

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF THE *ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1994*

(reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025)

Prepared by: Environmental Services and Regulation, Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

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The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

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Reporting Period: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation acknowledges the Country and people of Queensland's First Nations. We pay our respect to Elders, past and present.

We recognise and value the ongoing contributions of First Nations people and their culture, and the opportunities that exist for shared ways of working to protect Queensland's environment.

We acknowledge that land and water are of spiritual, cultural and economic importance to First Nations people, and all places in Queensland exist on the traditional country of First Nations people.

In recognising and respecting thousands of years of environmental stewardship, Queensland's First Nations people and their culture are integral to our objective to protect and sustainably manage Queensland's environment and natural, cultural and heritage values. As part of our regulatory approach, we seek to engage and work collaboratively to build a culturally safe work environment that is inclusive of First Nations people's perspectives, interests, values and aspirations.

Key highlights

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) delivers environmental regulation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) through strong, consistent and transparent regulation across its education, engagement, assessment, compliance, investigation and enforcement functions.

During 2024–25, DETSI continued to deliver sustainable development for Queensland through environmental regulation that protected the environment and the community while supporting economic growth.

Several key priorities and election commitments were delivered in 2024–25 including:

- the establishment of an industry liaison position to educate and support the waste industry to implement improved environmental practices and comply with legislative requirements;
- an independent scientific review of the methodology for determining safe PFAS limits for composting operations;
- supporting Queensland Health with their public health inquiry into the health impact of odours from the Swanbank Industrial Area;
- ongoing implementation of Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan reforms to reduce rehabilitation liability to the State and enhance environmental rehabilitation outcomes on resource sites.

DETSI continued to deliver important environmental outcomes for communities across Queensland through its regulatory activities. This included ongoing action to bring relief to the Ipswich community from odours from the Swanbank Industrial Area and the launch of an enhanced Swanbank air quality monitoring platform to improve public access to real time and historic data.

DETSI also worked across multiple industries, government agencies and community groups in response to major cyclone and weather events that impacted Queensland in 2024–25. Through extensive engagement and education outreach, DETSI continues to build resilience to extreme weather events across a range of at-risk industries.

DETSI is committed to delivering efficiencies for industry while maintaining high environmental performance standards, which in 2024–25 included a reduction in unnecessary annual return paperwork for a range of regulated activities. DETSI also delivered on a number of initiatives in support of open and transparent data, including:

- enhancements to the Public Register Portal allowing public access to a wider range of documents and data, including modules released for Environmental Impact Statements, Financial Assurance, Post Surrender Management Reports and improvements to progressive rehabilitation information;
- the launch of the new Queensland Regulator Insider webpage providing the public with greater insights and visibility into the work undertaken to protect communities and the environment from pollution.

DETSI will continue to deliver strong environmental protection for Queensland into 2025–26 while supporting economic growth and working to reduce administrative burden.

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	iii
Key highlights	iv
Introduction.....	1
1 Assessment of Environmentally Relevant Activities.....	1
1.1 Agricultural ERAs	1
1.2 Resource activities	1
1.3 Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plans	3
1.4 Estimated rehabilitation cost	3
1.5 Prescribed environmentally relevant activities	4
1.6 Environmental Impact Statements	5
1.7 Suitable operator registration	6
1.8 Temporary Emissions Licence	6
2 Environmental Incident Response.....	7
2.1 Pollution Hotline Calls received after-hours	7
2.2 Community reports	7
3 Compliance and Enforcement Summary.....	8
3.1 Compliance Inspections	8
3.2 Enforcement Action	8
3.3 Prosecutions	11
3.4 Planning and environment court orders	13
3.5 Warrants	13
3.6 Reviews and Appeals.....	13
4 Contaminated Land	14
Appendix 1 – Enforcement Actions	15
Appendix 2 – Definitions and Acronyms	16

Introduction

The objective of the EP Act is to protect Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends (ecologically sustainable development).

Section 546A of the EP Act requires that within four months after the end of each financial year, the chief executive must give to the Minister a report on the administration of this Act for the year.

Section 546A(2) of the EP Act requires the Minister to include a statement in the report about requests received by the Minister to prepare environmental protection policies. The Minister received nil requests for the 2024–25 financial year.

The EP Act is jointly administered by DETSI as the chief executive, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (NRMMRRD) and local governments as relevant administering authorities who have either delegated or devolved powers.

1 Assessment of Environmentally Relevant Activities

Under the EP Act, there are three categories of Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs) that are regulated:

1. Agricultural ERAs include sugar cane cultivation, banana cultivation and beef cattle grazing carried out on a commercial basis on land in the Great Barrier Reef catchment.
2. Resource activities include:
 - geothermal activities;
 - mining activities (exploration, extraction, rehabilitation and similar activities) authorised under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*;
 - petroleum and gas activities authorised under the *Petroleum Act 1923*, the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* and the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*; and
 - greenhouse gas storage activities authorised under the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*.
3. Prescribed ERAs are other industrial or commercial activities that may release contaminants with the potential to cause environmental harm (excluding those which are part of a mining, petroleum or gas project).

Under the legislation, some prescribed ERAs are devolved or delegated to other authorities, including local governments and DPI. In these cases, these authorities are responsible for assessment, compliance, enforcement and management of fees. NRMMRRD handles the initial processing of some applications for ERAs that are resource activities.

1.1 Agricultural ERAs

Beef cattle graziers and sugar cane and banana growers in the Burnett Mary, Fitzroy, Mackay / Whitsunday, Burdekin and Wet Tropics regions must comply with commodity specific agricultural ERA standards (i.e. minimum practice standards) based on water quality priorities for commodities and regions.

