



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Office of Compliance

Annual Compliance Plan 2018–19



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Introduction

The Office of Compliance was established on 1 July 2017, and provides a compliance and enforcement capability to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy.

We work within the Department's [Regulatory Framework](#) to support the delivery of our risk-based, intelligence-led compliance activity, with consistent and transparent decision making across the Department's regulatory responsibilities.

We focus on serious non-compliance for a range of legislation including protection of threatened plants, animals and ecosystems, wildlife trade, historic shipwrecks, hazardous waste and air emissions from fuel and ozone depleting substances. This includes monitoring compliance with the conditions of approvals granted under this legislation.

Serious non-compliance

Serious non-compliance is defined as any behaviour, action or omission that results in substantive harm (to the values protected by the legislation), an increased risk of substantive harm, or failure to prevent a substantive harm; and involves one or more of the following:

- Repeated actions of non-compliance
- Wilful or knowing misconduct
- Threatens the objectives of the regulatory system.

Purpose of this document

This document sets out the priority compliance outcomes for the Department to be delivered through the Office of Compliance in 2018–19. This information will help to ensure that stakeholders are informed about our compliance priorities.

The Plan should be read in conjunction with the Department's Compliance Policy which describes our approach to compliance, and aims to help the community understand how we encourage compliance and respond to potential contraventions of our laws.

The Plan does not provide an exhaustive list of all our compliance activities. Issues regularly arise that need immediate attention, and responsive compliance activities will also be necessary.

Establishing compliance priorities

The Office of Compliance has an ‘outcomes-based’ approach to compliance. This means that our compliance work is focussed on activities that help to achieve identified outcomes.

To identify priority compliance outcomes we collect and analyse data from a range of information sources, including feedback from the community, co-regulators and industry partners; results from monitoring activity; trends in non-compliance; and open source information.

Our 2018–19 priority compliance outcomes

The priority compliance outcomes for the Office of Compliance in 2018–19 include:

Compliance Outcome	Compliance Focus
Reduce emissions to air from fuel and of ozone depleting substances	Ozone depleting substances and emissions to air from poor quality fuel damage the environment and are dangerous to our health. We will engage with industry to address emerging issues, and take regulatory action as appropriate.
Increase engagement with national environmental law, focussing on the EPBC Act and agricultural development	We will support landowners, in partnership with state based regulators, to consider state and national environmental laws in parallel when planning agricultural development.
Disrupt wildlife crime	Illegal wildlife trafficking harms endangered species and may pose biosecurity risks to Australian biodiversity and the agricultural sector. We will collaborate with domestic and international partners to detect and disrupt illegal wildlife trade.
Disrupt hazardous waste crime	Illegal exportation and importation of hazardous waste can harm the environment and may pose serious risks to human health. We will collaborate with domestic and international partners to detect and disrupt illegal trade in hazardous waste.
Compliance with EPBC Act approvals	Non-compliance with EPBC Act approval conditions can cause significant impacts to matters of national environmental significance. We will continue to monitor compliance with approval conditions. In 2018–19, we will focus on compliance with approvals for mining activities.
Minimise exposure to fraud	The focus of our compliance activities will be on fraud awareness, as well as detecting and minimising the exposure of funds administered by the Department to fraud.

Contacting us

We can be contacted through the Department's Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772. To report a suspected breach of national environmental law you can also email compliance@environment.gov.au

More information about the legislation we administer and information about the compliance and enforcement aspects of these Acts can be obtained from the Department's website at www.environment.gov.au/about-us/legislation

environment.gov.au

