

EARTH RESOURCES REGULATION

Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport
and Resources



VICTORIA
State
Government

Regulating Mines, Quarries and Petroleum

Earth Resources Regulation regulates mining and quarrying under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* and petroleum operations under the *Petroleum Act 1998*.

We strive to be a responsive and effective regulator. Our Compliance Strategy guides how we will encourage, monitor and enforce compliance of earth resources operations for 2018–2020.

We are committed to:

- Ensuring mines, quarries and petroleum sites comply with legislation.
- Identifying and managing risks to public safety, the environment and infrastructure.
- Proactively seeking and addressing stakeholder views and feedback.
- Ensuring land is returned to a usable condition after earth resources projects are completed.

What do we regulate?

We regulate nearly 1,600 sites including nearly 900 quarries, over 300 mines and prospecting licences and over 50 petroleum licences.

Compliance Focus

We apply a risk-based approach to regulation, which guides where we focus our compliance activities.

During 2018–20 we will focus on:

- **Community issues** - including dust, noise and vibrations.
- **Fire** - fires in coal mines, plant and equipment fires, and other fires at mines, quarries and petroleum sites.
- **Stability** - mine and quarry walls, unexpected land deformation, integrity of tailings dams, erosion.
- **Rehabilitation** - land that has not yet been rehabilitated for future use, public safety, environment, and bonds.
- **Water** - poor quality discharge, erosion, water removal, seepage from tailings dams, run off from stormwater, quarries in floodplains.
- **Activities without permission** - unauthorised extraction, and associated impacts.
- **Administrative compliance** - meeting conditions, financial requirements, data submission, rent, royalties, returns.
- **Security** - Inadequate fencing and signage, public safety.

Industry Sector Focus

For each industry sector, we will particularly focus on:

- **Coal** - fire, dust, batter stability, rehabilitation.
- **Gold and other metals** - dust, stability, rehabilitation, water.
- **Rock (hard and soft rock)** - blasting, dust, stability, extraction without permission.
- **Sand/clay quarries** - dust, water quality, stability of tailings storage, rehabilitation, batter stability, water removal.
- **Gypsum** - vegetation, rehabilitation.
- **Minerals Sands** - dust, water, rehabilitation
- **Petroleum** – well integrity.

Our approach to compliance

We will ensure that earth resources operations are run in a safe and compliant way.

Our approach includes a combination of:

- Advice and information for operators
- Community engagement
- Assessment
- Audits
- Inspections
- Investigations
- Enforcement.

For further detail refer to the Compliance Strategy on our website:

earthresources.vic.gov.au/earth-resources-regulation

Working with other regulators

We have agreements in place with other government agencies to ensure that our approach to regulation is as effective as possible. These agreements assist decision making, help the industry sectors get a better understanding of their obligations, and ensure that our decisions are transparent and consistent.

What an operator must do to comply

After an approval has been granted, an operator must keep us up-to-date with information on its activities. This includes:

- Completing reports on time
- Contacting us if issues arise or if guidance is needed
- Managing risks
- Paying attention to conditions.

We conduct inspections to make sure that operators are meeting the conditions on their approvals.

How we support compliance

We will conduct pro-active activities to encourage compliance including industry seminars and forums, guidance materials and community engagement activities.

We also publish case studies and materials on 'how it should be done' to assist compliance.

Site investigations and audits

One of our core functions is to inspect and audit sites, based on an inspection and audit schedule. We determine the frequency of inspections using a risk-based approach assessment.

Enforcement

Enforcement is a core component of our activities.

We use a range of methods to address non-compliance, from requiring the remedy of identified risks or breaches, through to financial penalties and prosecutions.

We will take enforcement action proportionate to the seriousness of the non-compliance.