Growers need to obtain an environmental authority for an agricultural ERA before starting or expanding commercial cropping and horticulture in a Reef region if the activity will be on five hectares or more of land that does not have a cropping history.

Standards do not apply to the Cape York region as water quality targets are being met in that region.

Environmental authorities issued for prescribed ERA agricultural activities listed under Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 (EP Regulation) are captured in **Figure 4** as part of all the prescribed ERAs regulated by DETSI and DPI.

1.2 Resource activities

All resource activities require an environmental authority under the EP Act to operate (with the exception of prospecting and certain small-scale mining activities). Some higher risk activities also require an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the approval process.

DETSI administers all resource activities, excluding small-scale mining activities, which are administered by NRMMRRD.

Figure 1 gives the number of new and existing resource environmental authorities for 2024–25. New

environmental authorities are those that were issued after 30 June 2024 and are still current at 30 June 2025. Existing environmental authorities are those current at 30 June 2024 and are still current at 30 June 2025.

Under powers delegated by DETSI, NRMMRRD has issued seven environmental authorities for mining claims during the 2024–25 financial year. **Figure 1** also outlines the number of small-scale mining claim tenure approvals that do not require an environmental authority, but must adhere to conditions outlined in the EP Regulation.

Over 196 amendments relating to resource activities were processed in 2024–25 including administrative dealings and amendments by application. **Figure 2** gives the number of amendment applications for resource environmental authorities processed in 2024–25, broken up according to the assessment level decision made under section 228 of the EP Act (i.e. a major or minor amendment).

Figure 1: Environmental authorities for resource activities for 2024–25

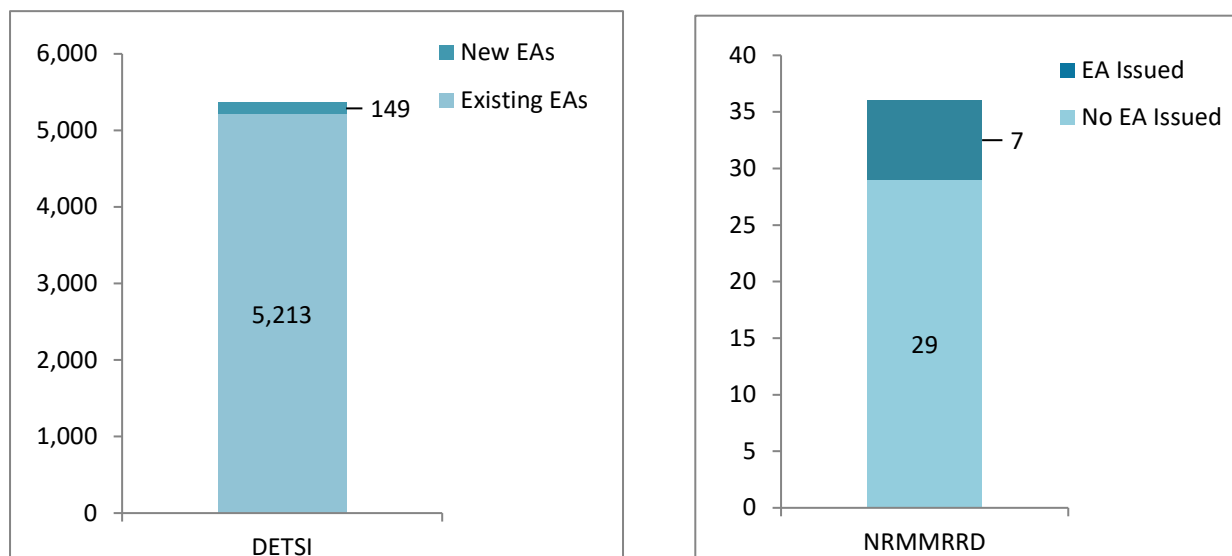
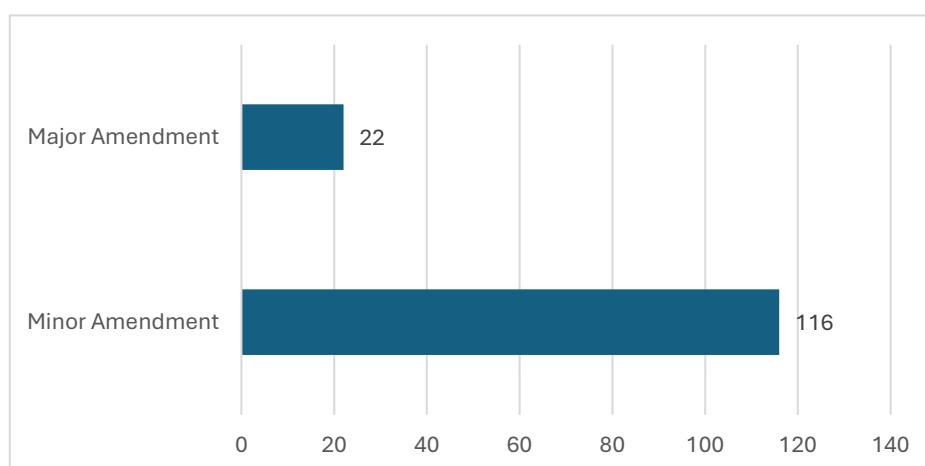


Figure 2: Resource environmental authority amendments by application in 2024–25



1.3 Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plans

Following the introduction of the Queensland Mined Land Rehabilitation Policy, all site-specific mines are required to prepare a Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP) under the EP Act.

From 1 November 2019, all mining projects that make a site-specific environmental authority application relating to a mining lease must also provide a PRCP. If approved by the administering authority, a stand-alone Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan schedule (PRCP schedule) will be given to the applicant together with the environmental authority. The PRCP schedule will contain milestones with completion dates for achieving progressive rehabilitation of the mine site, ensuring post-mine land uses are safe, non-polluting and meet the requirements of the desired land use.

