

# Earth Resources Regulation

Quarterly Performance Report

2020-21 Quarter 1

1 July to 30 September 2020



## Summary

This report provides a summary of the Earth Resources Regulator's operating performance for the quarter one of financial year 2020-21 (1 July to 30 September 2020).

### Performance indicators in 2020-21 Q1 :

**KPI 1#** - 100% of the work plan stages for 16 quarries were assessed within the statutory time frames.

**KPI 2#** - 48 operational compliance activities were undertaken.

**KPI 3#** - 88% of reportable incidents were responded to during this quarter.

**KPI 4#** - 100% participation in Environmental Review Committee meetings.

**KPI 5#** - The time to respond to complaints took on average 28 business days.

# - Explained in the next slide

### Administrative updates by notification

- Four extractive and two mining industry administrative changes (notifications) were acknowledged during the period.

### Petroleum operation plans

- Ten petroleum operation plan stages were assessed from ten unique operation plan submissions and four petroleum operation plans were accepted in the quarter. These submissions were for existing operations exempt from the moratorium on onshore conventional gas (e.g. underground storage).

### Key Performance Indicator Reporting

Earth Resources Regulation is Victoria's earth resources regulator – our role includes granting rights to access resources, assessing works and setting controls for the extraction of resources, conducting compliance operations to ensure that authority holders fulfil their regulatory obligations, engaging with communities and stakeholders, and ensuring that authority holders rehabilitate their sites. We are committed to being an effective regulator.

Earth Resources Regulation is a unit of the Department of Jobs, Precinct and Regions (DJPR). The unit is guided by the department's compliance framework and policy. This whole-of-department policy requires regular performance measuring and reporting to demonstrate the effectiveness of Earth Resources Regulation's compliance activities. Earth Resources Regulation uses a range of indicators to monitor its activities and performance and publishes key performance indicators on its website on a quarterly basis. Public reporting of the data allows stakeholders to continue to monitor Earth Resources Regulation's performance.

KPI	High Level Indicators	Measurement	Target	Target period	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	DJPR's compliance policy framework
<b>KPI 1 Efficient Approvals Process</b>	Percentage of extractive work plan stages assessed within statutory time frames.	%	95	Quarterly	<b>100%</b>	95%	Outputs/activities
	Percentage of mineral licence applications and mineral work plan stages assessed within statutory time frames.	%	95	Quarterly	<b>74%</b>	62%	Outputs/activities
	Percentage of tenement variations assessed within Client Service Standard time frames where a statutory time frame does not exist.	%	95	Quarterly	<b>83%</b>	76%	Outputs/activities
<b>KPI 2 Ensuring Compliance</b>	Number of operational compliance activities undertaken per quarter.	Number of activities	75	Quarterly	<b>48</b>	55	Inputs
<b>KPI 3 Effective Incident Management</b>	Percentage of reportable events that are responded to per quarter.	%	100	Quarterly	<b>88%</b>	100%	Short-term & long-term outcomes
<b>KPI 4 Facilitation of Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Earth Resources Regulation attendance at Environmental Review Committee meetings.	%	100	Quarterly	<b>100%</b>	100%	Outputs/activities
	Number of Stakeholder Review Group meetings held by Earth Resources Regulation.	Number of meetings	4	Annual	<b>1</b>		Outputs/activities
	Number of Earth Resources Regulator Forums held by Earth Resources Regulation.	Number of meetings	3	Annual	<b>1</b>		Outputs/activities
<b>KPI 5 Complaint Management</b>	Average number of days to respond to complaints made by community against tenements.	Business days	3	Quarterly	<b>28</b>	5	Outputs/activities

Extractive work plan stages\* assessed within statutory time frame (STF)

Quarter	Work Plan Type	Unique WP under assessment	Stage STF (Target Days)	Stages Over STF	Stages Within STF	Total stages	% (Within STF/Total)
FY 2020-21 Q1	Work Plan (WA)	16	28	0	27	27	100%
FY 2019-20 Q4	Work Plan (WA)	27	28	2	39	41	95%

\* A work plan stage represents a statutory decision point

Extractive work plans endorsed or approved in the quarter

Quarter	Work Plan Type	Endorsed	Approved
FY 2020-21 Q1	Work Plan (WA)	2	2
FY 2019-20 Q4	Work Plan (WA)	6	9

Work authority granted in the quarter

Quarter	Licence Type	Granted
FY 2020-21 Q1	Work Authority	2
FY 2019-20 Q4	Work Authority	0

**Explanation for the result:**

This performance indicator for extractive industry work authority work plans measures whether the work plan stages were assessed within the statutory time frames.

In Q1 27 extractive work plan stages were assessed for 16 unique work plans, of which 100% were assessed within the statutory time frame.

