

Water compliance news

Welcome to the August edition of NRAR's water compliance newsletter.

We are proud to be an independent regulator and strongly value public transparency. We regularly publish reports on our activities on our website and the latest compliance and enforcement results for the April-June quarter are now available, closing off the 2022-23 financial year.

I recently featured on the Inspector General of Water Compliance (IGWC) Water's Edge podcast, speaking with Daniel Blacker about the difference between their agency and NRAR, the rollout of the non-urban metering rules and difficulties involved and some of the ways NRAR are using innovative technology to improve our work. You can [listen to the two-episode podcast on the IGWC website](#) or any podcast platform.

Keep reading below to see what other updates this edition has in store.



Grant Barnes

Chief Regulatory Officer
Natural Resources Access Regulator

At a glance

In this edition of Water Compliance News read about:

- April-June compliance and enforcement results
- 3 enforceable undertakings with coal mines
- upcoming field days and proactive property visits
- recent news stories about our activities.

Our latest compliance enforcement results

Compliance data for the first half of 2023 shows that illegal water take and breaking the metering rules were the most common alleged offences found in NSW.

The data also shows that between January-June 2023:

- 300+ alleged compliance offences were recorded
- 90 enforcement actions were taken by NRAR including issuing penalty notices, directions and stop work orders, formal warnings and cautioning water licence holders
- 40 was the highest number of enforcement actions taken in a single area, the Murray Water Sharing Plan.

Our quarterly reporting tool breaks offence-types down by region so you can [view the results for your area](#) and compare it with other parts of NSW.

As NSW heads into drier conditions, it is crucial water licence holders follow the rules and conditions that apply to them.

NRAR drills down on compliance in mining sector



The mining and extractive industries use large volumes of water in NSW and monitoring water use in this sector continues to be one of NRAR's focus areas.

In July we secured our largest-ever monetary contribution from an enforcement action, with Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd paying almost \$2.9 million as part of an enforceable undertaking (EU). The company allegedly took surface water from the Sydney drinking water catchment without a licence for over 5 years. The money will go towards a community project related to wetland or waterway restoration and the mine must also commit to improved consultation and water management practices.

This EU is one of 3 agreements with coal mines we have signed in the past 2 months.

[Read more about NRAR's recent EUs.](#)

We're here to answer your water compliance questions



Field days

NRAR officers attend field day events throughout the state, providing hundreds of water users with the advice and tools they need to comply.

If you'd like to chat about the water rules and how they apply to you, [visit NRAR at a field day near you](#):

- 1-2 September: AgriShow Farm Field Days, Moss Vale Showground
- 19-21 September: Henty Machinery Field Days.

Outreach program

Our Outreach officers proactively visit properties across NSW, helping water users understand their responsibilities. These visits are a friendly check-in and will help answer any questions you might have. When possible, officers will contact you beforehand to arrange a property visit.

Some upcoming areas our Outreach officers will be visiting include:

- 28 -1 September, Wagga Wagga
- 28 - 4 September, Dubbo
- 4 - 8 September, Batemans Bay
- 4 - 15 September, Bowral
- 4 - 22 September, Port Macquarie region.

Are you a member of a water user group or association?

[Send us an email](#) if you think your members would benefit from an educational session run by NRAR.

NRAR in the news

We share information on our recent prosecutions and other activities on both our website, and with the media.

Check out some recent stories below and keep an eye out for us in the news!

- [NRAR accepts enforceable undertaking from Boggabri coal mine | NBN News](#)
- [Regulator takes action on third NSW coal mine in a month | ABC News](#)
- [NRAR's largest monetary amount ever secured from an enforcement action | Australian Resources](#)
- [Quarterly reporting data shows most common offences | Barrier Truth](#)

If you have a friend or colleague who might enjoy this newsletter, they can [subscribe here](#).

Keep in touch with us:



Email: communications@nrar.nsw.gov.au