



NSW Resources Regulator

Monthly business activity
report: July 2017



Vision

**A safe and
responsible mining,
extractive and
petroleum industry**

Mission

**To enable and
support industry
to understand and
fulfil its obligations**

Key activities

The Resources Regulator undertook numerous major enforcement actions this month.

More than 100 non-compliance breaches were identified in a two-day blitz in Lightning Ridge's opal fields. Safety and environment inspectors from the department's Resources Regulator and Division of Resources and Geoscience carried out on-site inspections on July 11 and 12 to monitor and enforce compliance with mining and safety laws. The operation focused on mine shaft safety, mechanical and electrical safety, mineral claim conditions and rehabilitation of mineral claims.

Due to ongoing safety and compliance concerns, the Regulator continued its targeted intervention into South32's Appin Colliery. A notice remains in place prohibiting normal production activities at the mine.

A new online incident notification form was launched to streamline the Regulator's process of reporting work health and safety incidents. The new online incident notification form replaces the existing 'paper' form for incidents that must be reported to the Regulator under legislation. The online form is available on the Resources Regulator's report an incident or injury [webpage](#). The new form does not replace the 1300 814 609 hotline for initial reporting of significant incidents that require immediate notification.

The Regulator published its compliance priorities for July-December 2017. The [Compliance priorities](#) document is aimed at increasing awareness of the Regulator's focus, planned activities and areas of concern in the industry.

While operating in an underground coal mine, a catastrophic failure of a diesel engine system occurred, resulting in the mine atmosphere being exposed to internal combustion components. This type of engine failure is rare and the Resources Regulator is undertaking a causal investigation to determine the cause of the failure and whether there is an ongoing risk to worker health and safety.

Two safety alerts were issued during the month, focused on the need for [adequate primary and secondary support in underground opal mines](#) and the provision of [safe access and exits from underground longwalls](#).



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

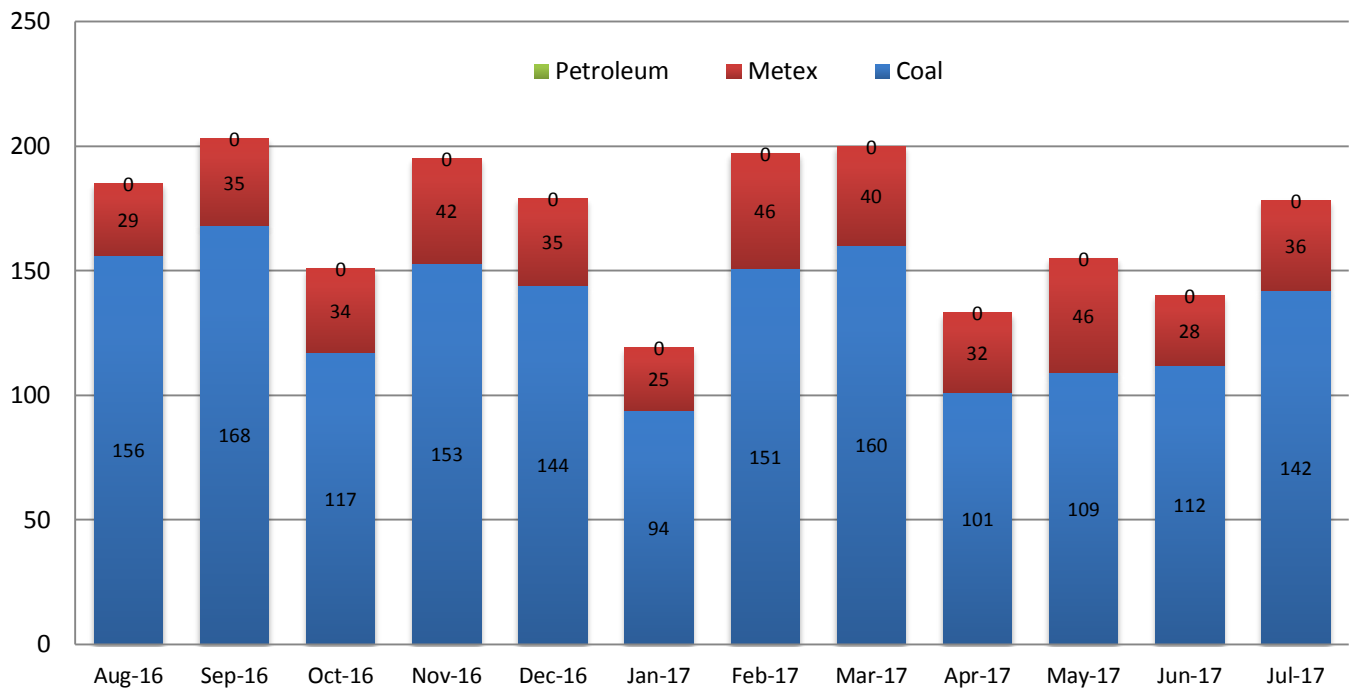
Below is a snapshot of the NSW Resources Regulator's activities for July 2017.