Two work plans were approved in the quarter. Two work plans were statutorily endorsed and returned to client to proceed with planning approval.

Two work authorities were granted in Q1.

**Why are these measures important?**

Earth Resources Regulation strives for a consistent and transparent approvals process, balancing efficiency but maintaining the rigour required for comprehensive assessment, consistent with the legislation.

(Table 1) Mineral licences and work plan stages assessed within statutory time frame (STF)

Quarter	Licence and Work Plan Stages	Over STF	Within STF	Total (Over + Within STF)	% Within STF/Total
FY 2020-21 Q1	Mineral Licence Applications – (A)	9	15	24	63%
	Mineral Work Plan Stages – (B)	1	14	15	93%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>74%</b>
FY 2019-20 Q4	Mineral Licence Applications – (A)	12	3	15	20%
	Mineral Work Plan Stages – (B)	0	16	16	100%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>62%</b>

**Explanation for the result:**

This performance indicator combines mining licence applications, exploration licence applications and mineral industry work plan stages and measures whether they were assessed within the statutory time frames.

In Q1 there were 39 (15 mineral work plans stages assessed and 24 mineral licence applications approved) of which 74% were assessed within the statutory time frames.

**Explanation for the result:**

This table is an expanded subset of the Table 1 above and it details performance of the regulator in assessing mineral licence applications.

In Q1 63% (15 out of 24) applications were granted within the statutory time frame.

**Explanation for the result:**

This table is an expanded subset of the Table 1 above and it details performance of the regulator in assessing mineral work plan application stages.

In Q1 15 exploration and mining work plan stages were assessed from 15 unique work plans, of which 93% were assessed within the statutory time frame. Two work plans were approved in the quarter.

(Table A) Mineral licence applications assessed within statutory time frame (STF)

Quarter	Licence Type	STF (Target Days)	Over STF	Within STF	Total (Over + Within STF)	% Within STF/Total
FY 2020-21 Q1	Exploration Licence	90	8	14	22	64%
	Prospecting Licence	90	0	1	1	100%
	Retention Licence	120	1	0	1	0%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>63%</b>
FY 2019-20 Q4	Exploration Licence	90	7	2	9	22%
	Prospecting Licence	90	2	0	2	0%
	Retention Licence	120	3	1	4	25%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20%</b>

(Table B) Mineral work plan stages\* assessed within statutory time frame (STF)

Quarter	Work Plan Type	WP Approved	Unique WP under assessment	Stage STF (Target Days)	Stages Over STF	Stages Within STF	Total Stages	% (Within STF/ Total)
FY 2020-21 Q1	Work Plan (Exploration)	1	3	28	0	3	3	100%
	Work Plan (Minerals)	1	12	28	1	11	12	92%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>93%</b>
FY 2019-20 Q4	Work Plan (Exploration)	1	4	28	0	4	4	100%
	Work Plan (Minerals)	2	8	28	0	12	12	100%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* A work plan stage represents a statutory decision point

## Tenement variations approved within client service standard (CSS)

Quarter	Licence Type	CSS (Target Days)	Over CSS	Within CSS	Total (Over + Within CSS)	% Within CSS/ Total
FY 2020-21 Q1	Exploration Licence	90	5	35	40	88%
	Mining Licence	120	3	1	4	25%
	Prospecting Licence	90	0	3	3	100%
	Retention Licence	120	1	1	2	50%
	Work Authority	30	0	3	3	100%
	<b>Total</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>52</b>
FY 2019-20 Q4	Exploration Licence	90	3	27	30	90%
	Mining Licence	120	4	1	5	25%
	Prospecting Licence	90	0	3	3	100%
	Retention Licence	120	0	0	0	-
	Work Authority	30	5	8	13	62%
	<b>Total</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>51</b>

