




Environmental Services and Regulation Annual Strategic Compliance Priorities 2022-2023

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>Strategic focus areas An increased focus on these areas aims deter non-compliance and promote good compliance outcomes.</p> 	<p>Waste management compliance Queensland’s commitment to becoming a zero -waste society detailed in Queensland’s Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy and underpinned by the waste levy, has resulted in continued growth in the waste industry across the state.</p> <p>The waste industry remains a key focus area for us as a regulator and ESR will enhance our compliance efforts employing additional compliance officers and collaborating with local governments to address issues such as minimising community and environmental impacts, addressing waste levy avoidance and illegal waste operators. The expansion of our compliance efforts will ensure the success of Queensland’s Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy.</p>	<p>Target industries and activities</p> <p>Industry: Waste management.</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring correct calculation, reporting and payment of the waste levy. Detecting unlawful waste activities including transport, stockpiling and disposal of wastes. Increased proactive compliance at waste management facilities to detect and deter non-compliance including a focus on composting and landfills. 	<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The integrity of the waste levy framework is protected through compliance and enforcement. Non-compliance at waste management facilities and during waste transport is deterred. Poor performing and unlicensed waste operators are held to account. Illegal dumping is deterred. Waste material generated is lawfully transported, reused, recycled, or disposed of by licensed facilities. Improved community confidence in the regulation of the waste management industry.
	<p>Petroleum and Gas The continued growth of Petroleum and Gas operations is forecasted to result in the number of gas production wells almost doubling within the decade. The expansion of this industry into agricultural areas combined with identified concerns of landholders and other stakeholders prompt a continued focus on the environmental management issues associated with the industry to be a compliance priority for ESR.</p> <p>ESR will focus compliance efforts on issues such as compliance with environmental offsets put in place to counterbalance significant residual impacts on the environment and operators registered under the End of Waste (EOW) framework.</p>	<p>Target industries and activities</p> <p>Industry: Petroleum and gas</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring compliance with End of Waste framework. Ensuring compliance with environmental offset requirements. 	<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered resource producers and resource users are operating in accordance with the End of Waste framework. Queensland’s environmental offsets framework is implemented by the industry, in particular financial settlement offsets.
	<p>Great Barrier Reef 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 catchment.</p> <p>In 2022-2023 we will continue to expand our dedicated agricultural compliance program, doubling the number of compliance officers and expanding compliance activities into new commodities and areas as we continue to implement the <i>Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019</i>. From 1 December 2022, minimum practice standards will have commenced for sugarcane, bananas and grazing in all the regulated Reef regions (except Cape York). The <i>Compliance and Enforcement Strategy: Reef protection regulations</i> sets out our compliance approach and priority for compliance activities to inform and enable voluntary compliance and detect and deter non-compliance.</p>	<p>Target industries and activities</p> <p>Industry: Agriculture</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further bolstering reef compliance capacity and proactive inspections. Drive and enhance voluntary compliance with the Great Barrier Reef protection measures. Prioritise compliance effort to detect and deter non-compliance based on client and locational risk to Reef water quality. Compliance activities will occur in all river basins with greatest effort directed to highest river basin management priorities under the <i>Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan</i>: with key focus areas including the Herbert, Haughton, and Burdekin basins. 	<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The compliance program for newly regulated areas and commodities is implemented. Agricultural producers are informed about their obligations under the Great Barrier Reef protection regulations and voluntary compliance with requirements encouraged. Non-compliance with Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> is detected, and enforcement action taken in accordance with the Enforcement Guidelines.