

Compliance Commitment Statement

Our compliance commitment

As a modern regulator, DEWNR commits to:

- Being consistent, transparent and supportive in our compliance actions.
- Working with South Australians to look after our natural capital by empowering communities, businesses and individuals to protect our natural environment, and to find fair and equitable means of sharing our natural resources to the benefit of all.
- Focusing on reducing the risk and impact of environmental harm through a consistent approach, supporting communities to meet shared expectations for the sustainable use of our natural resources, and ensuring our response to environmental harms matches the harm caused.
- Using a variety of regulatory tools to achieve compliance, including the encouragement of voluntary compliance with our environmental regulation.
- Communicating our compliance activities and outcomes publicly.

Our vision

The Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) is committed to creating an exceptional South Australia because we look after our natural capital.

We play our part by helping South Australians to conserve, sustain and prosper. We share this responsibility with the community as we work towards our organisational outcomes:

- People taking responsibility for their environment.
- People benefitting from their use of and interaction with the environment.
- Sustainable management and productive use of land, water, sea and air.
- Improved condition of the natural environment.

What is compliance?

'Environmental compliance is the administration of legislation in a way that helps the community do the right thing to minimise impacts on the environment, to use natural resources sustainably, and to provide healthy landscapes for future generations.'

Why have a Compliance Commitment Statement?

During 2015 DEWNR staff were asked what they thought about compliance.

Partly as a result of recent organisational mergers, staff recognised that there had been a lack of strategy and approach regarding DEWNR's compliance activities, resulting at times in duplication of effort, and at other times in gaps or confusion about roles and responsibilities.

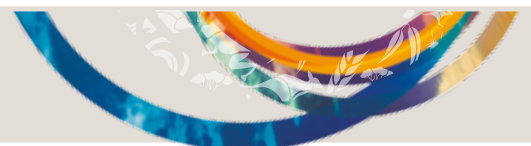
To help South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper, we need to be able to effectively help people to do the right thing and to understand South Australia's environmental laws better. We also need to be credible in holding people to account if they do the wrong thing, and we want to improve the environmental outcomes that can be achieved through effective compliance activities.

A Compliance Commitment Statement and associated strategy helps staff and the community to be on the same page regarding our compliance priorities and actions. It is the starting place for an improved compliance strategy and an Annual Compliance Plan.

Our compliance principles

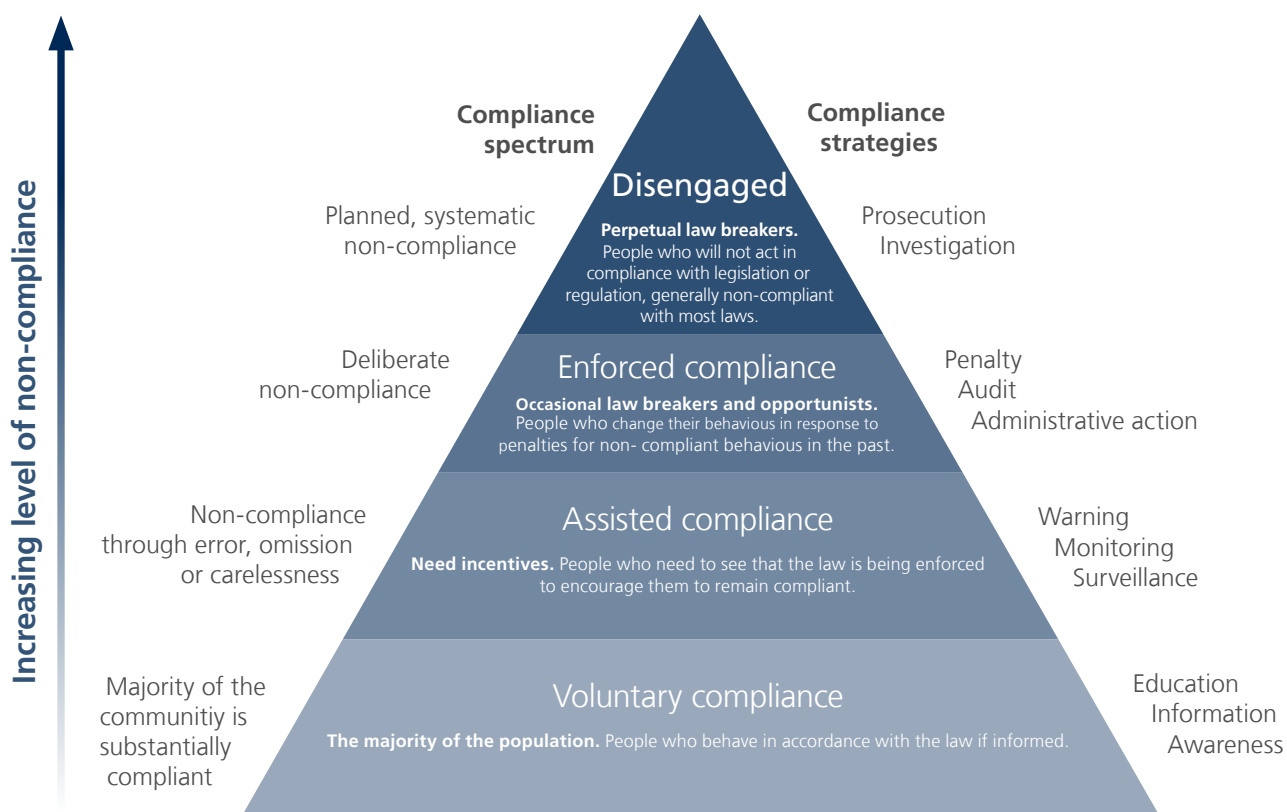
The focus of our compliance approach is to maximise environmental outcomes related to the conservation and sustainable use of our state's natural capital. We have a shared approach to compliance, underpinned by the philosophy that compliance is everyone's business and the following five principles:

Consistent	Our responses to non-compliance are consistent.
Targeted	We use a targeted, risk-based approach in our compliance activities.
Supportive	We enable the community to do the right thing and empower our staff to make decisions within our regulatory framework.
Adaptive	We monitor our progress and adjust our actions where necessary.
Transparent	We talk openly with the community regarding DEWNRs priorities and activities and communicate the results of our work.



Our compliance approach

Contemporary regulatory theory recognises that the majority of people will be voluntarily compliant with the law if they are informed. The Braithwaite Enforcement Pyramid (pictured below) demonstrates this and our compliance approach is based on the same theory.



We will use the full spectrum of compliance tools available to work with South Australians to share our natural capital sustainably. We will engage early and with purpose to help them to do the right thing. These tools begin with setting our expectations for compliance through guidelines and standards, communicating these to the South Australian public, working with communities to meet our expectations, monitoring use to avoid environmental harm, and enforcing conditions if harm is caused.

Compliance is everyone's business

