

NRAR's compliance focus for 2022-23 17 August 2022

Every water year, we set new <u>regulatory priorities</u> that identify and target problem activities, areas and industries that have high levels of noncompliance or the potential to cause harm.

If you take water from a water source in NSW, it's important you know what we are focused on. When you and your community use water lawfully, you avoid penalties while protecting dependent ecosystems. Together we can safeguard your community's water supply for generations to come.

Explore our new regulatory priorities



Our annual priorities

The goal of our annual priorities is to drive widespread voluntary compliance as effectively as possible. Our 2022-23 priorities are:

Metering with a spotlight on DQPs

We will focus on remaining works in the Northern Inland region that needed to comply with the metering rules by 1 December 2021 as well as those in the Southern Inland that need to comply by 1 December 2022. A spotlight will be placed on ensuring duly qualified persons (DQPs) install and verify metering equipment correctly.

Irrigated agriculture

Irrigated agriculture often makes up the largest water users within a particular region. Fair sharing and accurate measurement of water taken by the irrigated agriculture industry will be the focus for NRAR in 2022-23.

Mining and extractive industries

NRAR is aware of inconsistencies in how water take is measured and reported across the state's mining operations and extractive industries. We will focus on establishing a standardised reporting framework to show compliance with water regulations.

Our enduring priorities

NRAR's enduring priorities are usually more complex or are persistent issues that we will focus on over a number of years. NRAR's four enduring priorities remain unchanged from last year. They are:

- 1. Accurate water measurement
- 2. Aboriginal cultural and spiritual values in water regulation
- 3. Unlawful activities that cause significant harm
- 4. Unauthorised structures that prevent water getting to where it should on the floodplain.

About NRAR

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) is responsible for the enforcement of water laws in NSW through compliance monitoring and education.

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