

Compliance Strategy 2015-2018

Purpose

This strategy will guide the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources' (DEWNR) regulation and compliance work over the next three years as we work towards our vision of helping South Australians to conserve, sustain and prosper. The DEWNR Compliance Strategy is based on the Compliance Commitment Statement and will guide our compliance activities for the next three years and to help everyone within DEWNR to understand our priorities and approach. The strategy aligns with a number of other DEWNR initiatives, including digital by default principles, Innovation Statement, and National Water Framework for Compliance and Enforcement (NFCE).

Background

In 2012, two government agencies were amalgamated into DEWNR. Recognising that the amalgamation resulted in duplication of effort and systems, and that compliance activities were undertaken in an uncoordinated and generally reactive manner, the Compliance Reform Project was initiated. Initial assessment of DEWNR's compliance function by the Compliance Reform Project team found that:

- Poor information reduces our ability to manage proactively and flexibly
- Inefficient strategy leads to poor environmental outcomes
- Lack of a consistent approach can mean a poor community attitude to the environment and perception of our staff.

The DEWNR Compliance Reform Project will therefore implement a series of reforms and improvement initiatives to increase performance and to align departmental effort to the agreed strategic directions for compliance. The Compliance Reform Project has nine focus areas for change, including structural change, system and process change, and cultural change.

The DEWNR Compliance Reform Project will:

- Clarify and communicate the department's strategic direction for compliance and enforcement, and commence alignment of existing departmental activity to this approach as required
- Improve performance and functioning of the department's compliance and enforcement activity, leading to better compliance outcomes and effective minimisation of risk
- Achieve a more effective delivery of compliance across the department.

Using the 90-day Change Project model, in early 2015 the project team engaged DEWNR's compliance practitioners, policy makers, engagement professionals and business leaders to develop a shared understanding of what compliance in DEWNR should look like and how it should be delivered. This information-gathering informed the Compliance Commitment Statement, which sets out how DEWNR will achieve our corporate objectives to help South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper.

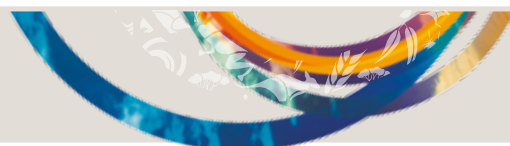
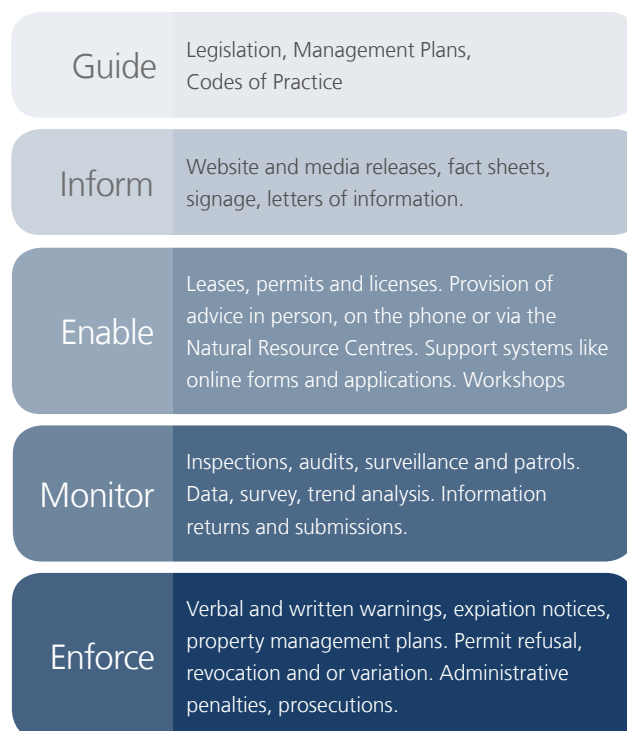
Challenges