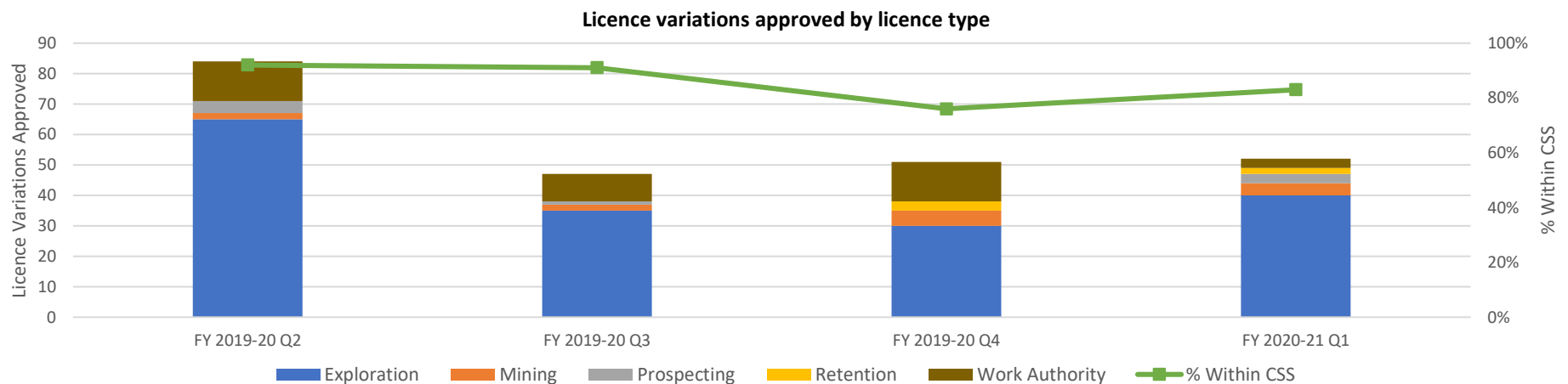
### Explanation for the result:

Client Service Standard (CSS) is the percentage of licence variations assessed within departmental agreed timeframes where a statutory timeframe does not exist.

In Q1 83% of the licence variations were completed within the client service standard.

### Why are these measures important?

Earth Resources Regulation began reporting on the client service standard in July 2017. This indicator measures how well the department meets its client service standard when processing licence variation approvals.



Non MRSDA licence variations

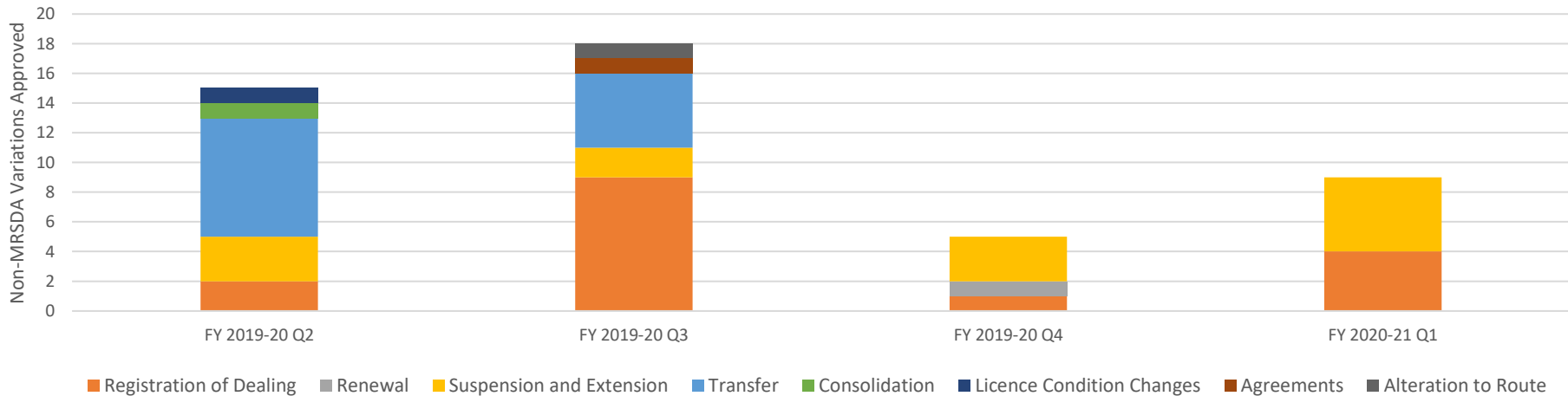
Quarter	Licence Type	Registration of Dealing	Renewal	Suspension and Extension	Total
FY 2020-21 Q1	Offshore Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permit	0	0	1	1
	Offshore Petroleum Exploration Permit	0	0	4	4
	Offshore Pipeline Licence	1	0	0	1
	Onshore Petroleum Exploration Permit	2	0	0	2
	Onshore Petroleum Production Licence	1	0	0	1
			<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
FY 2019-20 Q4	Offshore Petroleum Retention Lease	1	1	0	2
	Onshore Petroleum Exploration Permit	0	0	3	3
		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

Explanation for the result:

In Q1 there were nine petroleum licence variations approved.

There has been extensive work undertaken in Q1 in preparation for the orderly restart of onshore petroleum on 1 July 2021.