Incidents

Incident classifications and weekly incident summaries are available on our [website](#).

Chart 1: Incidents notified to the Resources Regulator by sector.



Inspections, audits and targeted assessments

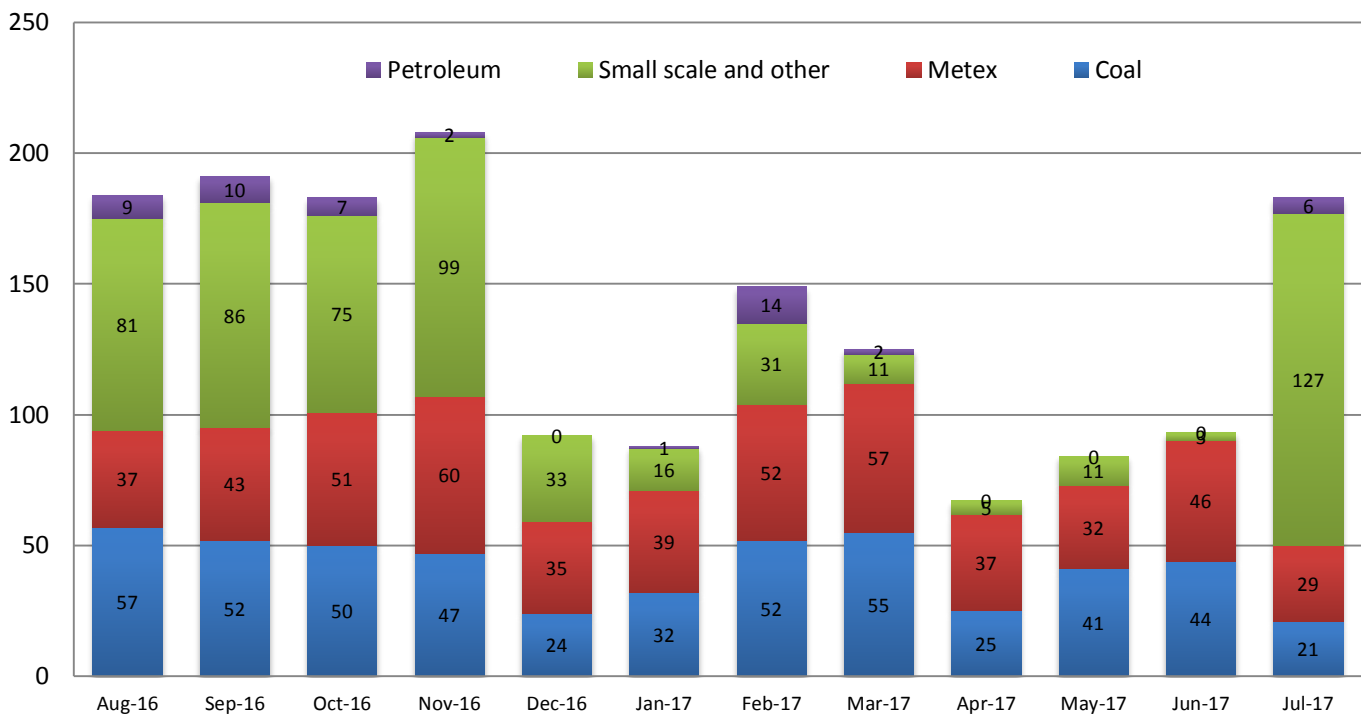
Reports on our compliance activities are available on our [website](#).