Being responsible for a range of environmental legislation, DEWNR faces many challenges in identifying, prioritising and managing the numerous risks to our environment in a coordinated and sustainable way. Some of the biggest compliance challenges include:

- Maintaining a clean and healthy environment to support our premium food and wine producers
- Balancing biodiversity conservation with the expanding development and exploration of the state
- Prioritising effort given the diversity and scope of the legislation we manage
- Size of the state and the difficulty to be in all places at once
- Climate change impacts and the need to adapt

Compliance responses and tools

In assisting our community to be compliant with South Australia's environmental legislation there are a range of compliance responses and tools that can be used. While individual legislation may dictate the specific tool or response in certain incidents of non-compliance, our aim is to achieve a positive environmental outcome primarily through voluntary compliance. More punitive compliance responses will be implemented where required.



Relationships with other agencies

DEWNR works closely with many stakeholders to maximise protection and sustainable use of our natural capital. These include Natural Resource Management Boards, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), South Australian Police (SAPOL), Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), local government, industry associations, volunteer groups and the South Australian community. We do this in a range of ways, including but not limited to formal and informal agreements, networks, and data and information sharing.

Priorities

In keeping with the principles outlined in the Compliance Commitment Statement, DEWNR strives to be a modern environmental regulator. By 2018 we aim to have a high-performing compliance function, to be publicly recognised as playing a key role in assisting the community to be environmentally compliant, and to have the systems and tools in place to effectively analyse trends and adapt to the key environmental issues of the day.

To continually improve and target our compliance activities and outcomes, a range of priorities have been identified for 2015-18. These priorities reflect the responses collected through the 90-day Change Project, a business maturity survey of DEWNR business areas with a compliance function, and the Government's environmental and regulatory reform agenda. Each action supports at least one principle of our compliance commitment.

To increase transparency and accountability to South Australians as we work together to conserve, sustain and prosper, we will annually review and report on the strategies aligned to each of our priorities.

Compliance Reform	Outcome	Actions	Principles	Target
This is the continuation of our internal compliance reform program. We have made progress in many areas and there is still work to be completed as our compliance maturity evolves.	Systems improvements that support the ability for staff to make effective decisions in a timely manner and improve the consistency of response are implemented.	Implement a Compliance Case Management and Intelligence System across DEWNR	Consistent, Supportive	2016-17
		Develop standard business practices for DEWNR compliance activities that clearly articulate roles and responsibilities, and the suite of tools available for effective, outcomes-based compliance	Consistent, Targeted, Supportive	2016-17
		Implementation of the final year of the National Water Framework for Compliance and Enforcement (NFCE) project	Support, Consistent, Adaptive	2015-16
		Upgrade permit systems to improve environmental and compliance outcomes and reduce regulatory burden	Supportive, Consistent, Adaptive	2018-19
		Develop and implement a framework for reporting of performance and delivery of DEWNR's compliance strategy and annual compliance plan outcomes	Consistent, Transparent	Annually
Simpler Regulation	Outcome	Actions	Principles	Target
DEWNR is committed to South Australia's regulation reform program of reducing the regulatory burden to industry and supporting a prosperous South Australia.	The development, implementation and review of legislation, guidance and policies does not place unnecessary burden on our regulatory community.	Continue scheduled legislative review of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2001</i>	Adaptive, Consistent, Transparent	2016-17
		Finalise and implement <i>Native Vegetation (Credit for Environmental Benefit) Regulations 2015</i>	Adaptive, Supportive, Transparent	2015-16
		Review of the <i>Natural Resources Management Act (General) (Financial Provisions) and (Transitional Provisions-Levies) Regulations 2005</i>	Adaptive, Consistent, Transparent	2015-16
		Continue scheduled review of the <i>Native Vegetation Regulations 2003</i>	Adaptive, Consistent, Transparent	2016-17