Non MRSDA licence variations types approved



Petroleum – Operation plans

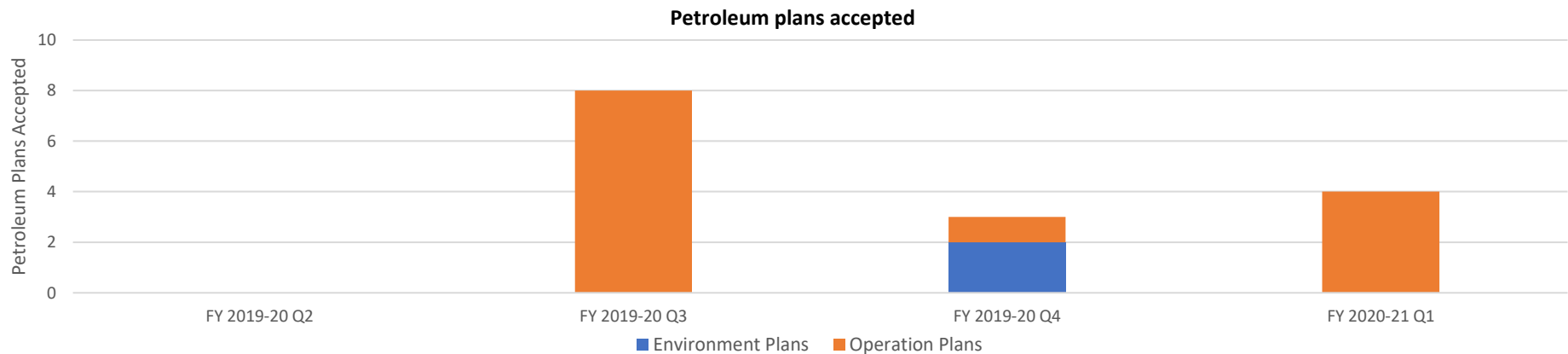
Quarter	Licence Type	Plans Accepted	Unique Plans under assessment	Environment Plan Stages	Operation Plan Stages	Total Stage Assessed
FY 2020-21 Q1	Onshore Petroleum Production Licence	3	7	0	7	7
	Onshore Petroleum Retention Lease	0	1	0	1	1
	Onshore Petroleum Special Access Authorisation	1	2	0	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
FY 2019-20 Q4	Offshore Petroleum Exploration Permit	1	1	1	0	1
	Offshore Petroleum Production Licence	1	1	1	0	1
	Onshore Petroleum Production Licence	0	3	0	4	4
	Onshore Petroleum Special Access Authorisation	0	1	0	1	1
	Onshore Petroleum Special Drilling Authorisation	1	1	0	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>

Explanation for the result:

In Q1 ten petroleum operation plan stages were assessed from ten unique plans and four petroleum operation plans were accepted in the quarter.

These submissions were from existing operations exempt from the moratorium on onshore conventional gas (e.g. underground storage). Assessments related to existing production and storage facilities and proposed exploration drilling operations.

Note: Hydraulic fracturing and coal seam gas exploration and extraction are banned in Victoria.

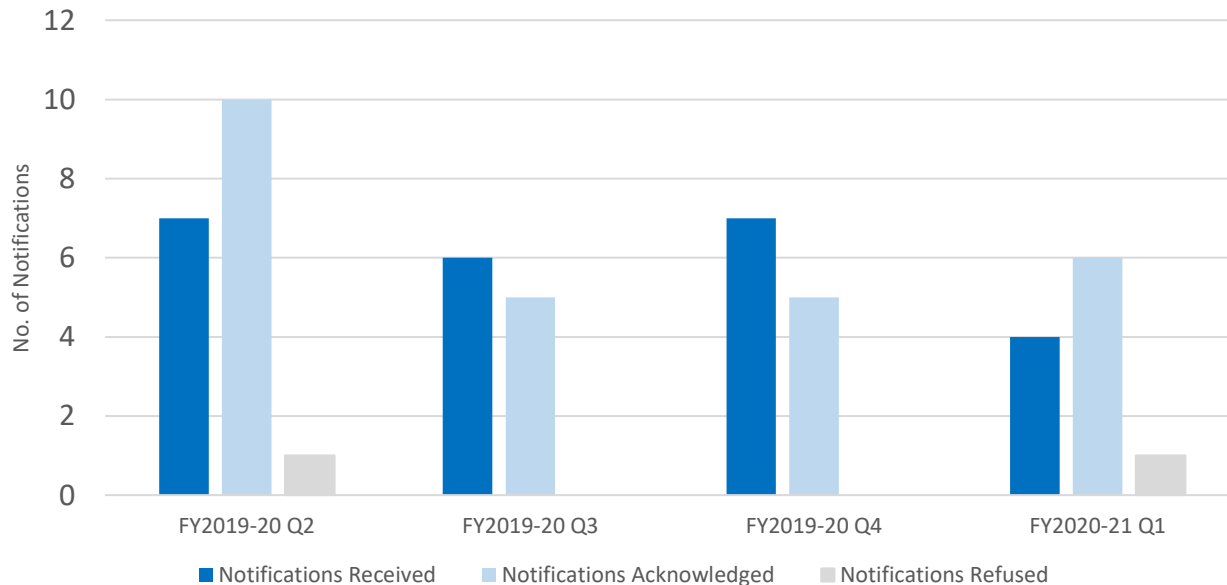




Mining	FY 2019-20 Q2	FY 2019-20 Q3	FY 2019-20 Q4	FY 2020-21 Q1	Total
Notifications Received	3	2	2	2	9
Notifications Acknowledged	3	2	1	2	8
Notification Refused	0	0	0	0	0