Targeted assessments and audits undertaken in July 2017

Mine	Type	Topic
Tritton Copper Mine, Cobar	Targeted assessment	Diesel exhaust emissions
Murrumbidgee Mine, Cobar	Targeted assessment	Diesel exhaust emissions
Cadia East mine, Orange	Targeted assessment	Fall of ground
Dendrobium mine, Mt Kembla	Targeted assessment	Respirable dust
Appin Colliery, Appin	Targeted intervention	Gas outburst
Tahmoor Colliery, Bargo	Targeted intervention	Gas outburst
Yeltara Prospecting and Mining Pty Ltd	Audit	Mining Act compliance
Awati Resources Pty Ltd	Audit	Mining Act compliance
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd	Audit	Mining Act compliance
Appin Colliery, Appin	Escalated intervention	Gas and ventilation

Safety Inspections

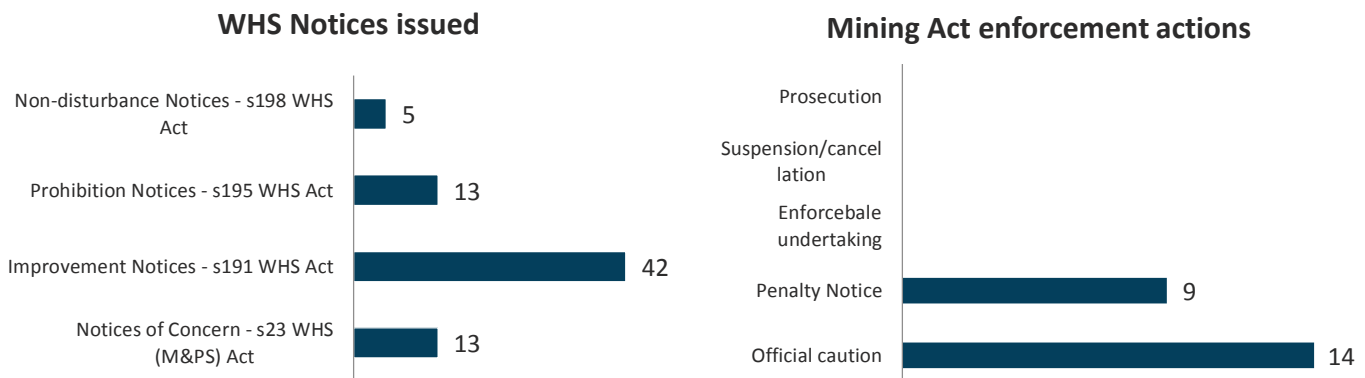
Chart 2: Safety inspections carried out by the Resources Regulator by sector.



Enforcement actions

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

Chart 3: WHS notices issued and Mining Act enforcement actions taken in July.



Prohibition notices issued in July (WHS legislation)

