



Australian Government

AHCNRM512 Investigate suspected breaches of natural resource management legislation

Release: 1

AHCNRM512 Investigate suspected breaches of natural resource management legislation

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 6.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct site inspections and collect evidence for investigations into suspected breaches of natural resource management (NRM) legislation.

The unit applies to individuals who act in an official capacity to investigate suspected breaches of NRM legislation. They also analyse information and exercise judgement to complete their duties with a deep knowledge in land use. They have accountability for the work of others and analyse, design and communicate solutions to a range of complex problems.

Natural resource management legislation applies in all states and territories and must be adhered to. Users are advised to check with the relevant regulatory authority

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Respond to advice of change in land use	1.1 Receive and record details relating to suspected change in land use 1.2 Conduct pre-site inspection investigations in accordance with workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.3 Report suspected breach of NRM legislation to agency authority 1.4 Seek approval to proceed with investigation according to workplace authorisation procedures
2. Carry out site investigation	2.1 Follow workplace health and safety policies and procedures when carrying out site inspections and investigations 2.2 Provide notification to stakeholders of the consequences of suspected change in land use 2.3 Seek permission for site access from land owner to conduct investigation according to legislative and regulatory requirements 2.4 Seek assistance from civil authorities where permission is refused according to workplace procedures 2.5 Conduct interviews of witnesses and landholders 2.6 Conduct site observations and collect evidence related to the suspected breach in land use 2.7 Maintain records of interview and observations according to rules of evidence
3. Collate and assess site evidence	3.1 Check accuracy of collected site evidence against official land use documents and records 3.2 Identify supplementary information to assist in making a fair determination 3.3 Identify evidence indicating a possible breach in land use 3.4 Evaluate volume and sufficiency of evidence and supplementary information for a determination
4. Compile report on outcomes of investigation	4.1 Validate accuracy of evidence and supplementary information 4.2 Consider the evidence against the possible breach in NRM legislation and make a preliminary determination 4.3 Prepare report with recommendations based on preliminary determination according to legislative protocols and workplace procedures 4.4 Present report and supporting documentation to agency authority according to workplace procedures

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Organise, evaluate and critique ideas and information from land management documents, texts and data to help build and maintain a balanced understanding of NRM legislation, in order to provide informed recommendations on breaches
Writing	Generate written texts, demonstrating control over a range of writing styles and purposes associated with legal documentation
Oral Communication	Establish and maintain effective communication with stakeholders, to elicit and deliver information on breaches in NRM legislation, including in possible confrontational environments

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCNRM512 Investigate suspected breaches of natural resource management legislation	AHCNRM508 Investigate suspected breaches of natural resource management legislation	Minor changes to Application Changes to Elements and reordered, changed and added to Performance Criteria for clarity and sequencing Updated Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions	Not equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCNRM512 Investigate suspected breaches of natural resource management legislation

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has conducted at least one site inspection, gathered evidence and interviews, assessed the evidence, and documented recommendations for an investigation into suspected breaches of natural resource management legislation.

There must also be evidence that the individual has:

- conducted all steps of investigation in accordance with legal and workplace protocols and procedures
- conducted a preliminary investigation into a reported or suspected breach of land use legislation
- sought approval to proceed with a full investigation
- sought approval for site visit with landholder and, where rejected, sought support from civil authority
- carried out a site inspection
- interviewed witnesses and land owners
- maintained records of interviews, proceedings and site inspection according to legal requirements and workplace protocols, which must include:
 - time and date of inspection
 - persons in attendance
 - details of current site activities
 - names of persons interviewed
 - details of each interview
 - images, photographs, drawings and measurements captured during the site visit
- validated accuracy of evidence and information collected and ensured it is sufficient to make an informed determination
- assessed evidence against suspected breach in legislation and made recommendations
- compiled outcomes into a report with supporting documentation and submitted to agency authority.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- Commonwealth and state/territory legislation and regulations for natural resource management and basic civil law
- types of breaches of natural resource management legislation
- workplace policies, procedures and codes of practice for conducting investigations and reporting outcomes
- techniques for consulting with stakeholders according to legal and agency policies and procedures
- approaches for accessing land owner properties, including:
 - rights and responsibilities of land holder
 - rights and responsibilities of agency staff
 - civil authorities and their potential role and assistance
- assessment approaches for area of notification
- basic law pertaining to civil cases, including:
 - balance of probabilities
 - rules of evidence
- types and importance of evidence, including:
 - interviews or testimonial evidence can be factual, false or anecdotal
 - visual images, videos, photographs and drawings
 - quantifiable and measurable, dimensions, weights and volumes
 - use of official data and records for testing gathered evidence
 - preserving the validity and security of evidence
- record-keeping processes for maintaining evidence and supporting documentation
- official and supporting documentation used in assessing breaches in NRM legislation, including:
 - maps and charts
 - surveyor plans, for regional, local and site locations
 - vegetation and land use planning and zoning documents
 - environmental protection legislation and regulations
 - site planning overlays, caveats and other specific restrictions
- formats for compiling reports and submitting evidence and recommendations.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated for a site where there is a suspected breach in NRM legislation or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions

- specifications:
 - workplace policies, procedures, processes for handling and reporting investigations
 - reports of suspected breach in NRM legislation
 - relevant legislation and codes of practice
- relationships:
 - potential litigant
 - agency authority.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

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