Extractives	FY 2019-20 Q2	FY 2019-20 Q3	FY 2019-20 Q4	FY 2020-21 Q1	Total
Notifications Received	5	4	7	2	18
Notifications Acknowledged	7	3	4	4	18
Notifications Refused	0	1	0	1	2

**Administrative updates by notification**



**Explanation for the result:**

In Q1 there were two mining and four extractive industry administrative changes acknowledged.

**Administrative updates by notifications:**

New or changing work on existing work plans where it satisfies the below conditions:

- There is no significant increase in risk arising from the new or changing work
- Council has been consulted and confirms in writing that the new or changing work does not require an amendment to the planning permit
- Relevant referral agencies have been consulted and confirmed that the new or changing work raises no concerns.

More information is available on the website:

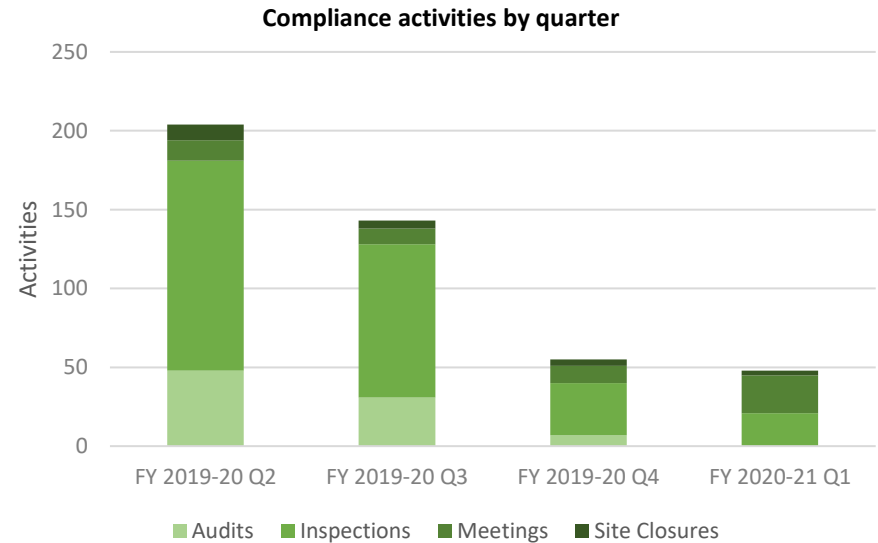
<https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/legislation-and-regulations/guidelines-and-codes-of-practice/extractive-industry-work-plan-guideline>

Compliance activities

Licence Types	Activity	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Extractives	Inspection	3	3	0	6
	Audit	0	0	0	0
	Site Closure	0	0	0	0
	Meeting	1	0	5	6
	<b>Extractives Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>
Mining	Inspection	13	0	1	14
	Meeting	2	10	6	18
	Audit	0	0	0	6
	Site Closure	1	1	1	3
	<b>Mining Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35</b>
Petroleum	Inspection	1	0	0	1
	<b>Petroleum Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>48</b>

Explanations for the results:

In Q1 Earth Resources Regulation conducted 48 proactive compliance activities involving 39 duty holders. During COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, inspector field activities were limited to response to critical incidents and key preventative measures. Although the compliance in field activities have been impact by COVID-19 restrictions, routine field activities will be recommencing from November 2020



Why are these measures important?

Earth Resources Regulation undertakes proactive compliance activities using a risk based approach. Activities include audits, inspections, meetings with duty holders and site closures after reviewing rehabilitation.

Earth Resources Regulation undertaken compliance actions under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, *Petroleum Act 1998* and other legislations, to identify and act on any audits or omission by the duty holder that has, or is likely to result in a risk to public safety, the environment, land, property or infrastructure, or is a non-compliance with a licence or work authority conditions.