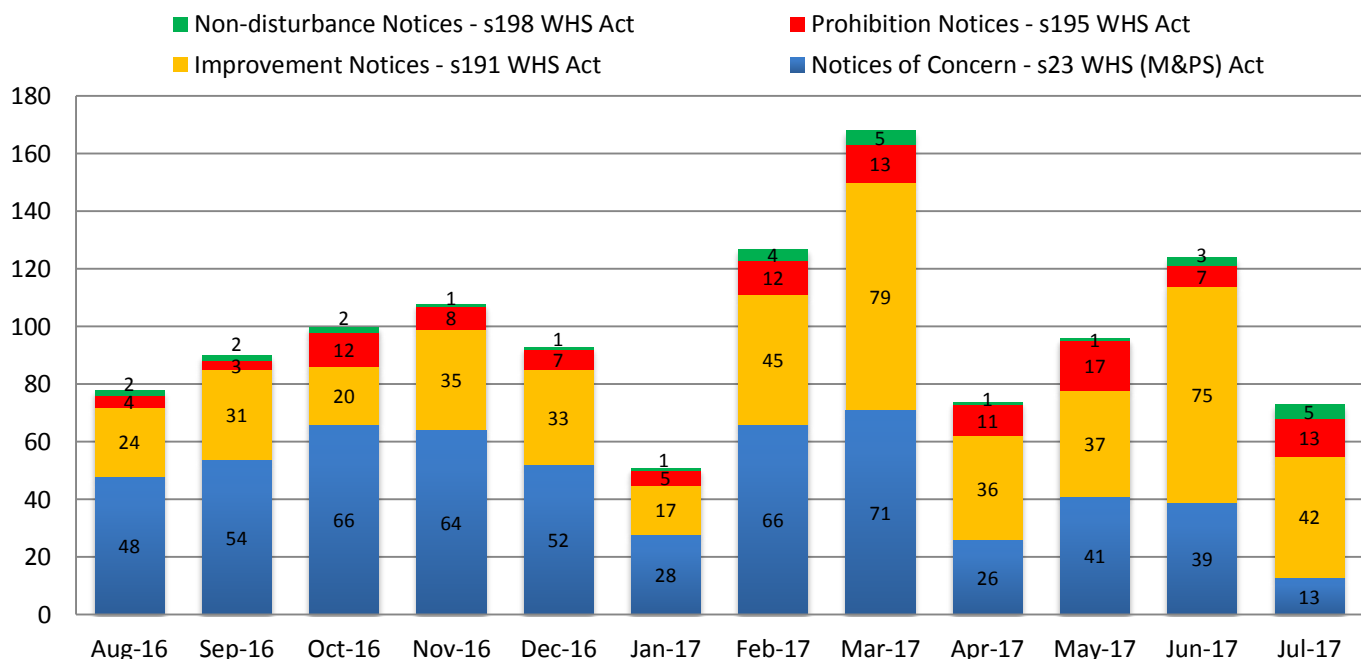
PCBU	Mine	Details	Prohibited activity
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd, Appin	Appin Colliery	An investigation was undertaken into the failure of explosion protection properties on a specialised mining vehicle.	Operation of the seven DES machines are prohibited until an assessment is undertaken to ensure they are in an explosion-protected state.
Newcrest Mining Ltd, Orange	Cadia East Project	A seismic event took place at the site in April 2017. A follow-up investigation was carried out at site to examine progress of ground support upgrades.	Use of the PC1 crusher is prohibited.
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd, Appin	Appin Colliery	An ongoing investigation is in place following a significant number of gas exceedances and ventilation failures at the mine.	Any mining activities that liberate methane into the underground mine atmosphere, including the cutting of coal, are prohibited.

PCBU	Mine	Details	Prohibited activity
Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd, Mt Kembla	Dendrobium Colliery	A targeted assessment on airborne contaminants was undertaken at the mine during which the underground work area was inspected. Ladders and crawl ways on the beam stage loader and maingate were found to be not fit for purpose.	Access to the longwall 13 face line by all personnel is prohibited until safe ingress and egress is provided.
Rio Tinto Pty Ltd, Hunter Valley	Mount Thorley Warkworth	A planned structural integrity inspection of the CHPP identified inadequate pulley guarding on stackers and conveyors.	Operation of the stackers and conveyors is prohibited.
Evolution Mining Pty Ltd, West Wyalong	Cowal Gold Mine	An investigation took place following a reported incident of an overturned haul vehicle.	The operation of the haul truck (plant A06) is prohibited until it is inspected and ensured to be in a safe condition.
Wongawilli Coal Pty Ltd, West Dapto	Wongawilli Colliery	A planned follow-up inspection of rectification works being done on the main travelling road was undertaken and hazards identified.	The use of vehicles and other mobile machinery along the main travelling road from the mine portal to the underground production panel entries is prohibited.
Wongawilli Coal Pty Ltd, West Dapto	Wongawilli Colliery	An audit of the underground conveyor system identified issues with belts, guarding and coal build up around rollers.	The operation of all underground conveyors is prohibited.
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd, Appin	Appin Colliery	A planned inspection of longwall 901 identified that access had been restricted by the erection of strata support and there was a lack of space between the chain pillar and longwall main gate equipment.	Access by persons to the longwall 901 face is prohibited.
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd, Appin	Appin Colliery	An announced inspection identified that comms units being used were not maintaining the standard IP rating.	Energising of the comms units used on longwalls is prohibited when the IP rating specified on the relevant explosion protection certificate of conformity is not maintained.

