

State-wide compliance operation

The safety of workers in our mining industry is a priority for the NSW Government and a state-wide compliance operation conducted on 28 May to 1 June 2018 has focused the NSW mining and petroleum sectors on their compliance obligations into issues ranging from work health and safety to mine site rehabilitation.

Eighty inspectors and regulatory officers from the safety, environment and compliance teams visited 109 mine and petroleum sites across the state in the largest operational deployment of personnel and resources ever conducted by the Resources Regulator.

The Resources Regulator issued a [media release](#) on Friday 25 May 2018 prior to the operation commencing on Monday 28 May 2018.

What we focused on

The operation gave greater attention to physical inspections as opposed to documentation review although both aspects of safety management were targeted. The main focus was on four areas of current concern:

- Roads and vehicles operating areas at large surface mines and underground metalliferous mines.
- Ground and strata failure in all underground mines.
- Safe operation of mobile plant at quarrying operations.
- Rehabilitation and dam monitoring

Where we went

The compliance operation saw inspectors and regulatory officers visit 109 sites across the state including:

Region	No.	Region	No.
Hunter Valley	30	Far West	13
South East	17	Sydney Region	13
North West	16	North Coast	6
Central West	13	South West	1

What we found

Overall the operation identified that mine operators were generally in compliance with legislative obligations for the targeted issues. However, some significant issues were identified at a number of sites.

- Issues relating to plant and equipment were found at 12 sites resulting in 26 prohibition notices being issued pursuant to s195 *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act). Of the 26 notices, 17 were issued across three sites primarily relating to inadequate guarding on fixed plant and the absence of fall protection on mobile plant.
- 35 improvement notices were issued pursuant to s191 WHS Act and 33 notices of concern were issued pursuant to s23 *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013*
- Eight potential breaches of the Mining Act were identified for further investigation.

Details of the WHS prohibition notices are provided in Appendix A of this report.

Outcomes

- ✓ The operation has given the regulator valuable data on the level of industry compliance in relation to the target areas that were the focus of the operation.
- ✓ The industry has received clear notice of the regulators zero-tolerance approach to non-compliance with their obligations.
- ✓ The operation has provided important information to the regulator with regard to the nature, location and priority of future assessment activities.

Next steps

Inspectors and regulatory officers will continue to work with the NSW mining and petroleum sectors to ensure that nothing less than the highest standards of compliance are maintained in the workplace at all times.

Data from the operation will be analysed to identify trends and this will inform future planned inspections.

Recommendations

Mine operators need to remain vigilant and constantly review their operations to ensure compliance obligations are being met and workers are not exposed to risk.



Appendix A

Prohibition notices issued

Prohibition notices issued (s 195 WHS Act 2011)

Mine	PCBU	Details	Prohibited activity
Cleary Bros - Albion Park	Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd	An inspection of a front-end loader identified that the plant has not been satisfactorily maintained to OEM standards and the defect management system in place is deficient in identifying and undertaking expedient repairs.	The use of the Caterpillar 980C Front End Loader is prohibited.
Duncan's Pit - Main Creek	McLennan Earthmoving	An inspection of four articulated trucks identified inadequate fall protection systems.	Activities in the work areas that don't have fall protection are prohibited for two Caterpillar 740 B articulated trucks and two Volvo A 30D articulated trucks.
Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified that the Scania 93M fuel truck on site had no guardrails around the top of the fuel tanker to prevent falls.	No person to proceed beyond trucks/tanks external access ladder on the Scania 93 M fuel truck.
Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified that the Mack Metro lines water truck on site had insufficient guardrails around the top of the water tank to prevent falls.	No person to proceed beyond trucks external access ladder on the Mack Metro lines water truck.
Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	An inspection of the Hyster 11B 8 Forklift identified that it did not have Roll Over Protection (ROP'S) and no evidence could be provided of a high-risk licence for the operation of the forklift.	The Hyster 11B 8 Forklift is not to be used for any activity on the mine site.

