

How the EPA regulates mines

Always call 000
if it is an emergency
www.epa.nsw.gov.au



EPA Enviro Line
131 555
info@epa.nsw.gov.au
24 hours 7 days a week

We encourage people to report environmental incidents and concerns, including air, noise, water or waste issues, to the NSW EPA's 24/7 Environment Line on **131 555** or via our **website**.

Protecting the community and environment – NSW Government role



Agencies within the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment work together to oversee the activities of mines in NSW, to protect the community and the environment.

One of those agencies is the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).



What can I do if I think a mine is polluting the environment?



If you believe a mine is causing pollution or not complying with the conditions on its licence, contact the mine directly. It is required to have a complaints line and may be able to address the issue immediately.

Next, contact the EPA's Environment Line. A certain level of detail is required to make a report: the more information we receive, the more likely it is we can take action. Every report is looked into.

The EPA uses information it receives to plan investigations and allocate resources.

What can the EPA do when I make a report?



The EPA can investigate your concerns to see if there have been any breaches of licence conditions. The action taken depends on many factors including whether there is enough evidence, the level of

harm, the seriousness of the issue and how often it has happened. Regulatory action can include a range of things, such as adding or changing licence conditions or issuing fines and notices. The EPA can also prosecute.

How does the EPA regulate mines?

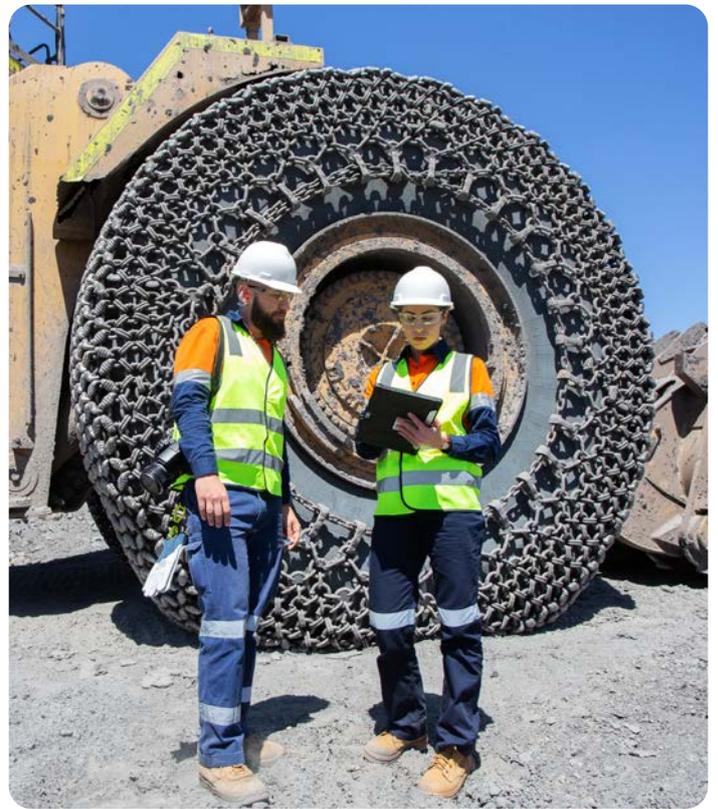


A licence can only be issued once a development consent has been granted for the mine by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

The EPA licence is required to be substantially consistent with that consent.

The EPA runs targeted compliance programs to focus on issues listed in a licence, such as keeping dust under control. The 'Bust the Dust' campaign in the Hunter Valley during the spring and summer months focuses on monitoring dust generation from those mines and working with the community to report activity that might be outside the rules of the licence.

A licence can be changed over time either by the EPA, to update or potentially bring in new conditions, or by an application from the licence holder. This is referred to as a licence variation.



Mines must follow special conditions in their EPA environment protection licence



An environment protection licence can:

- set limits on noise, blasting and vibration, and water discharges
- require monitoring of air quality, water, weather, noise and blasting
- require mines to minimise dust
- set conditions detailing how the premises should be operated
- require immediate notification in the event of an incident threatening harm
- require the operation of a complaints line
- require annual reporting.

How can I have my say on mine operations?



Whether it is a proposal for a new mine, or a modification to an existing mine, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will give the community time to review and make comments on the proposal. This process is known as public exhibition, and it is the best way to have your say about the operation of a mine. For more information call the EPA Enviro Line.



If you have any questions, please call our Environment Line on 131 555 or email info@epa.nsw.gov.au