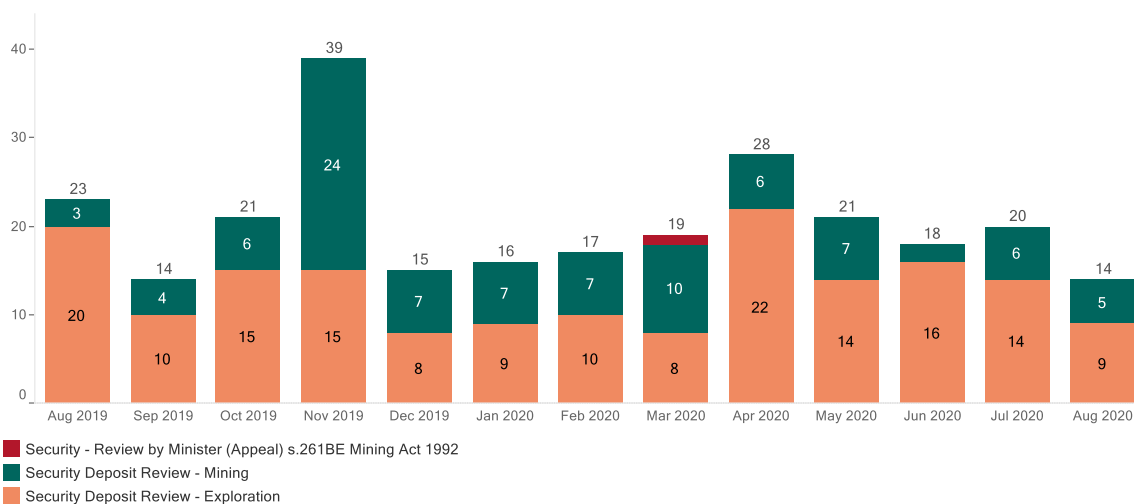


Rehabilitation security deposit reviews

Our inspectors regularly assess the surface disturbance (or proposed disturbance) of a mine or exploration site to calculate the security deposit. This is known as the assessed deposit. Once the assessed deposit is determined, we advise the Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (part of Regional NSW) who vary the condition of the title to seek additional funds or, in the case of satisfactory rehabilitation, returns some or all of the security deposit.

In August 2020, we assessed nine exploration and five mining titles security deposits held for rehabilitation.

FIGURE 15. REHABILITATION SECURITY DEPOSIT REVIEWS ACTIONED BY CATEGORY - AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Safety legislation and Mining Act compliance concerns and non-compliances

Safety non-compliance breaches

In August 2020, there were no non-compliance breaches sustained under the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) legislation.