The holders of relevant environmental authorities issued before 1 November 2019 were provided with a three-year period to submit a PRCP and transition into the framework. Due to challenges around existing operational and legacy sites, the transition process and assessment of transitional PRCPs has proven to be highly technical and complex. As a result, DETSI is working with operators to streamline the process for transitional PRCPs and ensure industry can enter the framework in a timely manner. The 2024–25 financial year saw a 37 per cent increase in the number of approved PRCP schedules compared with the previous financial year, with this upward trend expected to continue into 2025–26 as a result of this work.

Since commencement of the PRCP provisions to 30 June 2025, more than 200 transition notices have been issued and 64 PRCP schedules approved, with 19 approved during the 2024–25 financial year, and 113 PRCPs under assessment as of 30 June 2025.

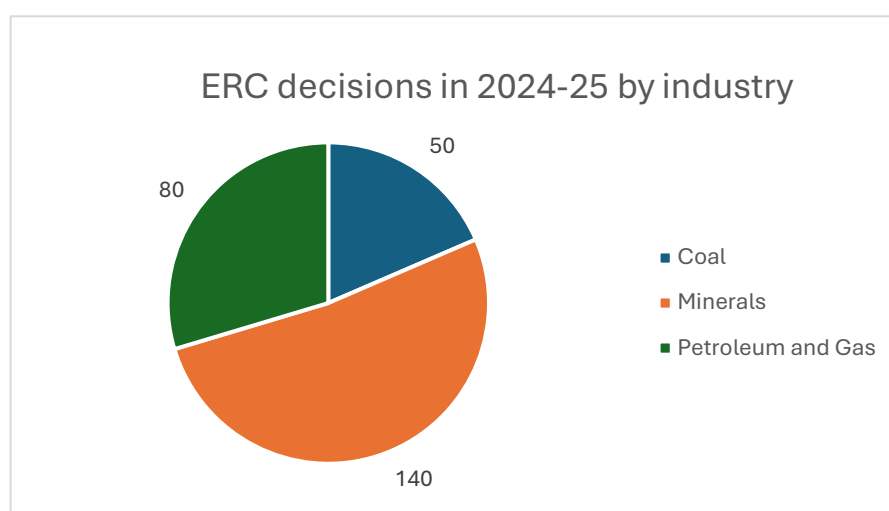
1.4 Estimated rehabilitation cost

Estimated rehabilitation cost (ERC) is the estimated cost of:

- rehabilitating the land on which a resource activity is carried out; and
- preventing or minimising environmental harm, or rehabilitating or restoring the environment, in relation to the resource activity.

In 2024–25 there were 270 ERC decisions made. 50 were for coal, 140 were for minerals and 80 were for petroleum and gas, as depicted in **Figure 3** below.

Figure 3: ERC decisions in 2024–25 broken up by industry



1.5 Prescribed environmentally relevant activities

Prescribed ERAs are activities other than resource ERAs that have the potential to cause harm to the environment. They are listed in Schedule 2 of the EP Regulation. To operate an ERA, an environmental authority issued under the EP Act is required.

Figure 4 gives the total numbers of new and existing environmental authorities for prescribed ERAs during the financial year for both DETSI and DPI. New environmental authorities are those that were issued after 30 June 2024 and are still current at 30 June 2025. Existing environmental authorities were those current as at 30 June 2024 and that are still current at 30 June 2025.

Over 195 amendments relating to prescribed ERAs were processed in 2024–25 including administrative dealings and amendments by application. **Figure 5** gives the number of amendment applications for environmental authorities for prescribed ERAs processed in 2024–25, broken up according to the assessment level decision made under section 228 of the EP Act (i.e. a major or minor amendment).

