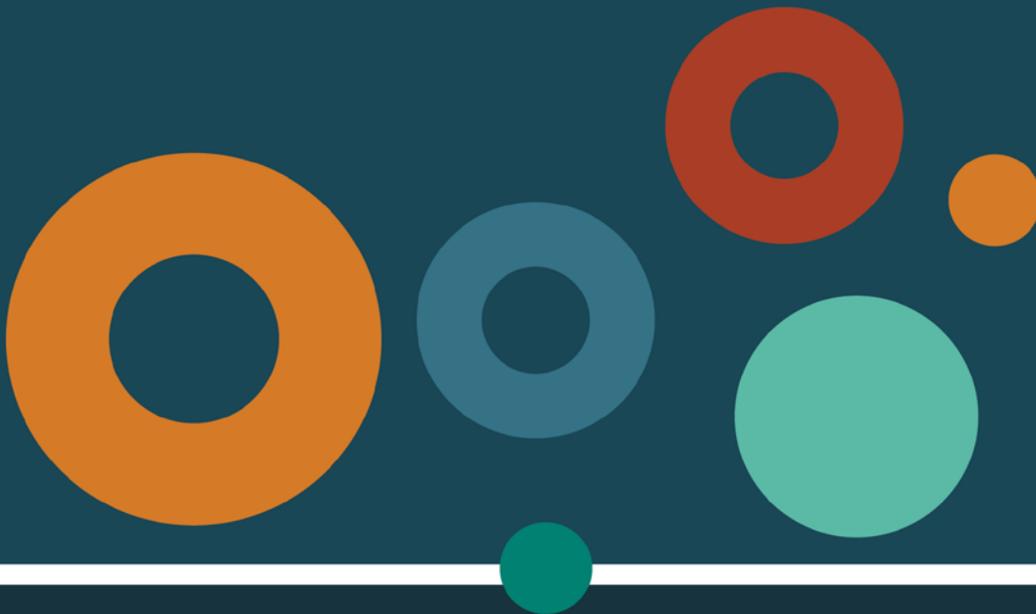


Regulatory Compliance Plan

Georesources Division

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

2019-2020



This publication has been compiled by Engagement and Compliance Unit of Divisional Support, Georesources Division, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

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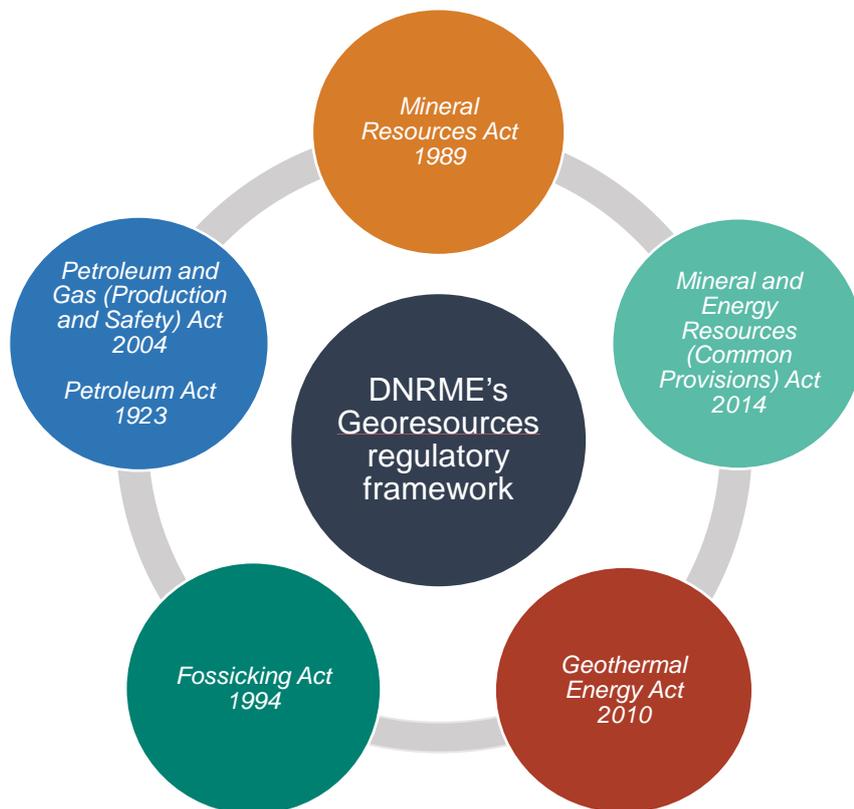
Background

Queensland’s world-class resources sector is a critical component of our State’s continued advancement, making considerable contributions to the Queensland and Australian economy and ensuring ongoing prosperity for all Queenslanders. Mineral and energy resources – such as coal, minerals and petroleum and gas –are generally owned and managed by the state for the benefit of Queenslanders. Undertaking compliance activities in relation to resource exploration and development is a critical role of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME).

