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| **JULY 2016: IN THIS EDITION** * [Changes to the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Unit](http://us13.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1b7e531b4f281c23ea25f2b4e&id=e5ae05bd2d&e=624ebf741c#A)
* [June Quarter Performance Report – Titles Service Delivery Standards released](http://us13.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1b7e531b4f281c23ea25f2b4e&id=e5ae05bd2d&e=624ebf741c#B)
* [Rehabilitation Cost Estimate application improvements announced for exploration](http://us13.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1b7e531b4f281c23ea25f2b4e&id=e5ae05bd2d&e=624ebf741c#C)
* [New 1300 number for NSW Mine Operators to report safety incidents](http://us13.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1b7e531b4f281c23ea25f2b4e&id=e5ae05bd2d&e=624ebf741c#D)
* [Gas Community Benefit Fund](http://us13.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1b7e531b4f281c23ea25f2b4e&id=e5ae05bd2d&e=624ebf741c#E)
* [NSW Coal Industry Profile](http://us13.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1b7e531b4f281c23ea25f2b4e&id=e5ae05bd2d&e=624ebf741c#F)
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| *Kylie Hargreaves, DRE Deputy SecretaryKylie Hargreaves, Deputy Secretary Division of Resources and Energy* |

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| Changes to the Department's Compliance and Enforcement UnitThe NSW Department of Industry has undergone a number of changes effective from1 July 2016 covering activities in water, land, resources and business development.One of these changes was the [announcement of a standalone Resources Regulator](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/about-us/media-events/news/2016/resources-regulator-for-nsw) to undertake compliance and enforcement of a broad range of activities within the resources sector.The Resource Regulator will be headed up by Chief Compliance Officer, Lee Shearer, who will report directly to the Secretary of the Department of Industry.An advisory committee will be established to oversee and advise on major enforcement actions, providing confirmation to the community that these matters are conducted under law and without fear or favour.The advisory committee will be comprised of the Secretary of the Department of Industry, the Chief Compliance Officer, the NSW Land & Water Commissioner, the General Counsel for the Department of Industry and an experienced independent former regulator.Stakeholders who have an interest or obligations in relation to compliance and regulation of the mining sector will liaise with the same contacts within the Department, but should be aware of the change of name and reporting lines. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) remains the sole authority responsible for compliance and enforcement of all coal seam gas exploration and production activities with the exception of work health and safety issues. |

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| June Quarter Performance Report – Titles Service Delivery Standards releasedThe Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) has released its [Quarterly Performance Report for June 2016](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/664488/1-April-to-30-June-2016.pdf) https://gallery.mailchimp.com/1b7e531b4f281c23ea25f2b4e/images/1b60a391-6aae-4372-b0c6-a37c409d178d.png (471.63 KB PDF).The report shows continued improvements in Service Delivery Standards relating to the processing of mineral exploration and mining applications during the past three months. DRE is now issuing 97% of decision notifications in accordance with the Division's published service standards – surpassing the required target of 90% for the first time since the introduction of Service Delivery Standards in 2013.DRE has welcomed the results, especially as they come during an extensive internal transformation program which is being undertaken with the aim of strengthening stakeholder engagement.DRE now has specialist teams dedicated to better understanding industry and community needs. The Division is also directing attention toward addressing numerous legacy matters, which have previously been of concern to the industry; these have been identified as priority improvement areas.During the current quarter, legacy dealings were reduced by approximately 12% compared to the previous quarter. Legacy Work is a priority focus for the next quarter.  Included in the scope of works is the use of a risk-based assessment process for Dead Title Actions and the creation of projects to finalise legacy matters.Most of DRE’s service categories are operating at, or close to, 100% performance levels, but this does not mean that we can become complacent.In the areas of both forms and guidelines, industry has told us improvements are needed. We are continuing to work with our stakeholders to deliver everything they need.Last week DRE released a new version of the Financial Capability Statement. Industry had been expecting this material and we were pleased to deliver on time.DRE has identified 13 priority areas for improvement which it will roll-out progressively during the coming year including a process alignment program which would provide benefits to all industry participants.DRE is continuing to listen to the industry and will review and improve areas that have been highlighted. We are aware of concerns surrounding forms and some processes and the industry will see continued improvement in this area during the next year.DRE plans to deliver further efficiencies in our processes and will streamline a number of areas including online lodgement of applications.DRE is committed to ensuring that our major stakeholders and clients receive the best possible service with a strong focus on continuous improvement through collaboration and consultation. |