PCBU	Mine	Details	Prohibited activity
Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd, Sancrox	Sancrox Quarry	An investigation was undertaken following the report of a park brake failure on a loader.	The use of the CAT 980H loader is prohibited until the cause of the brake fault has been rectified.
Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd, Mt Kembla	Dendrobium Colliery	An incident was reported regarding the loss of the longwall ventilation bleeder circuit due to water build-up.	Access to the Area 3b bleeder roadway is prohibited.
Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd, Mt Kembla	Dendrobium Colliery	An incident was reported regarding the loss of the longwall ventilation bleeder circuit due to water build-up.	The longwall and any associated activities are prohibited without the bleeder circuit in operation.

WHS notices

Chart 4: WHS notices issued by the Resources Regulator.

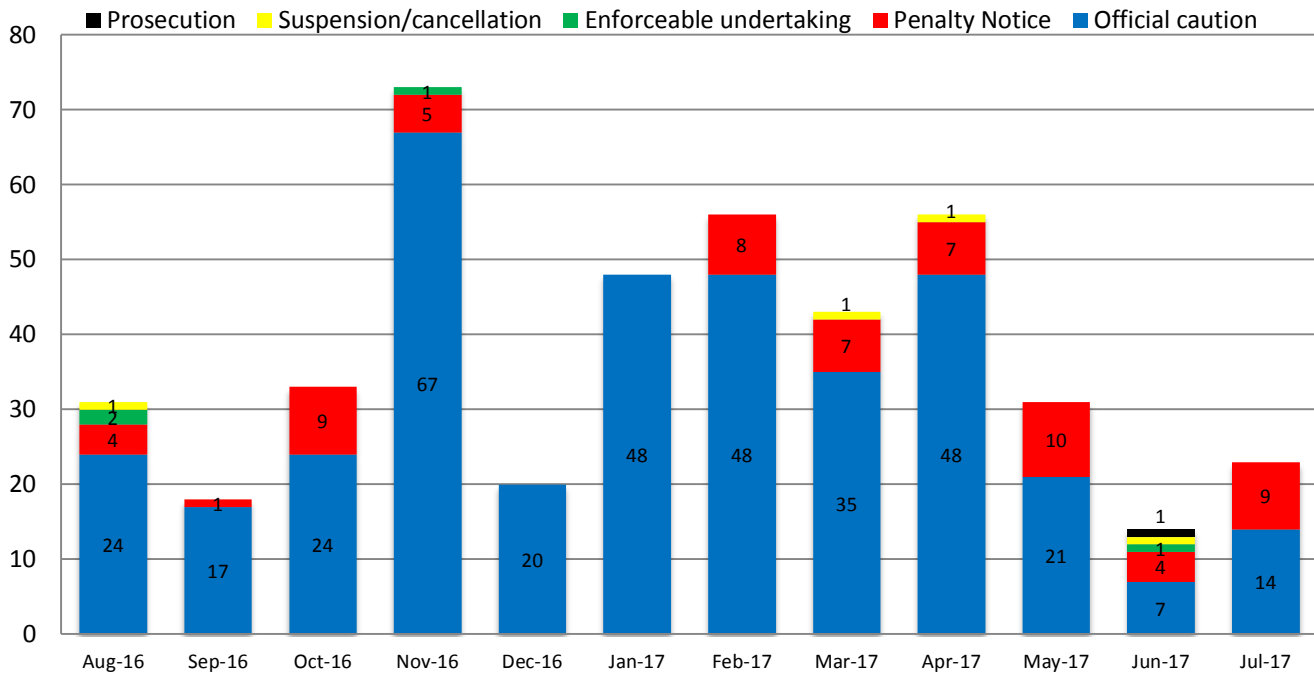


Penalty notices issued and other significant actions taken in July (Mining Act)