Purpose

DNRME is committed to directing resources to target priority compliance matters on a statewide basis. The Georesources Regulatory Compliance Plan (‘the Plan’) sets out the compliance priorities and outcomes to be delivered by DNRME’s Georesources division in 2019-2020.

The Plan supports implementation of legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines across Petroleum and Gas, Minerals, Coal and Small Scale Mining (including Fossicking) jurisdictions. The key Acts are outlined in Figure 1 below.



This Plan should be read in conjunction with the [Georesources Compliance Policy](#), which describes our approach to compliance, and aims to help the community understand how we encourage compliance and respond to potential contraventions of our laws.

Georesources compliance priorities

Compliance priorities have been identified based on known risks and issues, and ensure we are transparent in meeting DNRME's regulatory responsibilities in managing the State's mineral and energy resources, to deliver sustainable benefits for current and future generations of Queenslanders. These priorities are outlined in **Table 1** below:

Table 1: Georesources priority compliance outcomes and focus areas

Priority Compliance Outcome	Compliance Focus
Reduce unauthorised mining and fossicking	Unauthorised mining may include mining without tenure, or mining contrary to an authorisation. These types of offences may result in loss of revenue for government or create anticompetitive distortions in the local market (especially for extractive operations).
Enhance compliance with permit conditions on existing tenures	Ensuring that existing permit holders are maintaining compliance is critical to the delivery of an effectiveness regulatory framework. This includes ensuring that where a tenement has been granted, it is actively utilised in accordance with conditions of grant and commitments made by the tenure holder.
Improving land access systems and operations of small and junior explorers	Ensuring effective land access systems are in place and being implemented is fundamental to a respectful and prosperous co-existence between the resources authority holders, landholders and other stakeholders.

Reporting

Reporting will occur on an annual basis to track performance and where required to adjust priorities to align with emerging risks and trends. The department will produce an Annual Compliance report that will provide an overview on how the department is tracking against compliance targets and performance indicators.

Compliance Actions

The compliance actions to address our compliance priorities are set out in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Georesources compliance priorities, actions and performance measures

Compliance Priority	Action	Performance Measures
<p>Reduce unauthorised mining and fossicking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proactive desktop assessment of satellite imagery followed by unannounced field inspections ○ Proactive field inspections. ○ Targeted fossicking field inspections especially during school holidays and long weekends ○ Reactive responses to complaints at any time 	<p>Fossicking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20 programmed inspections of fossicking areas (designated fossicking land and general permission areas) undertaken across the State at peak periods. <p>Minerals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two (2) pro-active compliance campaigns targeting illegal mining activities in high-risk areas.
<p>Enhance compliance with permit conditions on existing tenures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent - Security - Compensation - Reporting - Expenditure - Production - Relinquishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proactive desktop audits including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in conjunction with finance overdue reports, ○ checks of media and ASX statements, and proactive engagement with mines 'at risk' of non-compliance, ○ seek advice from Office of State Revenue (OSR) re royalty payment status, and ○ audits of production reporting for Petroleum Leases (PL's), ○ Proactive field inspections; ○ Reactive, targeted responses to incoming complaints and intelligence from external sources. ○ Performance audits for petroleum and gas production leases. 	<p>Minerals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100 desktop compliance audits conducted (exploration and production). ○ 25% reduction in outstanding debt. ○ Enquiries and complaints closed out within 3 months. <p>Coal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 40 desktop compliance audits conducted (exploration and production). ○ 25% reduction in outstanding debt. ○ Enquiries and complaints closed out within 3 months. <p>Petroleum and Gas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audit performance of all petroleum production leases in the Surat and southern Bowen Basins using the Petroleum Lease Compliance framework. ○ Enquiries and complaints closed out within 3 months. <p>Small Scale Mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100 desktop audits conducted. ○ 80 field inspections conducted. ○ Enquiries and complaints closed out within 1 month.

Compliance Priority	Action	Performance Measures
Improving land access systems and operations of junior resource companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review land access systems and protocols, and provide best practice advice to targeted small and junior exploration companies. ○ Reactive, targeted responses to incoming complaints and intelligence from external sources about land access 	<p>Petroleum and Gas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase 1: campaign on 5 small/junior petroleum explorers. <p>Minerals and Coal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase 2: campaign on 5 small/junior mineral and coal explorers.