

# **Department of Resources**

## **Compliance plan report 2021-22**

This publication has been compiled by the Regulatory Strategy and Capability team, in the Department of Resources.

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## Summary

Effective management of Queensland's resources is vital for our economic, social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing. The Department of Resources (the department) administers a range of legislation that govern how our land, vegetation and mineral resources are accessed and used.

The aim of this report is to provide the community with a summary of the department's performance against the targets it set out in the 2021–22 compliance plan. Reporting is an important part of our regulatory approach and our aim to be a best practice regulator that provides clear and transparent information to the community regarding our regulatory activities.

The department committed to working towards 26 targets within its 2021–22 compliance plan published on the department's website. Over the 12 month period, the department met 21 targets, partially met 4 and did not meet 1. Further detail regarding these results is provided in this report.

### PERFORMANCE AGAINST COMPLIANCE TARGETS 21-22

■ Targets met ■ Targets partially met ■ Targets not met

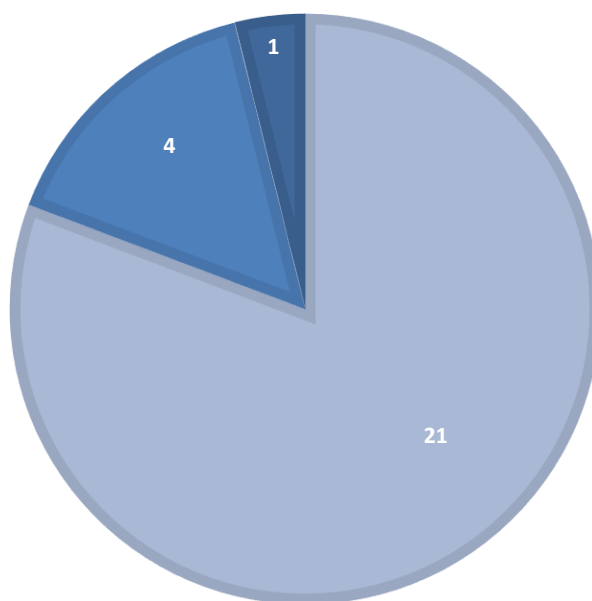


Figure 1. Resources' performance against compliance target 21-22

## Our regulatory approach

Our regulatory approach is strategic, consistent, proactive, and transparent across the broader legislative, geographic and community contexts so that our stakeholders and their communities have confidence in what we do. Our appointments and delegations allow people with the right skills and experience to make lawful regulatory decisions.

Where compliance is not achieved, we take a risk-based approach to regulation so that effort is focussed on areas of most significance to the community. Our approach includes five strategies to guide how we consistently approach our regulatory activities: guide, inform, enable, monitor, and enforce.

Many of the targets in our 2021–2022 departmental compliance plan related to client engagement. As part of the guide, inform and enable strategies, education is the departments first step in ensuring our stakeholders know and understand their requirements under the legislation and the consequences of non-compliance. It is where client engagement plays such a critical role and is therefore a key outcome in our compliance plans.

Each quarter, business groups report against the departments compliance plan so we can see how we are tracking, identify areas of risk and any actions required to support our regulatory approach.