Compliance audits

Type of Audits	FY 2019-20 Q2	FY 2019-20 Q3	FY 2019-20 Q4	FY 2020-21 Q1	Total	% Total
Progressive Rehabilitation	22	8	4	0	34	40%
Plan and Conditions	8	9	1	0	18	21%
Boundaries and Extraction limits	3	3	0	0	6	7%
Dust	4	5	1	0	10	12%
GeoTechnical	2	3	1	0	6	7%
Impacts of Blasting	2	0	0	0	2	2%
Fire & Emergency	3	0	0	0	3	3%
Exploration Drilling	1	0	0	0	1	1%
TSF Management	0	2	0	0	2	2%
Pest, Plant and Animal	2	0	0	0	2	2%
Site Security and Buffer Zones	0	1	0	0	1	1%
Community Engagement	1	0	0	0	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>

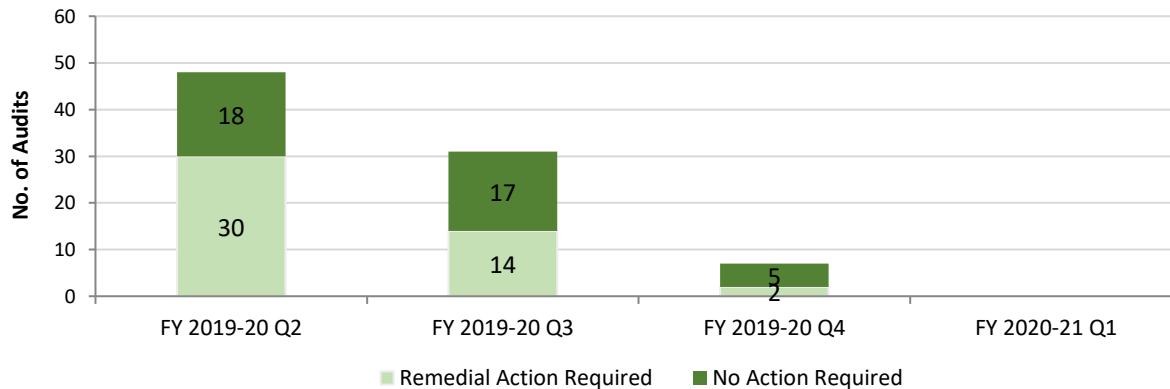
Explanations for the results:

There were no audits conducted in Q1 due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Earth Resources Regulation's compliance program aims to drive improved industry performance and is focussing on management of the following risks to protect public safety and the environment: rehabilitation, fire, dust, noise, stability, water and approval conditions.

For further information on compliance priorities see the Earth Resources Regulation Compliance Strategy [https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/461315/Earth-Resources-Regulation-Compliance-Strategy-2018-2020.pdf](https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/461315/Earth-Resources-Regulation-Compliance-Strategy-2018-2020.pdf)

Remedial action / No action after audits



Explanations for the results:

The audit program is risk based with a focus on more significant sites. The number of actions required can be dependant on the type of audits completed, and if the audits were 'follow up' audits from previously identified risks.

There were no audits conducted in Q1 due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Why are these measures important?

This indicator measures the number of current tenements that have had a compliance activity undertaken and shows how many duty holders are meeting requirements.

General enforcement notices issued in the quarter

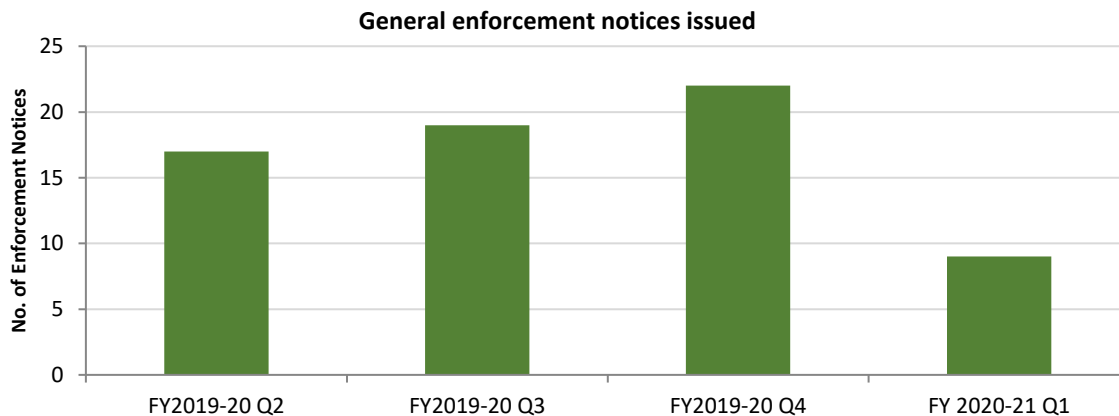
Sector	Enforcement Code	Enforcement Action Type	No. of Notices
Extractives	Authorised Activity Compliance	s110 Notice	1
Extractives	Public Safety and Site Security	s110 Notice	1
Extractives	Slope Stability	s110 Notice	1
Extractives	Work Without Licence or Consents	s110a Notice	2
Mining	Rehabilitation of Site	s110 Notice	2
Mining	Waterway Quality and Aquatic Habitat	s110 Notice	1
Mining	Work Without Licence or Consents	s110a Notice	1

Enforcement actions summary:

Earth Resources Regulation compliance group undertook a number of investigations into alleged illegal quarrying activities. Outcomes ranged from official warnings, infringements, and some matters referred to prosecution.