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| Rehabilitation Cost Estimate application improvements announced for explorationChanges have been made to Rehabilitation Cost Estimate Applications for exploration, which fall under $10,000.Effective 1 October 2016, explorers will no longer be required to lodge  a separate Rehabilitation Cost Estimate (RCE) with Common Exploration Activities (CEA) applications, if the cost of rehabilitation across the title is less than $10,000.  Changes will be made to form ESF4: Application to Conduct Exploration Activities to reflect this change.The operational procedural change is consistent with DRE’s risk-based approach to regulation and removes the additional administrative requirements for the majority of small, low-risk exploration activities.Responding to feedback, DRE determined the administrative burden placed on industry and the level of regulatory involvement in assessing and enforcing securities for CEAs is disproportionate to the low-level risks for small projects. For larger projects, where rehabilitation is costed at more than $10,000, the explorer will still require a separate RCE to be submitted with CEA applications. Non-CEA exploration activities will also require an RCE.For more information contact DRE’s Environmental Sustainability Unit on (02) 4931 6590 or minres.environment@industry.nsw.gov.au.  |

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| New 1300 number for NSW Mine Operators to report safety incidentsFrom Monday 4 July 2016, all mine and petroleum site operators have been required to report any on-site work health and safety incidents to a new statewide telephone number **1300 814 609.**Under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum sites) Act*, mine and petroleum site operators are required to immediately notify the Mine Safety Unit if a serious injury, illness or dangerous incident occurs at their mine or petroleum site.The new 1300 814 609 number is staffed by a Mine Safety inspector 24 hours a day, seven days a week.The new [incident notification process](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/notifications/incident-or-injury) is an important part of the [Mine Safety Incident Prevention Strategy](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/mine-safety-regulatory-reform) which allows for incidents to be appropriately documented, responded to and investigated as well as proactive safety measures to be incorporated into mine operations. |

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| Gas Community Benefit FundThe NSW Government has established the framework, structure and processes for a voluntary Community Benefits Fund to provide community development initiatives in areas where gas exploration and production will take place.To be managed by the Rural Assistance Authority, the fund seeks to build lasting and mutually beneficial relationships between gas companies and the communities in which they operate.Gas companies operating in NSW can contribute to the fund as part of their community engagement activities.The Rural Assistance Authority will administer the fund, setting the strategic direction of the fund and assessing applications for grant funding.The Rural Assistance Authority will establish local Community Benefits Fund Committees to ensure:* local communities are involved in decisions to fund projects in the local communities;
* funding decisions promote community development projects that support local and social enterprise, are transparent and there is accountability for these decisions; and
* efficient, effective and transparent governance and administration arrangements for the fund.

For more information on the operation of the Gas Community Benefit Fund, including Guidelines, visit the [Rural Assistance Authority website](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/gas).  |

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| NSW Coal Industry ProfileAfter many years of print production, the Division has decided to retire the NSW Coal Industry Profile.Over this time we received many positive comments from industry about the value of having the data collected in one source. However, we also received feedback that the print format wasn't user-friendly and by the time the publication was issued, the statistics were dated.So we moved online in an effort to make the format more user-friendly and reduce production costs. Unfortunately, the uptake of subscriptions was disappointing and didn't support a continuation of the publication.Consequently, as of 29 July 2016, the department will cease the online subscription service. You are welcome to download the final edition, 2014 NSW Coal Industry Profile, in PDF format for free at [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/coal-profile](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/coal-profile).If you have an enquiry about coal statistics, contact the Division's Royalty and Advisory Services, phone (02) 4931 6436 or email mineral.royalty@industry.nsw.gov.au |

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