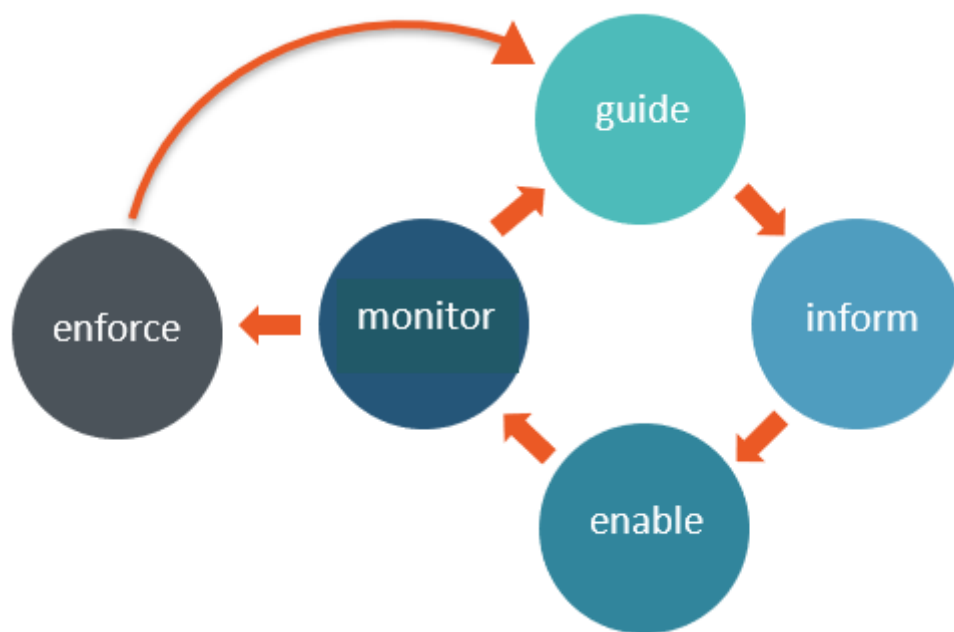


Figure 2. Resources' regulatory approach strategies.

## Alignment to Regulator Performance Framework

The department has a robust regulatory framework including a strategy, annual plan, and regulatory action plan. These documents demonstrate the alignment of our departments regulatory approach to the five model practices outlined in the [Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation](#) developed by the Office of Best Practice Regulation.