FIGURE 16. SAFETY NON-COMPLIANCE BREACHES SUSTAINED BY CATEGORY - AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

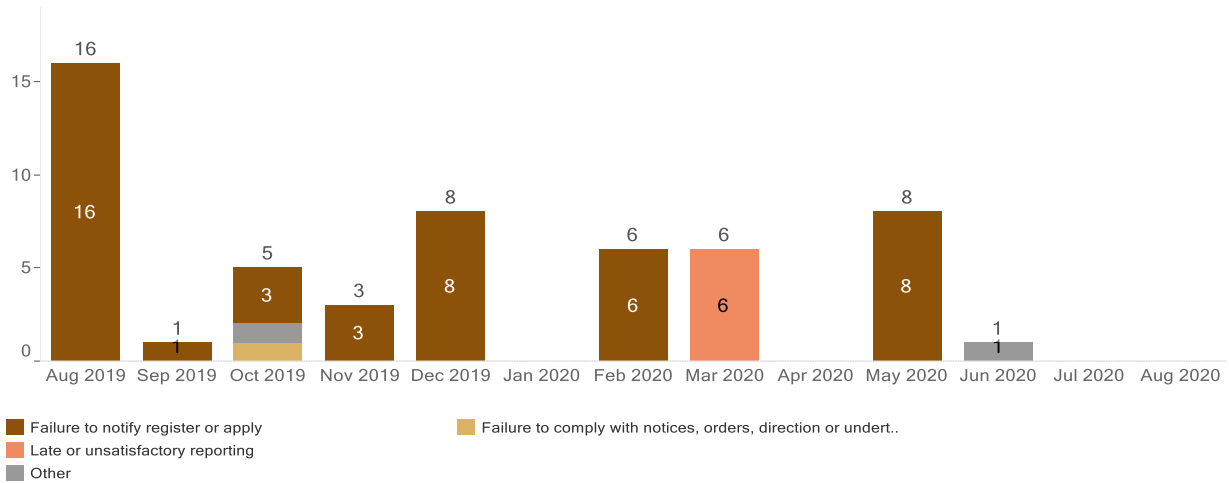
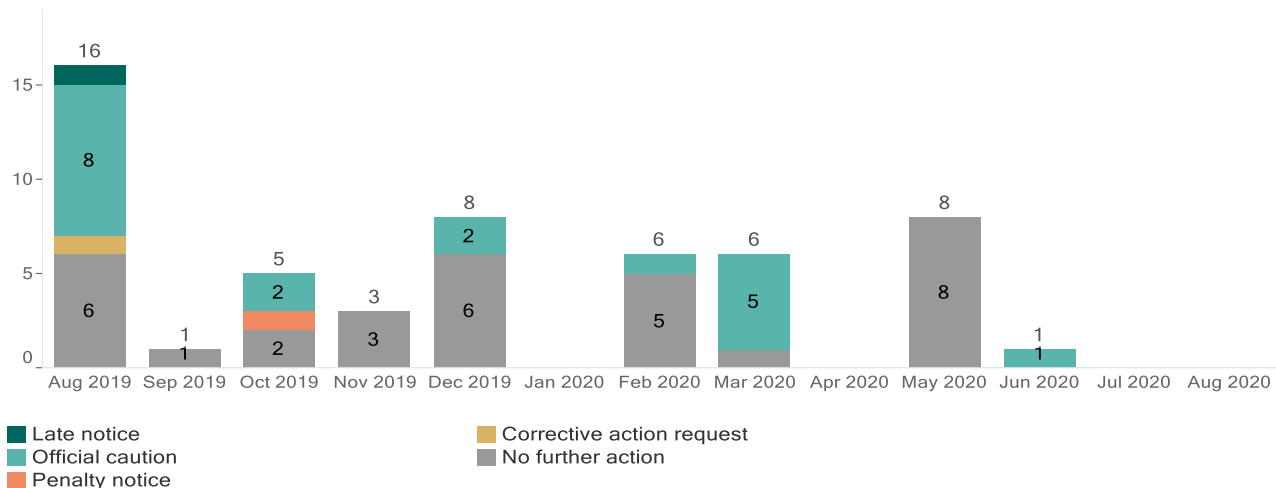


FIGURE 17. SAFETY NON-COMPLIANCE BREACHES SUSTAINED BY REGULATORY RESPONSE - AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

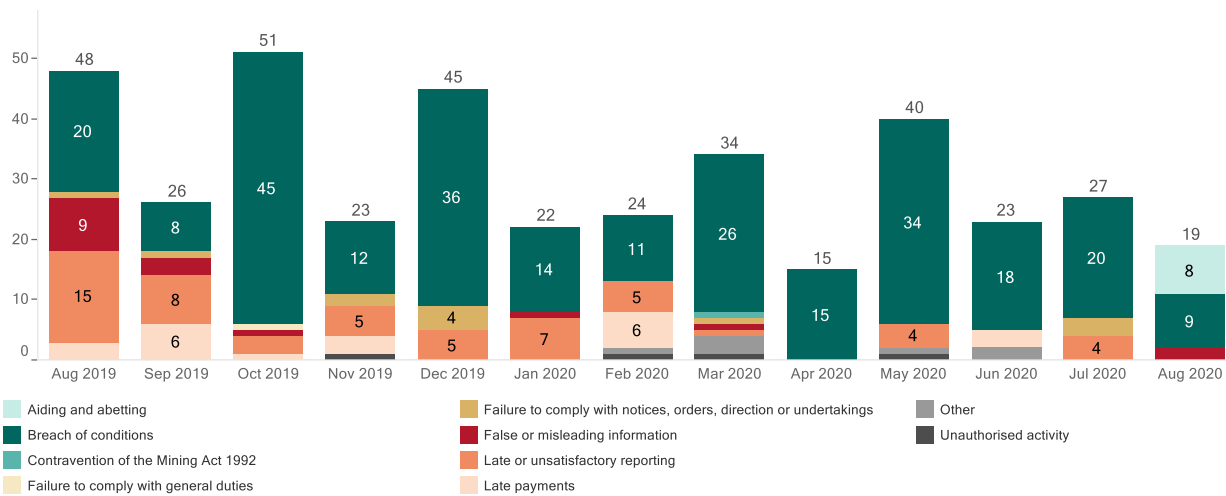


Mining Act non-compliance breaches sustained

Non-compliance breaches sustained by category

In August 2020, there were 19 non-compliance breaches sustained under the *Mining Act 1992*. The compliance categories shown in the figure below is not exhaustive.

