

## Queensland Murray–Darling Basin – Compliance and enforcement actions report 2019 - 20

The Queensland Government is a party to the Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Compact – an agreement between the Australian Government and basin states about how we manage, measure and report on our rural water resources.

Each year the Queensland Government reports on the compliance and enforcement actions it has undertaken, thus meeting compact commitment 1.2c.

Table 1 details the actions that the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy took between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 to respond to instances of non-compliance in the Queensland Murray Darling Basin catchment areas. The data includes metering, overuse, interference, contravention of authorisation conditions, water bore and drilling-related offences.

The department uses a range of tools to achieve the required outcome for a non-compliance. In some cases, a combination of tools is used, for example issuing a penalty infringement notice and a show cause notice.

Table 2 shows the reasons why the department did not proceed with a compliance action where instances of non-compliance were identified.

Table 1. Compliance actions undertaken in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin in 2019-20		Table 2: Discoveries or third-party notifications that led to no action and their reasons in 2019 - 20	
High priority property audits	265	Applicable exemption exists	9
Self-read audits against entitlements	2098	No offence found after further investigation	51
Verbal Education	22	Insufficient evidence	26
Advisory letters	36	Limitation period expired	2
Warning notices	130	Authorisation produced/sighted	18
Penalty infringement notices	9		
Compliance notices	3		
Enforcement notice	1		
Remedy request	5		
<b>Total actions undertaken</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

Note: Compliance actions constitute only a small proportion of activities that the department undertakes across Queensland to manage these resources.