Figure 4: Environmental authorities for prescribed ERAs for 2024–25

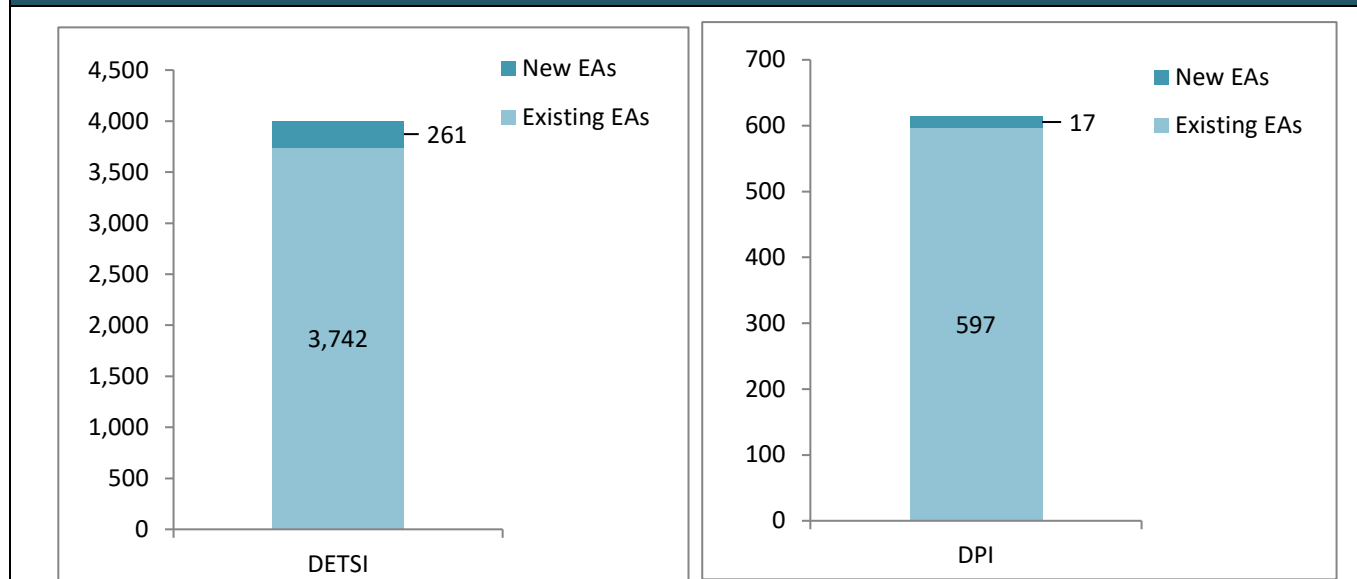
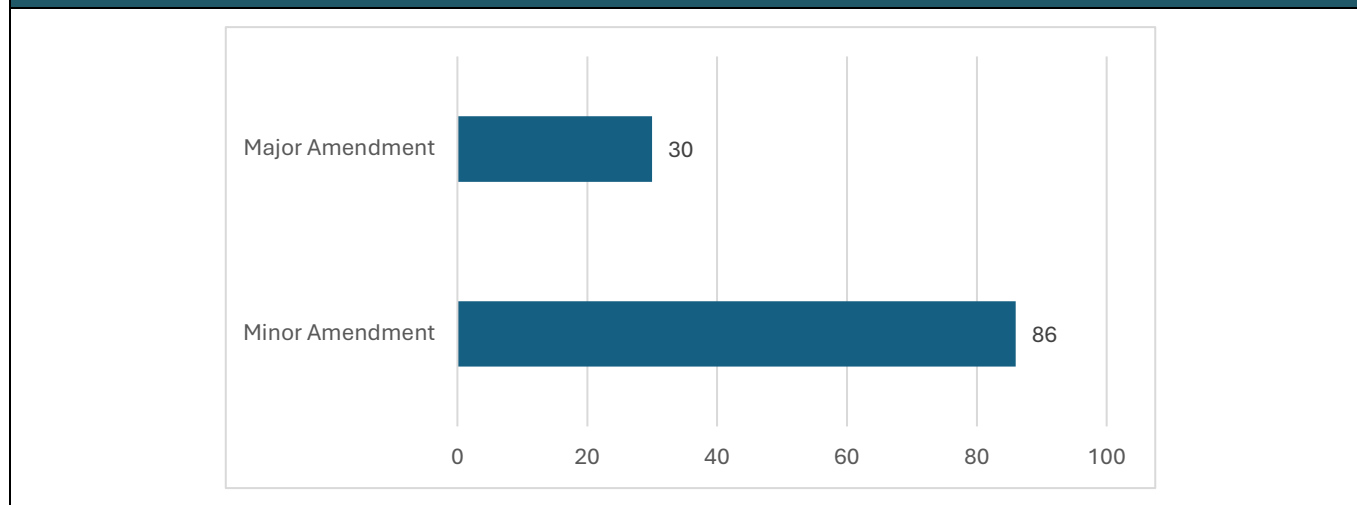


Figure 5: Prescribed ERA environmental authority amendments by application in 2024–25



1.6 Environmental Impact Statements

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process is set out in Chapter 3 of the EP Act. Assessment through the EIS process may be required by the administering authority or undertaken voluntarily by the applicant.

The purpose of an EIS process is to identify and assess the potential adverse and beneficial environmental, economic and social impacts of the project, and the effectiveness of the management, monitoring, planning and other measures proposed to avoid and minimise any adverse impacts of the project.

One EIS assessment under the EP Act was completed in 2024–25 – the Aurukun Bauxite project, which was determined to be suitable to proceed. Three projects were declared coordinated projects by the Office of the Coordinator General in 2024–25, to be assessed under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (see **Table 1**). There were four EIS assessments under the EP Act in progress during 2024–25 (see **Table 2**), three of which were still in progress as at 30 June 2025.

Table 1: EIS applications declared a coordinated project by the Office of the Coordinator-General in 2024–25 to be assessed by DETSI under the *State Development Public Works Organisation Act 1971*

Project name	Type of project	Status as at 30 June 2025
Julia Creek Vanadium and Energy project	Vanadium and oil shale mine	Draft EIS being prepared by Proponent
Port of Brisbane Channel Enhancement project	Dredging	Draft terms of reference for EIS and comments being assessed
Vecco Critical Minerals project	Vanadium mine	Draft EIS being prepared by Proponent

Table 2: EIS assessments under the EP Act in progress in 2024–25

Project name	Type of project	Status as at 30 June 2025
Aurukun Bauxite project	Bauxite mine	EIS process completed
Baralaba South project	Coal mine	Proponent responds to submissions received on the EIS
Kestrel West Mine Extension project	Coal mine	Proponent is preparing the EIS
Saraji East Mining Lease project	Coal mine	Proponent responds to submissions received on the EIS

1.7 Suitable operator registration

It is a requirement of the EP Act that a person applying for an environmental authority for an ERA be registered as a suitable operator. An environmental authority cannot be approved unless all of the proposed authority holders are registered suitable operators.

DETSI is responsible for approving suitable operators and adding their details to the online register of suitable operators, available here: <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/public-register/search/rso.php>.

Table 3 provides the total number of suitable operators registered as at 30 June 2025. It also provides the number received during 2024–25 and the various outcomes as at 30 June 2025.

