

Truck crackdown results in fines

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A ROADS and Traffic Authority crackdown on overloaded trucks transporting coal from Chain Valley Bay to Port Waratah resulted in two companies and an individual being fined a total of \$16,500 yesterday.

The mine's owner, LakeCoal, is accused of 75 breaches for allowing trucks to overload during a three-day period in November 2007.

The alleged breaches

include trucks carrying up to 15 tonnes more coal than legally permitted.

Weight restrictions were placed on trucks for safety reasons and to reduce wear and tear on roads, magistrate Sharon Holdsworth said.

Maddox Haulage Investments, a small Newcastle-based trucking company, was fined a total of \$9000 in Newcastle Local Court yesterday for two breaches.

One of their trucks was overloaded by 2.55 tonnes

during one journey and 3.55 tonnes during another.

Narelle Jayne Robertson of Black Hill, a director of Silkdune, was fined a total of \$4000 for two breaches.

Ms Holdsworth read a letter to the court stating that Silkdune had since gone into liquidation.

Hanlon Transport of Hamilton was fined \$3500 for overloading one of its trucks by 3.15 tonnes.

LakeCoal's case was adjourned to March.