

Strategic compliance focus areas 2024-25

The Department of Resources (the department) manages the fair and responsible use of Queensland's land, vegetation, and mineral resources through the administration of legislation that governs how these resources are accessed and used. We plan where to focus our regulatory efforts each year so that we ensure our response to non-compliance is targeted and proportionate. To do that, we consider a range of factors, including departmental priorities, areas of risk, analysis of data and learnings from previous years. We use this approach to identify focus areas to plan for compliance and assurance activities. This document outlines the focus areas we have identified for 2024-25 to provide transparency in how we intend to meet our regulatory responsibilities over the next 12 months.

Focus area	Target industries and activities	Outcomes	Targets
Lands Division			
<p>Vegetation Management The Department of Resources is responsible for the implementation of the vegetation management framework in Queensland. The department utilises the Early Detection System to identify changes in vegetation cover and ensure that changes are lawful.</p> <p>The department received an additional \$9.8 Million in the 2023–24 State budget to be invested over four years, focussed on enhanced education and compliance, which will support restoration and the ongoing land sector contribution to emissions reduction targets. In 24-25 the project will deliver increased engagement with the regulated community to promote voluntary compliance with the framework.</p>	<p>Stakeholder group: Landholders, industry groups</p> <p>Activity: Vegetation clearing</p> <p>Activity: Authorised clearing in the Great Barrier Reef catchment areas.</p>	<p>The integrity of the vegetation management framework is upheld.</p> <p>The Vegetation Hub is serviced to provide accurate and timely information and advice to our customers and stakeholders to promote voluntary compliance with the legislative framework.</p> <p>Stakeholders are educated through engagement activities regarding their obligations under the vegetation management framework.</p> <p>Landholders are aware of their obligations and comply with all requirements when undertaking lawful clearing.</p> <p>Areas of unauthorised clearing are restored wherever possible.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customer satisfaction of >50% from the Vegetation Hub (Veg Hub) customer surveys 2. 50 Group stakeholder engagement activities attended to increase landholder awareness and voluntary compliance with the legislative framework. 3. 40 audits of category A and restoration areas to ensure restoration outcomes achieved. 4. 15 Proactive audits of authorised clearing are undertaken, focussing on Great Barrier Reef catchment areas.
<p>State Land - Unauthorised use. <1%of Queensland is unallocated state land managed by the Department of Resources (Resources managed state land).</p> <p>The department is responsible for managing this land and ensuring use of Resources managed state land is authorised.</p>	<p>Stakeholder group: Persons accessing Resources managed state land.</p> <p>Activity: Unauthorised use of Resources managed state land.</p>	<p>Risks associated with the unauthorised use of the land are effectively managed with appropriate compliance and enforcement responses.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100 parcels of Resources managed state land in regional urban areas across Queensland are inspected to detect any unauthorised use.
<p>State Land - Tenure management. About 60% of Queensland is non-freehold state land administered under the <i>Land Act 1994</i> for the benefit of the people of Queensland.</p> <p>The department regulates lessees to ensure that land is appropriately managed and lease conditions are complied with.</p>	<p>Stakeholder: Lessees of Business and Commercial leases</p> <p>Activity: Compliance with public liability and indemnity conditions.</p> <p>Stakeholder: Lessees of tourism leases on Great Barrier Reef Islands.</p> <p>Activity: Compliance with tourism island leases</p>	<p>Lessees comply with their lease conditions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A risk-based sampling approach is applied to identify and conduct audits of 10 high-risk leases. 2. All reasonable actions available under the <i>Land Act 1994</i>, are taken to address non-compliance with conditions of tourism island resort leases.
<p>Surveying A key responsibility of the department is to maintain the integrity of the cadastre (land boundary system) which underpins the economic development of the state. This is achieved through legislation including the <i>Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003</i> (SMI) and regulations, the publishing of the Cadastral Survey Requirements (CSR), auditing of cadastral surveys for compliance against the SMI and CSR, providing advice on land boundary and tenure matters and providing information/ education sessions to the industry.</p> <p>Audit focus areas for 2024 were selected in consultation with Surveyors Board of Queensland, who are responsible for registration of Surveyors. Audits will focus on compliance relating to plan presentation, measurement, marking and reinstatement.</p>	<p>Stakeholder group: Surveyors conducting cadastral surveys within Queensland.</p> <p>Activity: Completion of cadastral surveys in accordance with CSR.</p>	<p>The integrity of the cadastre is maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>Timely advice is provided to industry to ensure that surveys conform with legislation, procedures, and standards.</p> <p>Surveyors are aware of current processes, procedures and legislation and have the opportunity to provide input into changes to legislation, procedures, and standards.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A risk-based sampling approach is applied to identify and audit at least 150 surveys including the survey plan and field components. 2. 85% of survey advice to external clients is provided within 10 working days. 3. Conduct a minimum of 10 stakeholder engagement activities to keep the industry informed of any changes to legislation, procedures, and standards. This includes presentations at conferences, webinars, etc; <i>Surveying Alerts</i> (newsletters) to industry and consultation with surveying strategic and reference groups, which consist of industry representatives.