Date	Status	Actions	Details
5 July	ABX2 Pty Ltd EL7681	Penalty notice - \$5000	Fail to lodge annual exploration report
5 July	Ivanhoe Coal Pty Ltd CCL712, ML 1301, MPL348	Penalty notice - \$2500	Fail to lodge annual environmental management report
5 July	Ezy Lime Pty Ltd MML 1568	Penalty notice - \$2500	Fail to lodge annual environmental management report
27 July	East Coast Tin Pty Ltd EL 8131	Penalty notice - \$2500	Provision of false and misleading information
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27 July	Alderan Resources Pty Ltd EL8415	Penalty notice - \$5000	Fail to lodge final exploration report - corporation
31 July	Harb Quarries Pty Ltd PLL1208	Penalty notice - \$2500	Fail to lodge annual environmental management report
31 July	Harb Quarries Pty Ltd PLL1208	Penalty notice - \$2500	Fail to lodge annual environmental management report
31 July	Palaris Mining Pty Ltd EL7115	Penalty notice - \$2500	Provision of false and misleading information

Enforcement actions under the Mining Act

Chart 5: Enforcement action taken by the Regulator under the Mining Act.



**Reporting an
incident
or injury:**

1300 814 609

Statutory notifications and exemptions

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

High risk activity notifications received

Mine	WHS (M&PS) Regs provision	Activity
Chain Valley Colliery	Schedule 3, clause 10	Sealing
Chain Valley Colliery	Schedule 3, clause 16 (1)(a)	Secondary extraction by long/short/miniwall mining
Chain Valley Colliery	Schedule 3, clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Mandalong Mine	Schedule 3, clause 15	Formation of non-conforming pillars
Mandalong Mine	Schedule 3, clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Mandalong Mine	Schedule 3, clause 9	Shotfiring
North Wambo Underground	Schedule 3, clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres.
PELO238 Bibblewindi 3	Schedule 3, clause 33	Suspending a well
PELO238 Bibblewindi 4	Schedule 3, clause 33	Suspending a well
PELO238 Bibblewindi 5	Schedule 3, clause 33	Suspending a well
PPL0004 Spring Farm 5	Schedule 3, clause 33	Suspending a well
Rix's Creek Mine	Schedule 3, clause 27	Emplacement areas
Stratford CHPP	Schedule 3, clause 27	Emplacement areas
Teralba Colliery	Schedule 3, clause 10	Sealing
Ulan West Operations	Schedule 3, clause 16(1)(a)	Secondary extraction by long/short/miniwall mining

Exemptions granted

Mine/PCBU	Status	Details
Perilya Broken Hill Pty Ltd	Granted	Exemption granted from the requirement for design registration while design registration application is being processed (main cage winder)
Perilya Broken Hill Pty Ltd	Granted	Exemption granted from the requirement for design registration while design registration application is being processed (skip winder)

Workshops and education activities

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

Date	What	Where	Details
11-12 July	Training course	Wollongong	Training course for dust samplers
11-13 July	Presentations	White Cliffs	Ten opal miners inspectors attended the Safety Awareness course and operators' workshop
17-18 July	Safety Awareness Course	Lightning Ridge	Opal miners' awareness of safely carrying out mining activities with 15 attendees
18 July	Examination panel meeting	Thornton	Quarry managers' exam
19 July	Briefing session	Thornton	Quarry managers' briefing session
19 July	Mine operators' course	Lightning Ridge	Opal mine operator's course for new mine operators with 11 attendees.
21 July	Rescue response training	Bulga Mine	Mines Rescue competition attended by Emergency Management staff - review of practices and processes
25 July	Emergency simulation	Integra Mine	Full site emergency simulation assessment conducting underground and surface

activity assessments

31 July	Industry safety and health representative training	Maitland	Training course for coal mine safety and health representatives
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Publications and alerts

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

Date	Details
3 July	Mine Safety Update: Inspector roles advertised
4 July	Mine Safety Update: New online incident reporting - available now
10 July	Media release: Lightning Ridge opal mines placed under the spotlight
18 July	Mine Safety Update: Weekly incident summary
20 July	Safety alert: Lack of pillar support - underground opal mines
21 July	Mine Safety Update: Register now for our mechanical engineering safety seminar
24 July	Media release: Over 100 opal mines targeted in audit blitz
26 July	Safety alert: Longwall faces - safe access and emergency exits
31 July	Investigation Information Release: Flyrock incident at open cut mine