		Finalise and implement <i>Marine Parks (Statutory Authorisation Compensation) Regulations 2015</i>	Adaptive, Supportive, Transparent	2015-16
		Finalise review of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i>	Adaptive, Transparent, Supportive	2015-16
		Finalise review and changes to the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i>	Adaptive, Supportive, Transparent	2015-16
		Amend the <i>Historic Shipwrecks Act (1981)</i> to include a more contemporary compliance approach	Adaptive, Consistent	2016-17
		Review of <i>National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2001</i> and amalgamation of the co-management regulations, in order to reduce and simplify the regulatory/ administrative structure.	Adaptive, Supportive, Transparent, Consistent	2016-17
		Reform water allocation planning and associated permitting and licensing systems provisions in the NRM Act to reduce administrative / regulatory burdens on customers	Adaptive, Consistent, Supportive	2017-18
		Develop site use and water resource works approval regulation under <i>NRM Act 2005</i> to allow water allocation plans to determine whether site use approvals are required and to provide mechanisms for cancelling and surrendering approvals	Consistent, Targeted, Transparent	2015-16
		Review and assess for revision the threatened species schedules under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> as a result of the National Environmental Reforms outcomes and the regional and state level review	Consistent, Adaptive	2016-17
Sustainable Use	Outcome	Actions	Principles	Target
We will work with the community in a variety of ways to encourage voluntary compliance to support the sustainable use of natural resources	Communities understand and support our mutual obligations and seek to be compliant for the benefit of all	Review and update DEWNR's online compliance engagement material	Consistent, Targeted, Transparent	2015-16
		Implement an education program to improve the maintenance of bores and enforce monitoring of bore condition by pastoralists	Targeted, Supportive, Adaptive	2015-16
		Promote best practice land management to ensure that soils are protected from erosion, including best practice tools and on-site advice	Targeted, Supportive, Adaptive	Annually
		Update pest plant and animal fact sheets and public consultation on 35 Regional Pest Plans to assist landholders to address pests on their land	Supportive, Consistent	2015-16
		Undertake range of Weed Buster Blitz engagement activities to raise awareness of weeds and best practice weed management	Supportive, Targeted	Annually
		Undertake education and awareness raising activities of changes to declared species under the NRM Act to better assist land managers with weed control	Targeted, Supportive, Adaptive	2015-16



Sustainable management of natural resources is vital to the healthy functioning and economic vibrancy of South Australia	South Australia's natural resources are protected now and into the future through the sustainable management of our natural capital	Implement water licence self-meter reading strategy	Supportive, Adaptive	2016-17
		Upgrade our water management systems to improve environmental and compliance outcomes and reduce regulatory burden	Supportive, Consistent, Adaptive	2018-19
		Review recommendation/s arising from the Dog and Cat Management Act Review Citizens Jury and implement as appropriate	Adaptive, Supportive, Transparent	2016-17
		Undertake a targeted awareness and monitoring program on National Parks and Reserves to prevent illegal hunting and the risks posed by the use of high powered firearms	Targeted, Transparent	2015-16
Operational Delivery Program	Outcome	Actions	Principles	Target
Our daily compliance activities are led by DEWNRs core regulatory responsibilities and include a range of planned and responsive activities.	Compliance effort and response allocation is risk-based, consistent and proportionate.	Develop a decision-support framework, incorporating risk assessment and resource allocation, for implementation across DEWNR	Adaptive, Consistent, Supportive, Targeted	2015-16
		Targeted Monitoring Plan & Reporting (NFCE) and integration of NFCE into water licensing program business	Targeted, Consistent	2015-16
		Deliver the Native Vegetation remote sensing change detection program	Targeted, Adaptive	Ongoing
		Deliver targeted operations to address identified high-risk issues of non-compliance	Targeted, Adaptive, Consistent	Annually
		Implement a robust compliance training program to develop highly skilled officers who deliver clear, consistent and effective environmental outcomes	Consistent, Supportive, Adaptive	2015-16