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Georesources Division			
<p>Mineral exploration activities To support Queensland's strong focus on the development of a critical minerals industry, it is important that mineral exploration activities are being undertaken in the required way. Our compliance efforts will focus on the adherence of mineral explorers to relevant legislative frameworks such as the land access framework.</p>	<p>Stakeholder Group: Mineral exploration companies.</p> <p>Activity: Undertaking mineral exploration activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New holders are educated regarding their obligations under the land access framework. • Better co-existence outcomes with landholders. • The integrity of the land access framework is protected through compliance and enforcement. • Operators not adhering to the land access framework are held to account. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New mineral exploration permit (EPM) holders are educated via provision of new and updated land access framework information. 2. Delivery of information relating to land access framework at Authorised Holder Representative (AHR) forums and during other targeted engagement opportunities. 3. Statewide audit is completed on a selection of EPMs to assess adherence to the land access framework and other relevant requirements.
<p>Fossicking With 11 dedicated fossicking areas, 9 designated fossicking lands and 22 general permission areas on private land, recreational fossicking continues to be a popular activity across Queensland. Supported by enhanced website material, we will be targeting key fossicking areas at popular times to ensure people are licenced, are operating in accordance with licence conditions, and are ensuring that co-existence with other land uses is being met, whilst responding to any identified safety risks.</p>	<p>Stakeholder Group: Recreational fossickers.</p> <p>Activity: Fossicking within fossicking areas, on fossicking land, or within general permission areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public and fossicking agents are informed and enabled to voluntarily comply with the <i>Fossicking Act 1994</i>. • Illegal fossicking activities are deterred. • Increased awareness and visibility of the department as a regulator of fossicking activities. • Better co-existence outcomes with other land uses by ensuring the required consents and permissions are being provided, and that any safety risks are being minimised. • Fossickers not adhering to the requirements of the <i>Fossicking Act 1994</i> are held to account. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancement of fossicking related materials on the Business Queensland webpage to provide up-to-date information and mapping of current fossicking areas. 2. Liaison with fossicking agents to ensure up-to-date understanding of current framework requirements, locations of current fossicking areas, and provision of information for distribution to new fossickers. 3. Targeted patrols of fossicking areas, fossicking lands, and general permission areas to detect and respond to instances of non-compliance and identify any safety risks.
<p>Off-tenure and unauthorised mining Ensure resource authority holders operating across all tenure types are operating within authorised areas and have appropriate surface rights where activities are being undertaken.</p>	<p>Stakeholder Group: All types of resource authority holders.</p> <p>Activity: Undertaking resource activities in unauthorised areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-compliance associated with resource activities being undertaken in unauthorised areas are identified with appropriate enforcement action taken. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk assessments are completed for all internal and external referrals of potential non-compliances. 2. Where required, site inspections are completed to inform assessments of new applications, renewals, and surrenders. 3. Instances of non-compliances identified during site inspections to be investigated when detected. 4. Third party complaints are reviewed and investigated as required where relating to activities being undertaken in unauthorised areas.