

Compliance plan report

2022-23

This publication has been compiled by the Regulatory Strategy and Capability team, in the Department of Resources.

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Introduction

The Department of Resources (the department) is responsible for managing how Queensland's land, vegetation and mineral resources are accessed and used. Effective management of these resources is vital for our economic, social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing.

Reporting is an important part of our commitment to being a best practice regulator, providing clear and transparent information to the community regarding our regulatory activities. This report summarises the department's performance against the targets set out in our Strategic Compliance Focus Areas 2022-23.

The department focused on four key areas within target industries in the 2022-23 financial year, along with our business-as-usual regulatory activities across the department. We've provided a snapshot of the highlights we've achieved against our strategic compliance focus area targets within this report.

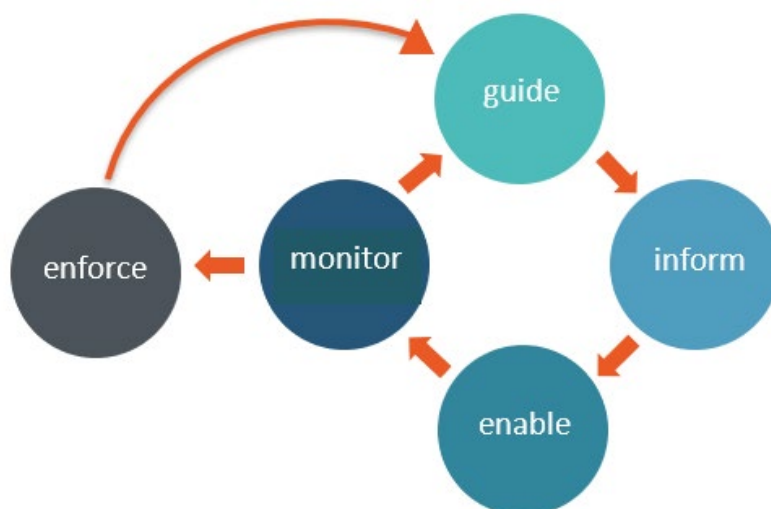
Our regulatory approach

We want our stakeholders and their communities to have confidence in what we do so we aim to keep our regulatory approach strategic, consistent, proactive, and transparent across the broader legislative, geographic and community contexts. We make and administer legislative appointments and delegations that allow people with the right skills and experience to make lawful regulatory decisions.

Where compliance is not achieved, we take a risk-based approach to regulation so that effort is focussed on areas of most significance to the community. Our approach includes five strategies to guide how we consistently approach our regulatory activities: guide, inform, enable, monitor, and enforce.

Many of the targets associated with our Strategic Compliance Focus Areas 2022-23 relate to stakeholder engagement and promoting voluntary compliance which are critical components of our guide, inform and enable strategies. Education and stakeholder engagement is the department's first step in ensuring our stakeholders know and understand their requirements under the legislation and the consequences of non-compliance.

Throughout the financial year, we keep track of progress against our targets and identify areas of emerging risk. We also note any actions that are required to strengthen our regulatory approach.



Strategic compliance focus area highlights 2022-23 and their key achievements.

Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts on leasehold land



Audits of 5 major non-operating Island tourism leases completed and recorded



Ongoing engagement with tourism industry stakeholders to inform them of obligations



Taking a risk-based approach to progressing action on individual island leases. Leases on one island have been forfeited for unpaid rent and action commenced with a second island due to ongoing breaches of lease conditions

Land and Surveying Services key achievements

Land and Surveying Services completed audits of lease conditions on island leases within required timeframes. Following the auditing process, the department is progressing action on island leases through a risk-based approach.

Vegetation management



5028 enquiries received and responded to by the Vegetation Hub in 2022-23



1272 Early Detection System notifications investigated with 334 cases of unexplained cover change actioned



32 proactive audits completed of authorised clearing activities



Prelodgement advice provided on 12 major projects



63 group stakeholder engagement activities attended

Vegetation management key achievements

Education is a key component of promoting compliance and the Vegetation Hub plays an essential role in educating our stakeholders on the vegetation management framework.

The Vegetation Hub seeks feedback from stakeholders on satisfaction with the service and currently has a net promoter score of 60% which is a 'great' score.

Coal Seam Gas industry compliance with the coexistence framework



29 wells were audited finding the CSG sector is meeting obligations to landholders by being generally compliant with legal obligations



21 Reminder of Obligation and 1 Warning Letter sent mainly relating to not meeting timeframes for the issuing and service of documents

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Unauthorised/unlawful mining activities



Operational plans and preparations were implemented for two targeted campaigns, including: (1) in the Opalton and Winton area, and (2) in the Palmer River area



37 inspections undertaken with 19 instances of non-compliance relating to active tenure management identified resulting in plans to issue letters, undertake negotiations and issue 2 formal warnings

Georesources key achievements

The department found a high level of engagement between coal seam gas companies, landowners and occupiers, despite some minor issues being identified.

This audit showed that the coal seam gas industry in Queensland remains compliant with the legal obligations placed upon them, for land access and any other matters and that they can continue to operate.

Regulatory Strategy and Capability key achievements

The department's Regulatory Strategy and Capability team in collaboration with the Investigations and Compliance team, re-developed the Authorised Officer training course. This project is a crucial part of the process to become authorised, providing capability uplift for our officers in the regulatory space.

Re-development of this training package has ensured accuracy and currency of content as well as aligning the course to the current departmental structure and functions. The course comprises of online modules, face to face learning and a workplace observation requirement before attendees can apply to be appointed as an Authorised Officer under the relevant Act.

Alignment to Regulator Performance Framework

The department has a robust regulatory framework including a strategy, annual plan, and regulatory action plan. These documents demonstrate the alignment of our regulatory approach to the five model practices outlined in the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation developed by the Office of Best Practice Regulation.