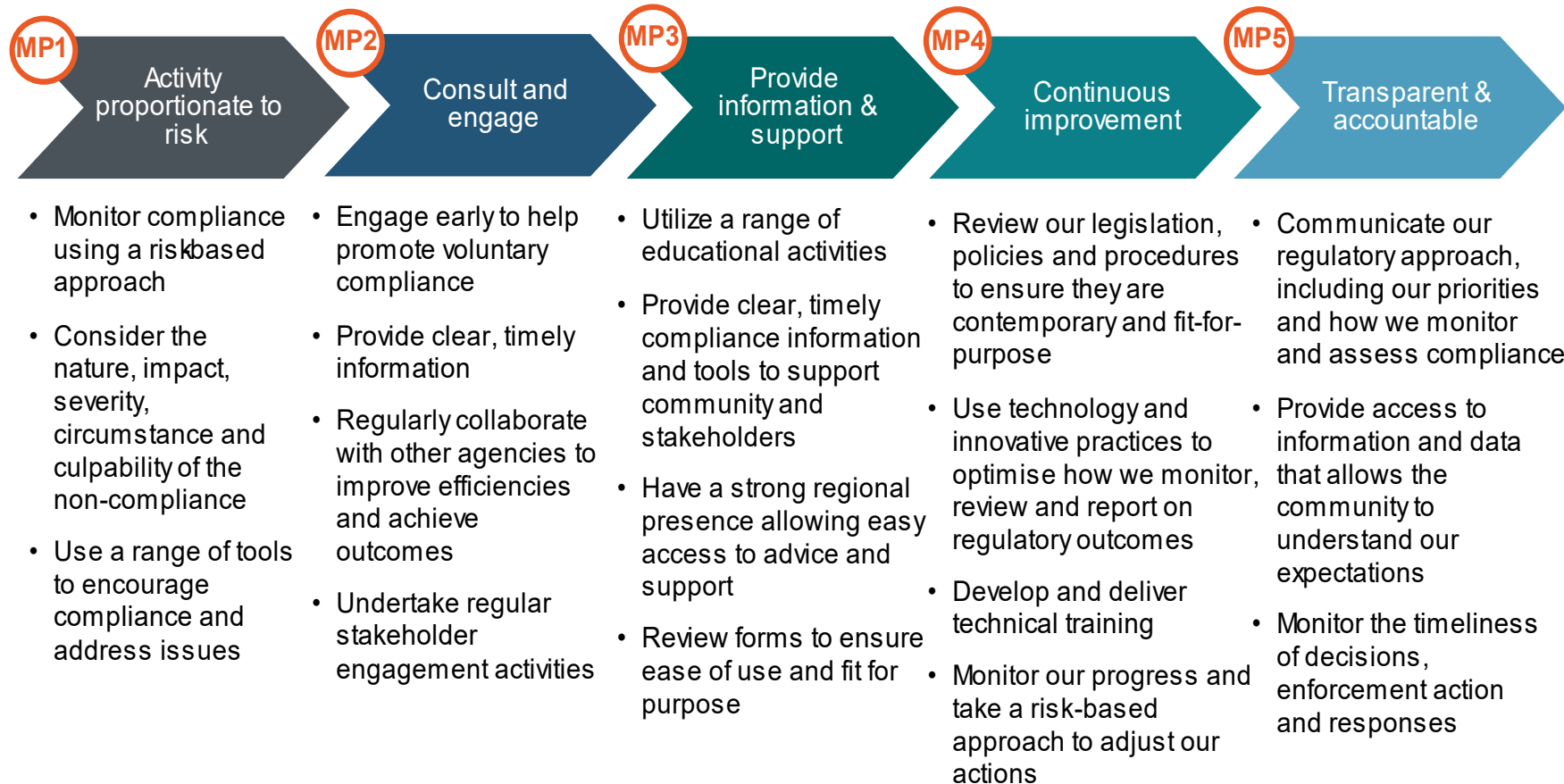


Figure 3. Resources regulatory alignment to Queensland Government guide to better regulation

## Results

The compliance plan sets focus areas and targets for each business area. Despite some challenges, over the year the department achieved more than 81 percent of its targets and made progress against a further 15 percent. The following diagram provides an overall summary of the department's achievements against the compliance plan targets [[Department of Resources compliance plan 2021–22](#)].



Figure 4. A summary of Resources regulatory results 2021-22.

Below (figure 5) is an overview of the six targets that were partially completed or not completed at all, along with a summary of key impacts and comments. Each year the department uses its risk-based approach to ensure our resources are focused on the areas of highest risk and adapts throughout the year as required. We also use the data we have available and the results from the previous year to inform our priorities for the following year. Work against priority targets has continued into the 2022–23 financial year.

| Targets partially or not met |                                                                                                                  | Key impacts and comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Georesources                 | Deliver an annual industry plan                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resourcing availability</li> <li>• Competing priorities</li> <li>• Delays due to weather and access</li> <li>• Work completed with delays to finalisation and publishing due to technical issues</li> <li>• Priority work is continuing in 2022-23</li> </ul> |
|                              | Deliver targeted competency upskilling for compliance personnel                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                              | Undertake 10 land access audits for exploration companies within focus areas                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                              | Undertake 2 proactive compliance campaigns targeting multiple tenures for high-risk mining areas                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| SVS                          | All externally facing forms have been reviewed to ensure they are contemporary, easy to use and fit for purpose. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Figure 5. Overview of targets partially completed or not completed at all.

## Key business area achievements

### Land

Earlier this year, Land and Surveying Services conducted lease condition audits on five tourism islands including Double, Brampton, Lindeman, Keswick, and Happy Bay on Long Island. These audits included site visits and desktop investigations. The outcomes of the audits will enable the department to take all reasonable actions available under the *Land Act 1994* to ensure Queensland's island resort leases are used to their full potential. Land and Surveying Services officers are fully engaged with the lessees of the closed resorts regarding their redevelopment plans, with the aim of having their tourism resorts operational within a satisfactory timeframe. There has been general improvement in the number of resorts operating, with the department actively working with lessees of non-operational resorts through planned audits for 2022–2023 of another five tourism islands.

### Vegetation

Proactive engagement and education with our customers and stakeholders continue to be a key focus for vegetation management this financial year. Staff delivered 30 vegetation workshops/information sessions and field days out in the community to inform our stakeholders about their obligations and to encourage voluntary compliance.



The Early Detection System (EDS) analyses satellite imagery every 16 days to rapidly detect recent changes in regulated vegetation across the state and enable proactive and early engagement with landholders. Early detection and engagement has been successful in reducing the potential for further clearing activities and impacts to native vegetation and provides intelligence for targeted education. The department continues to be committed to continual improvement and use of new technologies to enhance our proactive monitoring and engagement with landholders.

## **Georesources**

In March 2022, Georesources' Engagement and Compliance Unit finalised its investigations into Arrow Energy's breaches of Queensland's land access framework between 2018 and 2022 with the department issuing a \$1 million fine to the coal seam gas operator. The scale of the penalty took into account the number of indiscretions Arrow Energy had made when conducting directional drilling activities in the Surat Basin. This significant outcome allowed a line to be drawn under this historical behaviour, and for the focus to shift to back to planned compliance activities that seek to improve coexistence outcomes between landholders, regional communities, and industry.