Table 3: Suitable operator registration 2024–25

Action	2024–25
Current as at 30 June 2025	14,325
Received	640
Approved	635
Withdrawn	5
Refused	0
Cancelled	1

1.8 Temporary Emissions Licence

The holder of an environmental authority may apply for a Temporary Emissions Licence (TEL). A TEL is a permit that allows the temporary relaxation or modification of conditions or requirements relating to the release of a contaminant into the environment in response to an event, either natural or caused by sabotage, that was not foreseen (or did not have conditions applied because there was a low probability of it occurring) when particular conditions were imposed on an environmental authority or transitional environmental program (an applicable event).

No TELs were issued by DPI in 2024–25. Twenty-four TELs were issued by DETSI in 2024–25.

2 Environmental Incident Response

Pollution incidents and activities that cause or threaten to cause serious environmental harm or material environmental harm must be reported quickly to DETSI as required under sections 320 to 320G of the EP Act.

DETSI operates a 24-hour response capability through the Incident Response Unit and the State Incident Response Network (SIRN), including DETSI's pollution hotline. DETSI maintains supporting arrangements with other response and recovery agencies, as well as relevant environmental jurisdictions.

2.1 Pollution Hotline Calls received after-hours

For the 2024–25 financial year, 519 calls were received by the Pollution Hotline afterhours service provider. Of those, 11 per cent were escalated to the SIRN on-call officers for immediate advice and possible attendance by DETSI officers. Two per cent of the calls received required urgent immediate on-site attendance. 82 per cent of calls received were non-urgent and were logged for a next business day response. Five per cent of calls were determined to be administrative (i.e. not deemed an incident or risk of pollution and no further action required).

2.2 Community reports

The administration and enforcement of the following matters have been devolved to local governments under the EP Regulation:

- environmental nuisance
- noise standards
- prescribed water contamination, and
- certain ERAs administered by local government.

DPI responds to reports about the ERAs it administers including dairy farming, livestock holding facilities and intensive animal feedlotting.

DETSI responds to reports about the remaining ERAs that are not devolved to local government, and reports of serious and material environmental harm that are not associated with an ERA.

Responses to community reports can include issuing enforcement actions requiring measures to be taken, issuing a penalty infringement notice (PIN), or prosecution. **Section 3** of this Report has details of enforcement undertaken by the State in 2024–25.

Since July 2018, DETSI has been responding to a number of community concerns about the waste industry and odour issues prevalent in and around the Swanbank community. Community members were encouraged to provide reports on odour and other nuisance issues. During 2024–25, DETSI received over 1,700 individual community reports in relation to waste operations undertaken in Swanbank.

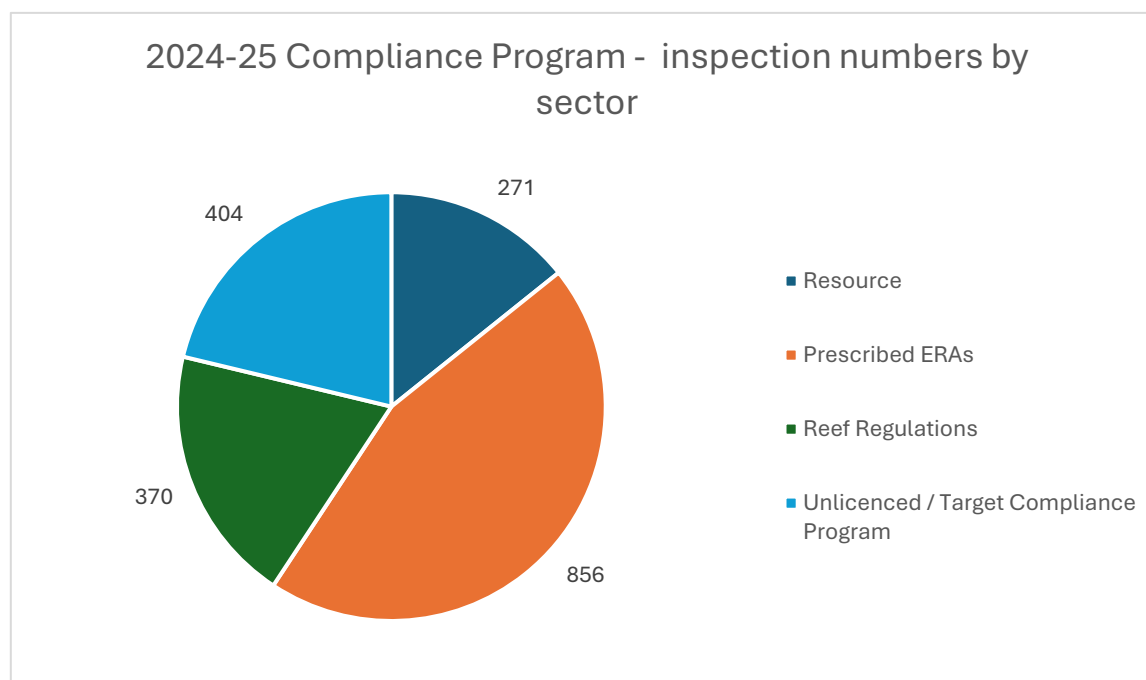
In 2024–25, DETSI also received more than 4,277 industry notifications, over 400 reports of environmental incidents, and over 200 reports of alleged compliance issues. In addition to the reports received by DETSI, DPI received 75 community reports relating to the administration of the EP Act in 2024–25.

3 Compliance and Enforcement Summary

3.1 Compliance Inspections

During the 2024–25 financial year, DETSI undertook more than 1,900 compliance inspections for matters relating to the administration of the EP Act, as summarised in **Figure 6** below.