Mine	PCBU	Details	Prohibited activity
Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	Gunnedah Quarry Products Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified that a C44 Cone crusher had missing guardrails.	Access to the steps on the C 44 Cone Crusher at the radiator hydraulic level is prohibited as is access to the steps on the first platform to the magnet on the C 44 Cone Crusher. No person is to proceed beyond the first platform from the ground on the C 44 Cone Crusher.
Hebden Quarry	Hebden Quarries Pty Ltd	An inspection of an articulated dump truck and an articulated water truck identified inadequate fall protection systems.	Activities in work areas that do not have adequate fall protection is prohibited for the following trucks: CAT 740 articulated dump truck; CAT 725 articulated water truck; and Volvo A40D.
Holcim - Boambee Quarry	Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd - North Coast Region	An inspection of a dump truck identified inadequate fall protection systems.	Activities on in the work areas that don't have fall protection are prohibited on the 'Mc Nae' Caterpillar Dump truck.
Perilya Broken Hill Southern Operations	Perilya Broken Hill Limited	A site inspection identified that fire extinguishers on some vehicles were not maintained and a water cart had a damaged seat belt mechanism.	The operation of the CAT 740 water cart unit; Toyota land cruiser; and CAT IT28G is prohibited.
Perilya Broken Hill Southern Operations	Perilya Broken Hill Limited	A site inspection identified that mobile plant did not have handrails past the cabin door to prevent falls from height when accessing the platforms.	No person is to proceed beyond the cabin doors of CAT IT28 G to access the platforms to the top of the engine compartment for any task.
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified missing and non-compliant guarding around the fixed crushing and screening plant.	The fixed crushing and screening plant on site is not to be operated until all guarding has been brought into compliance with clause 208 of the Work Health & Safety Regulations 2017
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified missing and non-compliant	The pre-coat screening plant on site is not to be operated until all guarding has been brought into

Mine	PCBU	Details	Prohibited activity
		guarding around the pre-coat screening plant.	compliance with clause 208 of the Work Health & Safety Regulations 2017
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified missing and non-compliant guarding around the washing screening plant.	The washing screening plant on site is not to be operated until all guarding has been brought into compliance with clause 208 of the Work Health & Safety Regulations 2017
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified inadequate and non-compliant guarding around the pug mill.	The pug mill plant on site is not to be operated until all guarding has been brought into compliance with clause 208 of the Work Health & Safety Regulations 2017
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	A site inspection identified inadequate and non-compliant guarding around the Sandvik QE 340 scalper screening plant.	The Sandvik QE 340 scalper screening plant on site is not to be operated until all guarding has been brought into compliance with clause 208 of the Work Health & Safety Regulations 2017
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	An inspection of an articulated dump truck identified that it had a broken side windscreen; was missing the driver's seatbelt; did not have guardrails adjacent to the driver's cabin; and it did not enable three points of contact whilst accessing and egressing the plant.	The mine operator is prohibited from operating the Caterpillar D400 Articulated Dump Truck
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	An inspection of a front-end loader identified that workers could not maintain three points of contact whilst accessing and exiting the plant; that both access doors and the driver's seat belt were missing; that the truck had no lighting system or	The mine operator is prohibited from operating the Caterpillar 966C Front End Loader.

Mine	PCBU	Details	Prohibited activity
		indicators; and that there were missing guards in engine bay.	
Runnymede Quarry	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	An inspection of a water tanker identified that the water tank did not have any baffles in place to minimise the movement of water within the tank.	The water tanker attached to the UD prime mover on site is not be operated/moved around the site with any volume of water within the tank.
Snapper Mineral Sands Mine	Cristal Mining Australia	An inspection of an aluminium boat identified damage and cracks in the transom that would affect the safe operation of the boat.	The operation of the aluminium boat is prohibited.
Wild Quarry	Texas Class Pty Ltd T/AS Wild Quarries & Civil	An inspection of an articulated dump truck identified inadequate fall protection systems.	Activities in work areas that do not have adequate fall protection is prohibited for the Moxy MT1 articulated dump truck.
Woolgoolga Quarry	Coastal Homesites Pty Ltd	An inspection of an articulated truck identified inadequate fall protection systems.	Activities on in the work areas that don't have fall protection are prohibited on the Terex TA 40 articulated truck.
Willow Tree Gravels	Willow Tree Gravel Quarry	A Manitou Forklift did not have Roll Over Protection fitted and there was limited evidence of operators having high-risk licences to operate the forklift.	The Manitou forklift is not to be used for any activity on the mine site.
Willow Tree Gravels	Willow Tree Gravel Quarry	The front-end loader does not have adequate fall protection in place.	No task to be undertaken on the loader cabin platforms without the operator taking reasonably practicable steps to manage the risk from fall of height.

Mine	PCBU	Details	Prohibited activity
Willow Tree Gravels	Willow Tree Gravel Quarry	The Caterpillar 740 Articulated Dump Truck does not have adequate fall protection in place.	No task to be undertaken on the prime mover cabin platforms without the operator taking reasonably practicable steps to manage the risk from fall of height.
Willow Tree Gravels	Willow Tree Gravel Quarry	The Volvo A40D Articulated Dump Truck does not have adequate fall protection in place.	No task to be undertaken on the prime mover cabin platforms without the operator taking reasonably practicable steps to manage the risk from fall of height.
Willow Tree Gravels	Willow Tree Gravel Quarry	The C 44 Cone Crusher does not have adequate fall protection in place.	No tasks to be undertaken beyond the first platform from the ground on the C 44 Cone Crusher without the Mine Operator taking reasonably practicable steps to ensure that no person is exposed to a risk of fall.

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