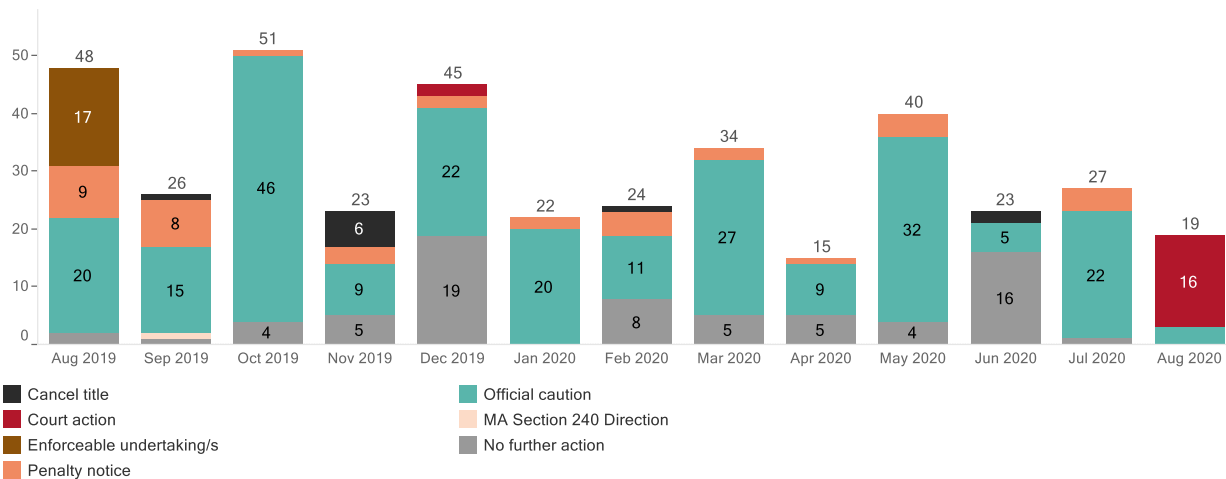
**FIGURE 18. MINING ACT 1992 NON-COMPLIANCE BREACHES SUSTAINED BY CATEGORY
AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020**



Non-compliance breaches sustained by regulatory response

In August 2020, there were 19 non-compliance breaches sustained under the *Mining Act 1992*. These resulted in three official cautions and 16 court action.

FIGURE 19. MINING ACT 1992 NON-COMPLIANCE BREACHES SUSTAINED BY REGULATORY RESPONSE - AUGUST 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



Mining Act 1992 Key enforcement actions

TABLE 6. MINING ACT 1992 KEY ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS – AUGUST 2020

Date	Entity	Authority	Action	Amount	Allegation/Finding
7 August	Narrabri Coal Pty Ltd	EL6243	Court Action	N/A	Eight summons were filed in the Land and Environment Court relating to breaches of s.378D of the Mining Act – Contravention of condition of authority. The proceedings relate to the alleged construction of unauthorised tracks, failing to rehabilitate drill sites and drilling of bore holes contrary to exploration activity approval conditions on Crown Land incorporating the Pilliga East State Forest. The alleged breaches were detected in June 2019, as part of the 2019 RR Compliance Blitz.
7 August	Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd	EL6243	Court Action	N/A	Eight summons were filed in the Land and Environment Court relating to breaches of s.378EA of the Mining Act – cause or permit the commission of an offence under s.378D of the Mining Act. As the Operator at the Narrabri Coal Mine, Narrabri Coal Operations constructed unauthorised tracks, failed to rehabilitate drill sites and drilled bore holes contrary to exploration activity approval conditions on Crown Land incorporating the Pilliga East State Forest. The alleged breaches were detected in June 2019, as part of the 2019 RR Compliance Blitz.
10 August	Narrabri Coal Pty Ltd and others	EL6243	Revocation of suspension of operations	N/A	On 22 August 2019 the Resources Regulator suspended exploration activities on EL6243 under s.240AA of the Mining Act over alleged breaches of conditions of authorisation. The suspension has been revoked after the licence holder complied with all the requirements of the suspension.
28 August	Various	25 Non-Coal Exploration Licences	Omit the DOI Water 'Drilling Notification' Condition	N/A	The Resources Regulator removed the drilling notification condition imposed on 25 non-coal Exploration Licences. The decision took effect on 31 August 2020.
TOTAL					4

Industry engagement activities

Our Industry engagement activities for August 2020 are outlined below.