Figure 6: Compliance program inspection numbers by sector



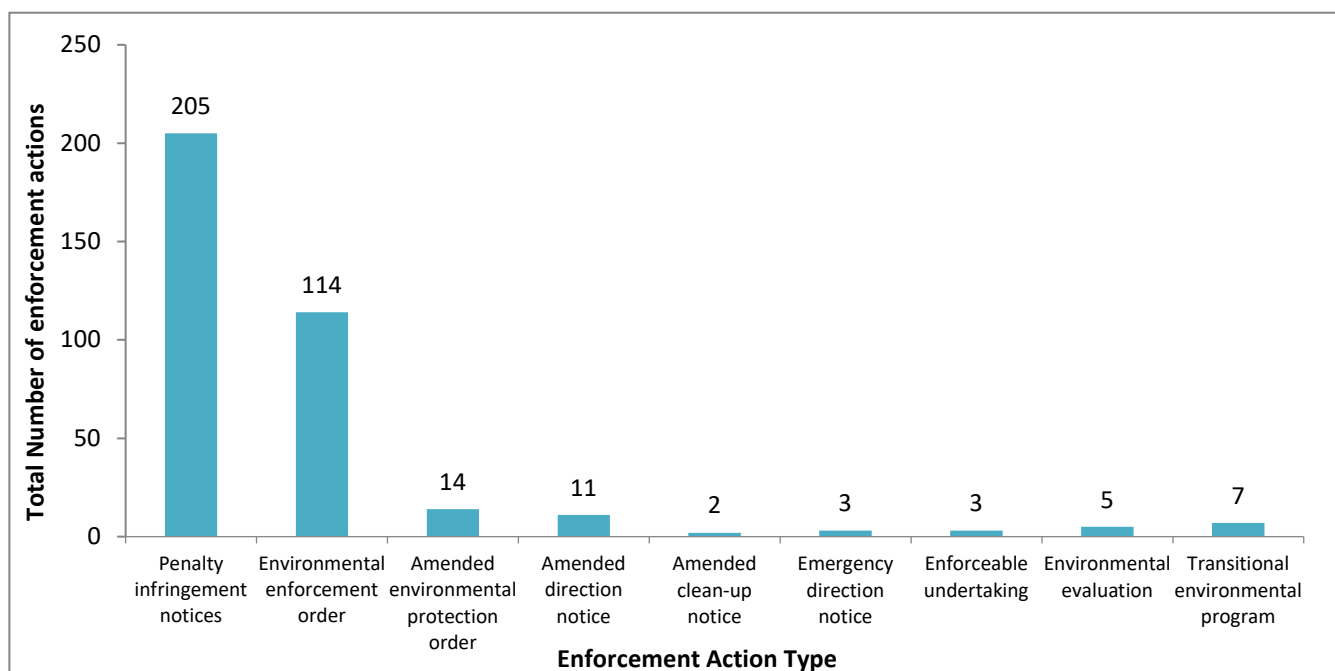
3.2 Enforcement Action

DETSI and DPI can undertake a range of enforcement actions to reduce the risk of environmental harm or to remedy harm done to the environment.

Local government can use the same statutory notices (other than cost recovery notices) as well as prosecutions, restraint orders and warrants. Figures for local government are not provided in this Report.

Legislative changes made to the EP Act in 2023–24 through the *Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* resulted in clean-up notices, direction notices and environmental protection orders being consolidated into a new environmental enforcement order. Any existing and active clean-up notices, direction notices and environmental protection orders issued prior to these changes must still be complied with, and may be re-issued as 'amended notices' if there is a change to the requirements or deadlines. They may also be re-issued under the new environmental enforcement order provisions but only if there is a change to the conduct grounding the original notice.

See **Appendix 1** for a list of available enforcement actions under the EP Act in 2024–25. DPI did not issue any enforcement notices in 2024–25. The enforcement actions undertaken by DETSI during 2024–25 are provided in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7: Enforcement actions undertaken by DETSI for 2024–25**Table 4: Breakdown of the number of infringement notices issued by relevant State administering authority based on the offence type for 2024–25**

No. PINs	Description
DETSI issued penalty infringement notices under the EP Act	
12	Failure to apply for new ERC decision – corporation
1	Failure to reapply for ERC decision as directed – corporation
1	Failure to reapply for ERC decision – corporation
11	Failure to submit annual return – corporation
6	Failure to submit annual return – individual
2	Contravention of an EPO – corporation
1	Recipient of environmental enforcement order contravenes a requirement of the order that was not issued on a prescribed ground or under section 362(2)(a) – Individual
19	Carry out ERA without an authority for that ERA – corporation
9	Carry out ERA without an authority for that ERA – individual
100	Contravention of condition of environmental authority – corporation

No. PINs	Description
7	Contravention of condition of environmental authority – individual
3	Holder contravenes an environmental authority even if another person acting under authority commits an offence – corporation
3	Holder contravenes an environmental authority even if another person acting under authority commits an offence – individual
3	Contravention of a condition of a PRCP schedule – corporation
1	Unlawfully cause material environmental harm – corporation
2	Unlawfully cause an environmental nuisance – corporation
11	Unlawfully and other than wilfully deposit a prescribed water contaminant in waters etc. other than earth from a small building site – corporation
1	Unlawfully and other than wilfully deposit a prescribed water contaminant in waters etc. other than earth from a small building site – individual
DETSI issued penalty infringement notices under the EP Regulation	
2	Failure to give information to administering authority (Generator) – corporation
1	Failure to carry information (Transporter) – corporation
1	Failure to give information to waste receiver (Transporter) – corporation
1	Failure to give information to waste receiver (Transporter) – individual
1	Failure of waste transporter to keep information (Transporter) – corporation
4	Failure to give information to administering authority (Receiver) – corporation
1	Failure of waste transporter carry information – corporation
1	Trackable waste given to unlicensed transporter – corporation
DPI issued penalty infringement notices	
0	Penalty infringement notices

3.3 Prosecutions

Prosecutions may be progressed in the courts where an environmental offence is believed to have been committed and DETSI considers that such action is warranted and is consistent with its enforcement guidelines.

