

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 48  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 5  
**Programme:** Environment Assessment and Compliance Division  
**Topic:** Self reporting of non-compliance  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 07 March 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

The Department appears to rely heavily on self-reporting of non-compliance issues by project proponents, or on issues of non-compliance being brought to the Department's attention by concerned community members. Please provide details of any internally initiated audits undertaken by the Department in the last two years. Please specify the relevant State or Territory, and industry. Please detail the resources allocated to undertake the audit, including staffing hours and any external resourcing.

**Answer:**

Whilst the Department does require an element of self reporting of non compliance by project proponents, a compliance audit programme comprising random, strategic (risk based) and ad hoc components, has been in place for a number of years. The Department internally initiated 34 audits in the last two years.

2011-12 Compliance Audits:

Overall, the audits identified a substantial level of compliance with conditions. Instances of non-compliance were addressed in accordance with the department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

Breakdown:

Jurisdiction	Audits
QLD	3
VIC	4
WA	7*
SA	1
NSW	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>

\* Includes one project in the Commonwealth Marine Environment.

Industry Sector	Audits
Mining and Exploration	11
Water Management and Use	2
Residential Development	4
Transport – Land	1
Commercial Development	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>

### 2012-13 Compliance Audits:

Overall, the audits identified a substantial level of compliance with conditions. Instances of non-compliance were addressed in accordance with the department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

### Breakdown:

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Audits</b>
QLD	3
VIC	2
WA	6
SA	1
NSW	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>Industry Sector</b>	<b>Audits</b>
Mining and Exploration	2
Offshore Petroleum and Gas	1
Water Management and Use	1
Residential Development	1
Transport – Land	4
Transport - Water	3
Natural Resources Management	2
Energy Generation and Supply	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

### Resourcing

Hourly breakdowns for resourcing allocated to each audit are not captured by the department. The Compliance audit team currently has resourcing for three Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions to carry out this function. The department has not contracted external resources to carry out the audit programmes described above.