Committees and other industry body involvement

In August 2020, we participated in the following committees and working groups.

TABLE 7. COMMITTEES AND OTHER INDUSTRY BODY INVOLVEMENT – AUGUST 2020

DATE	COMMITTEE/BODY	DETAIL
3 August	Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) - Cobar	Cobar Local Emergency Management Committee – Emergency Planning meeting
5 August	Dam Safety NSW	Tailings dams meeting
7 August	EL-043 / EL-043-1	Australian Standards working group (ZOOM video conference) meeting to consider and review the Australia response to IEC TC 99 CDV for IEC standard IEC 61936-1 Ed.3. Power installations exceeding 1 kV a.c - PART 1: COMMON RULES
13 August	LEMC - Gunnedah	Gunnedah Local Emergency Management Committee meeting – Emergency Planning meeting
13 August	LEMC – Mid Western (Mudgee)	Mid-Western (Mudgee) Local Emergency Management Committee – Emergency Planning Meeting
13 August	EL23 Battery Powered Underground Vehicles	Regular Meeting via videoconference
18 August	Mining and Petroleum Competence Board	Quarterly board meeting via videoconference
19 August	ASNZS 2081 Electrical Protection Devices	Regular Meeting via videoconference
19 August	EL-023-01	Australian Standards working group video conference meeting for review of Australian Standard AS/NZS 2081 Electrical protection devices for mines and quarries

DATE	COMMITTEE/BODY	DETAIL
20 August	EL-014	Australian Standards technical committee (ZOOM video conference) meeting to consider and review IEC standards development/revision activities and to make recommendation to Standards Australia for the Australian adoption of the IEC standards relating to hazardous areas and equipment
21 August	Radiation Council	Board meeting
25 August	Dam Safety NSW	Monthly board meeting
26 August	LEMC - Narrabri	Narrabri Local Emergency Management Committee – Emergency Planning Meeting
27 August	LEMC - Singleton	Singleton Local Emergency Management Committee
27 August	JAS-ANZ-IECEX Advisory Committee	Australian IECEX Conformity Assessment mirror committee for the determination of Australia’s position on matters relating to the IECEX scheme management. Note that this was formerly the Standards Australia ET-006-01 committee.
TOTAL		14

External education and engagement activities

TABLE 8. WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS - AUGUST 2020

DATE	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	LOCATION	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	DETAILS
12 August	Industry forum	Online	47	Open cut coal mechanical engineers' forum
13 August	Industry forum	Online	27	Western Region Metalliferous Electrical Engineers' Forum
13 August	Industry forum	Online	66	Underground coal mechanical engineers' forum
18-19 August	Opal Mining safety awareness training	Lightning Ridge District Bowling Club	10	The safety awareness course has been combined with the mine operators' workshop. It covers the knowledge and skills required to be a mine operator at an opal mine, including safety policy, hazard identification, maintenance, risk management, people management, emergency response plans and contractors.
21 August	Industry forum	Online	101	HVEC MEMMES, Southern & Western District Electrical Engineers (Coal) Forum
27 August	Industry forum	Online	29	Metalliferous mechanical engineers' forum
TOTAL			280	5

Publication and alerts

TABLE 9. MEDIA RELEASES, SAFETY BULLETINS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUGUST 2020

DATE	TYPE	SUMMARY
3 August	News item	Certificate of competence exams will commence soon
4 August	News item	New notice for the provision of mine survey plans
5 August	News item	Enforceable undertaking accepted in relation to Maules Creek truck collision
7 August	News item	New exemption clarifies use of electrical cables in underground mines
7 August	News item	Changes to the issuing of quarry manager practicing certificates

DATE	TYPE	SUMMARY
7 August	Weekly summary	https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1250771/Weekly-incident-summary-week-ending-7-August-2020.pdf
12 August	News item	New exemption clarifies use of electrical cables in underground mines
13 August	News item	Have your say about the MSAC Dust Safety Awareness campaign
13 August	News item	Open cut coal mine worker contracts coal workers' pneumoconiosis
14 August	Weekly summary	https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1253243/Weekly-incident-summary-week-ending-14-August-2020.pdf
21 August	News item	Incident at Springvale Mine
21 August	Weekly summary	https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1255855/Weekly-incident-summary-week-ending-21-Aug-2020.pdf
27 August	News item	WHS reports are overdue
27 August	News item	Quarterly Safety Report released for April to June 2020
27 August	News item	Practising certificate reminder
TOTAL		15