DETSI's Litigation unit finalised 11 prosecutions with a conviction by a court in 2024–25, involving offences under the EP Act and subordinate legislation. These prosecutions resulted in fines and other orders totalling \$1,609,544 and \$151,257 in legal, investigation and court costs. A breakdown of information on the prosecutions is provided below.

Table 5: Prosecutions by relevant state administering authority for 2024–25

Matter Reference	Court date	Brief Description	Penalty	Costs
LIT2110	2-Oct-24	One offence of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to section 426(1) of the EP Act. Four offences of being an executive officer and failing to ensure the corporation complied with the EP Act contrary to section 493(2) of the EP Act.	\$45,000 fine No convictions recorded	\$1,500 legal costs \$1,392 investigation costs \$101.35 court costs
LIT2052	11-Oct-24	Two offences of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to 426(1) of the EP Act. Five offences of wilfully contravening an environmental protection order contrary to section 361(1) of the EP Act. One offence of wilfully and unlawfully depositing a prescribed water contaminant contrary to section 440ZG(a)(iii) of the EP Act. One offence of wilfully and unlawfully causing material environmental harm contrary to section 438 of the EP Act.	\$400,000 fine \$74,544 monetary benefit order Convictions recorded	\$1,750 legal costs \$10,895 investigation costs
LIT2081	11-Oct-24	Two offences of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to section 426(1) of the EP Act. Five offences of wilfully contravening an environmental protection order contrary to section 361(1) of the EP Act. One offence of wilfully and unlawfully depositing a prescribed water contaminant contrary to section 440ZG(a)(iii) of the EP Act. One offence of wilfully and unlawfully causing material environmental harm contrary to section 438 of the EP Act.	\$100,000 fine 9 months imprisonment (wholly suspended for 3 years) Rehabilitation order Convictions recorded	\$1,750 legal costs \$10,895 investigation costs

Matter Reference	Court date	Brief Description	Penalty	Costs
LIT2074	26-Nov-24	Six offences of contravening a condition of an environmental authority contrary to section 430(3) of the EP Act.	\$288,000 fine \$212,000 public benefit order No convictions recorded	\$100,000 investigation costs \$4,375 legal costs \$202.80 court costs
LIT2078	26-Nov-24	One offence of contravening a condition of an environmental authority contrary to section 430(3) of the EP Act.	See above LIT2074, global fine	
LIT2097	18-Dec-24	Five offences of contravening an environmental protection order contrary to section 361(2) of the EP Act.	\$85,000 fine No convictions recorded	\$3,623.39 investigation costs \$1,500 legal costs \$101.40 court costs
LIT2124	18-Dec-24	One offence of wilfully contravening a condition of an environmental authority contrary to section 430(2) of the EP Act. One offence of contravening a condition of an environmental authority contrary to section 430(3) of the EP Act.	See above LIT2097, global fine	
LIT2071	20-Feb-25	One offence of contravening a condition of an environmental authority contrary to section 430(3) of the EP Act.	\$75,000 fine No conviction recorded	\$2,250 legal costs \$4,651 investigation costs \$107 court costs
LIT2084	28-Mar-25	Two offences of contravening a requirement of a transitional environmental program contrary to section 432(2) of the EP Act.	\$150,000 fine No convictions recorded	\$3,000 legal costs \$101.40 court costs

Matter Reference	Court date	Brief Description	Penalty	Costs
LIT2175	14-Apr-25	Two offences of being an executive officer and failing to ensure the corporation complied with the EP Act contrary to section 493(2) of the EP Act. Two offences of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to section 426(1) of the EP Act. Two offences of providing false and misleading information to the Department contrary to section 481(1)(a) of the EP Act.	\$30,000 fine 6 months imprisonment (wholly suspended for 3 years) Convictions recorded	\$1,530.90 costs
LIT2185	14-Apr-25	Two offences of carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority contrary to section 426(1) of the EP Act. One offence of wilfully contravening an environmental protection order contrary to section 361(1) of the EP Act.	\$150,000 fine Convictions recorded	\$1,530.90 costs
		TOTAL	\$1,609,544	\$151,257

3.4 Planning and environment court orders

Where environmental harm has been or is likely to be caused, the court may make a restraint order under the EP Act. Restraint orders may also be issued for a threatened or anticipated offence. One restraint order was made under the EP Act in 2024–25.

3.5 Warrants

Entry of premises is a sensitive issue that requires a balance between people's rights to privacy and the needs of an investigation. Authorised persons have powers of entry in a range of circumstances. When entry of premises is necessary, but not possible through the authorised person's powers, an authorised person may obtain a warrant from a magistrate to gain entry. A warrant allows an authorised person, with necessary and reasonable help and force, to enter a place and exercise those powers as provided for in the warrant.

Nineteen warrants were executed under the EP Act by relevant State administering authorities in 2024–25.

3.6 Reviews and Appeals

There are several review and appeal provisions provided for under the EP Act as part of fair, transparent and accountable environmental regulation. These include internal review processes by decision-makers separate to the original decision, as well as court-based appeal processes. In 2024–25 there were 19 internal review decisions made under section 521 of the EP Act, with 18 decisions confirmed or varied, and one decision revoked.

