





# Environmental Services and Regulation Annual Strategic Compliance Priorities 2023-2024

Environmental Services and Regulation Division (ESR), as Queensland’s environmental regulator, proactively manages and monitors environmental risks through a range of compliance, investigation, and enforcement programs. Our compliance work is critical to enforcing the standards set by law that allows for sustainable development and safeguards Queensland's environmental values by minimising or preventing environmental harm.

This plan outlines our key strategic priorities for the next 12 months and demonstrates our transparency by clearly articulating our focus areas to both regulated industries and the community. In addition to these priorities, our core compliance work will continue to be informed by community, industry, and scientific intelligence. Through regular compliance planning, we target our effort at those activities that present the greatest risk, and our state-wide team of compliance officers can be deployed anywhere, anytime.

**Vision:**  
Our compliance effort protects the health of Queensland’s environment and communities.

<p><b>Strategic focus areas</b> An increased focus on these areas aims to deter non-compliance and promote good compliance outcomes.</p>   	<p><b>Waste Compliance</b></p> <p>Through the Waste Compliance Framework, ESR will deliver enhanced regulatory compliance services related to waste activities administered under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and the <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i>.</p> <p>ESR continues to address the risks posed by waste management behaviours that unintentionally or intentionally result in waste levy miscalculation or evasion in support of Queensland’s journey to becoming a zero-waste society.</p>	<p><b>Target industries and activities</b></p> <p><b>Industry:</b> Waste Management</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased focus on compliance within the waste industry through the delivery of an expanded compliance program.</li> <li>Identification and deterrence of illegal dumping and unlicensed waste activities</li> <li>Ensuring correct calculation, reporting and payment of the waste levy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased regulatory oversight of the waste industry.</li> <li>Delivery of targeted compliance activities that respond to community concerns, deter unlawful behaviours and encourage best practice operations.</li> <li>The integrity of the waste levy framework is protected through compliance and enforcement.</li> <li>Illegal dumping is deterred and waste activities are appropriately licenced.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Rehabilitation compliance</b></p> <p>Queensland’s commitment to progressive rehabilitation of land disturbed by mining activities is detailed in Queensland’s Mined Land Rehabilitation Policy.</p> <p>ESR is committed to supporting the transition of Queensland’s mines to their post mining land use and will drive progressive rehabilitation of land disturbed by mining activities with our regulatory activities ensuring mining activities comply with their Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP).</p>	<p><b>Industry:</b> Mining</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring mining activities comply with their Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP).</li> <li>Ensuring delivery of any environmental offsets that may be required.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring the integrity of the PRCP framework through targeted monitoring of milestones at mines across Queensland.</li> <li>Complete a review of the delivery of biodiversity offsets for significant site specific mining projects.</li> </ul>

 	<p><b>Great Barrier Reef</b></p> <p>ESR is committed to ensuring industries and business in the six Great Barrier Reef regions comply with the regulated Great Barrier Reef protection measures to drive water quality improvements in the Great Barrier Reef catchments.</p> <p>In 2023-2024 we will continue to consolidate the Reef Compliance Program to deliver effective and efficient regulation of the Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures.</p>	<p><b>Industry:</b> Sugarcane, banana, beef cattle grazing, and commercial cropping and horticulture industries.</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance monitoring, enforcement and assessment focused on identified risks and producers most likely to be contravening their requirements under the agricultural standards.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Reef Compliance Program is visible, accessible and mobile, with a capable and effective workforce across the Great Barrier Reef regions.</li> <li>• The Reef Compliance Program provides effective and efficient regulation of Agricultural Environmentally Relevant Activities across the Great Barrier Reef Regions.</li> <li>• Timely and defensible decisions are made for the assessment of ERA 13A applications and granting of permits.</li> </ul>
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