In Q1 nine remedial notices were issued, including alleged breaches of work plan conditions and ground disturbance.

Further details on enforcement actions can be found in the following media releases:  
<https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/about-us/news>



Infringements and Official Warnings Issued

Actions	Issued in the quarter
Infringement Notice	0
Official Warning Letters	0

Infringements and Official Warnings summary:

In Q1 there were no infringements or official warnings issued.

Reportable incidents in the quarter

Sector	Classification	Type	Enforcement Code	Incident Responded To	Incident Status	Incident Count
Mining Licence	Minor	Public Safety	Reporting, Monitoring & Auditing	Yes	Resolved	9
Mining Licence	Minor	Public Safety	Fire Precautions & Risk Control	Yes	Resolved	2
Mining Licence	Minor	Environmental	Noise Emissions	No	Open	2
Mining Licence	Minor	Infrastructure	Fire Precautions & Risk Control	Yes	Resolved	1
Work Authority	Major	Legislation Breach	Impacts Outside Tenement Site	Yes	Major Investigation	1
Work Authority	Minor	Legislation Breach	Authorized Activity Compliance	Yes	Open	1

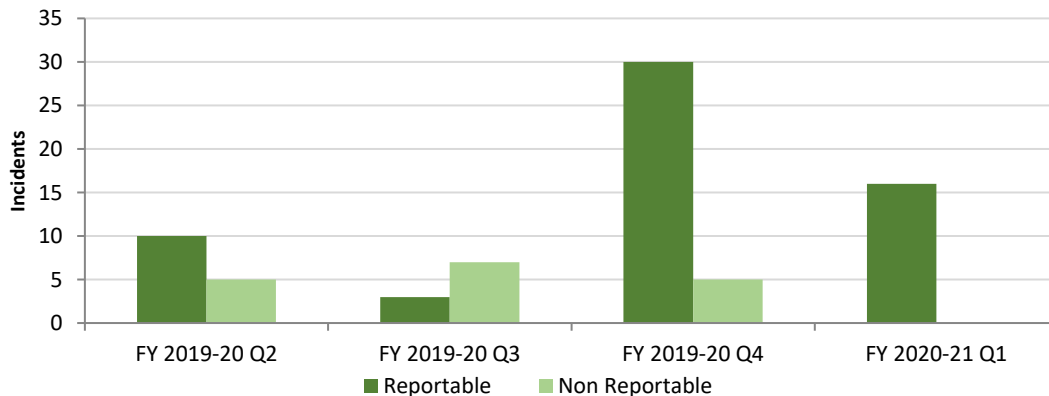
Non-reportable incidents in the quarter

Sector	Classification	Incident Type	Enforcement Code	Count
There were zero non-reportable incidents in FY 2020-21 Q1				

Why are these measures important?

This measure shows whether Earth Resources Regulation is responsive to high risk incidents that occur at tenement sites. The indicators measure the number of compliance and enforcement actions that Earth Resources Regulation inspectors commenced, completed and closed in a particular period. Depending on its complexity, an incident may be resolved in a subsequent quarter.

Reportable vs Non reportable incidents



Explanation for the result:

There were 16 reportable incidents in Q1 relating to small coal smoulders and excessive noise. A change in reporting requirements now classifies smoulders as a reportable fire event.

88% (14 out of 16) incidents were responded to in the quarter. 12 incidents were resolved, three are under investigation and one under major investigation.

There were zero non-reportable incidents in Q1.

Earth Resources Regulation will continue to proactively undertake compliance activities, focussing on stability, public safety and environmental protection.

Environmental review committee attendance

	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	2020-21 Q1
Meetings Planned	33	18	9	11
Meetings Attended	31	18	9	11
% Attendance	94%	100%	100%	100%
Target	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Explanation for the result:**

Earth Resources Regulation attended 100% of the scheduled Environmental Review Committee (ERC) meetings in Q1. Due to COVID-19 restrictions all ERC was held online.

**Why are these measures important?**

The stakeholder engagement indicator covers the interaction between the regulator, duty holders, co-regulators and the community by reporting active participation by Earth Resources Regulation at Environmental Review Committee meetings. Earth Resources Regulation has made a commitment in the Compliance Strategy to report on ERC attendance quarterly.

Stakeholder reference group

2020-21 Q1	2020-21 Q2	2020-21 Q3	2020-21 Q4	Annual Total	Target
1	-	-	-	1	4

**Explanation for the result:**

The target is an annual figure based on Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) meetings being scheduled every three months.