4 Contaminated Land

DETSI manages two registers for contaminated land; the Environmental Management Register (EMR) and the Contaminated Land Register (CLR):

- The EMR is a land-use planning and management register which provides information on historic and current land use. It records land parcels where a notifiable activity is (or has been) conducted or land parcels which are contaminated by a hazardous contaminant. The site may be managed under a site management plan.
- The CLR is a register of land parcels with proven contamination of the land that is causing, or may cause, serious environmental harm. Land is recorded on the CLR when scientific investigation shows it is contaminated and action needs to be taken to remediate the land to prevent serious environmental harm.

New listings occur as a consequence of the establishment of a notifiable activity or that hazardous contamination exists on the land following the statutory processes outlined within the EP Act. In order to remove or amend the details of a land parcel listed on the EMR or CLR, a contaminated land investigation document must be prepared by a suitably qualified person and then certified by an approved contaminated land auditor. The site investigation report details the extent of any contamination, includes a suitability statement advising the appropriate land uses for the property, and determines whether:

- the contamination is best managed under the conditions of a site management plan to achieve the proposed land use;
- the contamination was either insignificant or remediated successfully and the land can be removed from the EMR or CLR; or
- the contamination will not affect the current or proposed land use and the land is fit for the stated use.

Searches to find out if a particular land parcel is listed on the EMR or the CLR can be conducted online at <https://products.des.qld.gov.au/shopping/home>.

Table 6 provides a count of land parcels listed on the EMR and CLR and describes the type and number of contaminated land management activities for 2024–25.

Table 6: Contaminated land sites and management activities undertaken for 2024–25

Contaminated land parcels	As at 30 June 2025
Number of land parcels on the CLR	17
Number of land parcels on the EMR	239,330*
Contaminated land management activities	2024–25
Land parcels removed from the CLR	0
Land parcels removed from the EMR	27
Land parcels listed on the CLR	1
Land parcels listed on the EMR	67
Site management plans approved	7
Soil disposal permits issued	193
Searches of the EMR or CLR	77,209

* This is the total number of original parcels combined with the total number of new parcels resulting from administrative dealings such as subdivisions and amalgamations. To ensure the contamination status remains over the reconfigured parcels, the new parcels also assume the listing of the original parcel.

Appendix 1 – Enforcement Actions

The following enforcement actions were available to DETSI under the EP Act in 2024–25. Legislative changes made to the EP Act in 2023–24 through the *Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* resulted in clean-up notices, direction notices and environmental protection orders being replaced and consolidated into a new ‘environmental enforcement order’.

An **environmental enforcement order** can be issued to remedy or address a matter that requires intervention by the administering authority, or prevent harm before it occurs where an activity is likely to cause environmental harm. An environmental enforcement order may impose one or more requirements upon a person in particular circumstances and is used when the administering authority understands the nature and extent of the requirements needed to cease the commission of an offence and/or respond to any contamination or environmental harm that may have been caused.

An **emergency direction** can be issued:

- where an emergency is considered to exist; and
- either human health or safety is threatened, or serious or material environmental harm has been or is likely to be caused; and
- urgent action is required to remedy the situation.

Enforceable undertakings are a voluntary binding agreement between the relevant state administering authority and the person or company that is alleged to have contravened the EP Act. It is a tool capable of being entered into as an alternative to prosecution and specifies the obligations and terms to be undertaken to secure compliance with the EP Act and enhance the protection of the environment.

An **environmental evaluation** of an activity or event is undertaken to determine the source, cause or extent of environmental harm being caused; or the extent of environmental harm likely to be caused by the activity or event; or the need for further enforcement action in relation to the activity or event.

A **transitional environmental program** is a specific program that, when complied with, achieves compliance with the EP Act for the activity to which it relates.

Penalty infringement notices can be issued for minor breaches of the EP Act or of a condition of an approval and require the recipient to pay a fine.

Prosecutions can be undertaken for more serious offences.

Appendix 2 – Definitions and Acronyms

CLR	Contaminated Land Register
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
DETSI	Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
Environmental harm	Any adverse effect, or potential adverse effect (whether temporary or permanent and of whatever magnitude, duration or frequency) on an environmental value, and includes environmental nuisance
EMR	Environmental Management Register
Environmental nuisance	Unreasonable interference (or likely interference) with an environmental value caused by emissions of aerosols, fumes, light, noise, odour, particles (including dust) or smoke; or Unhealthy, offensive or unsightly conditions caused by contamination.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
EP Regulation	The Environmental Protection Regulation 2019
ERA	Environmentally Relevant Activity
ERC	Estimated Rehabilitation Cost
ESR	Environmental Services and Regulation Division within the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
FTE	Full time equivalent
Material environmental harm	Environmental harm (other than environmental nuisance)— (a) that is not trivial or negligible in nature, extent or context; or (b) that causes actual or potential loss or damage to property of an amount of, or amounts totalling, more than the threshold amount but less than the maximum amount; or (c) that results in costs of more than the threshold amount but less than the maximum amount being incurred in taking appropriate action to— (i) prevent or minimise the harm; and (ii) rehabilitate or restore the environment to its condition before the harm.
NRMMRRD	Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development
PIN	Penalty Infringement Notice
PRCP	Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan
PRCP schedule	Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan schedule
Serious environmental harm	Environmental harm (other than environmental nuisance)— (a) that is irreversible, of a high impact or widespread; or (b) caused to— (i) an area of high conservation value; or (ii) an area of special significance, such as the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area; or (c) that causes actual or potential loss or damage to property of an amount of, or amounts totalling, more than the threshold amount; or (d) that results in costs of more than the threshold amount being incurred in taking appropriate action to— (i) prevent or minimise the harm; and (ii) rehabilitate or restore the environment to its condition before the harm.
SIRN	State Incident Response Network
TEL	Temporary Emissions Licence