There was one SRG meeting held by Earth Resources Regulation in Q1. On target to achieve the annual total of four.

**Why are these measures important?**

The Stakeholder Reference Group provides a forum for engagement and consultation with stakeholder representatives from industry associations and government agencies regarding statutory, regulatory and stakeholder relations issues and activities in the context of the current policy and regulatory framework.

Earth resources regulators forum

2020-21 Q1	2020-21 Q2	2020-21 Q3	2020-21 Q4	Annual Total	Target
1	-	-	-	1	3

**Explanation for the result:**

The target is an annual figure based on three Earth Resources Regulator Forum meetings being scheduled each year.

There was one ERR forum meeting held by Earth Resources Regulation in Q1. On target to achieve the annual total of three.

**Why are these measures important?**

The Earth Resources Regulators' Forum drives a coordinated, strategic approach to regulation in the earth resources sector. Through the forum and its independent chair, Earth Resources Regulation coordinates its activities with other regulators to improve timeliness, reduce compliance and administrative costs to industry, and identify and resolve any regulatory gaps or overlaps. This includes a focus on more real-time communication, strategic sequencing, common risk assessment and partnerships with local government authorities.

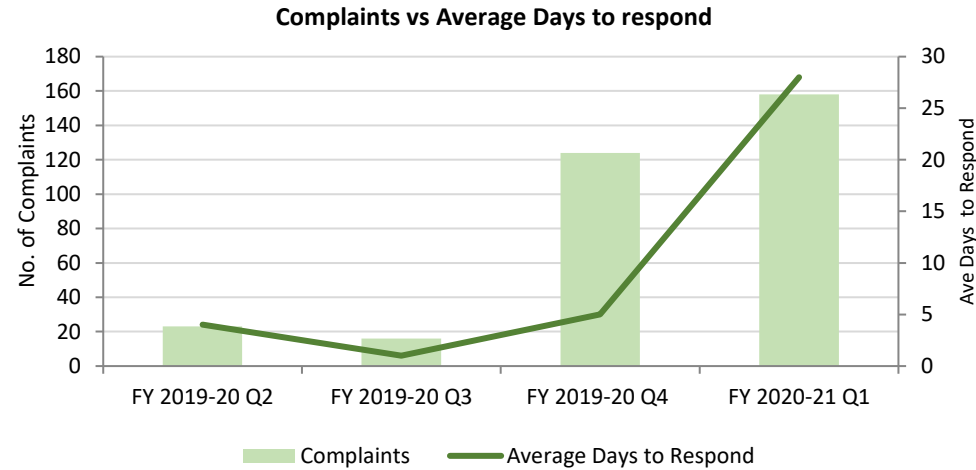
Response time to complaints in the quarter

Sector	Enforcement Codes	Number of Complaints	Ave Days to respond	*Median Days to respond
Extractive	Explosives Air & Ground Vibration	97	32	24
Extractive	Working Hours	17	36	41
Extractive	Noise Emissions	8	31	28
Extractive	Work without License or Consents	4	2	2
Extractive	Impacts Outside Tenement Site	4	4	2
Extractive	Environmental Incident Notification	1	1	1
Extractive	Other (Not Specified Above)	1	1	1
Extractive	Reporting, Monitoring & Auditing	1	4	4
Minerals	Work without License or Consents	3	1	1
Minerals	Explosives Air & Ground Vibration	2	2	2
Minerals	Other (Not Specified Above)	1	1	1
Minerals	Underground Exploration	1	1	1
Minerals	Environmental Incident Notification	1	1	1
Minerals	Ground Disturbance	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>

\* Median Days: Arranging the days to respond in order and then selecting the middle value. Median is used to minimise the impact of outliers.

Complaints yet to responded to in the quarter

Sector	Enforcement Codes	Number of Complaints
Extractive	Explosives Air & Ground Vibration	14
Extractive	Other	1
Extractive	Work without Licence or Consents	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>



Explanation for the result:

There were 158 complaints in Q1. Many of these complaints were relating to a single quarry in the Melbourne Metropolitan area. Complaints were related to blast vibrations, noise and concerns of operators working outside of approved hours. With COVID-19 restrictions in place requiring people to continue to work from home, it is expected that complaint management will be a key focus for the foreseeable future.

142 of the complaints were resolved and 16 are under investigation and yet to be responded to. Due to the high volume of complaints, the average number of days to respond to a complaint was 28 days, the median days to respond was 21. A number of repeat complaints were addressed through combined responses.

Why are these measures important?

The complaints handling process is an important aspect of effective stakeholder management and building confidence in Earth Resources Regulation as an effective regulator.

## Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

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