



Approvals Performance Report – Second Quarter 2009

Attached is the second of the Department of Mines and Petroleum quarterly reports on its approvals performance.

The latest data shows that improvements have been achieved in the level of compliance with our timeline targets across all assessed areas (Figure 1). The data also demonstrates that, despite the current economic environment, significantly higher numbers of applications have been received in this quarter for the mining sector compared to the first quarter of 2009. The total number of petroleum applications over the same period, however, has decreased.

The increase in activity in the mining sector was most evident with respect to the 57 per cent increase in the number of applications for environmental approvals received compared to the first quarter.

The number of pending mining tenure applications continues to be reduced. At the end of this quarter, the number carried over stood at 8907, less than half the peak of 18,727 that occurred two years ago.

There has been a slight increase, however, in the number of petroleum tenure applications carried forward despite 20 per cent fewer applications being received. Action is being taken to address this issue.

A sustained effort to improve the Department's IT systems began to produce tangible benefits to the industry in recent months. Tracking capabilities were introduced in June 2009 for environmental assessments and petroleum titles that built on the online payment facility for petroleum tenure applications introduced in December 2008. Project proponents will now be able to track the progress of environmental applications lodged since June 2009 and petroleum tenure applications lodged since May 2009 on the department's website.

Tracking capabilities have also been introduced internally for mineral tenure applications. It is expected that this will be made available to industry by the end of 2009.

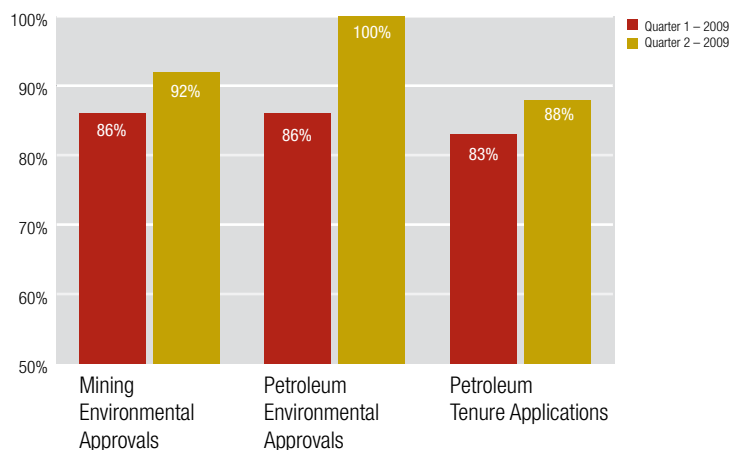


Figure 1. Percentage approved within timeline target

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	Timeline target	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received	No. approved	No. otherwise dealt with ¹	No. approved within timeline target	% approved within timeline target	No. carried over to next quarter
Mining Environmental Approvals ^{2,3}								
Programme of Work (exploration)	30 business days	171	484	367	54	348	95%	229
Mining Proposal	30 business days	128	78	50	39	34	68%	112
Petroleum Environmental Approvals ^{2,3}								
Environmental Plan	30 business days	8	17	12	10	12	100%	4
Environmental Management Plan	30 business days	17	26	14	17	14	100%	7
Oil Spill Contingency Plan	30 business days	4	4	1	6	1	100%	2
Mining Tenure Applications								
Prospecting Licence	65 business days	2533	311	337	170	This data will be reported from the third quarter 2009	This data will be reported from the third quarter 2009	2337
Exploration Licence	65 business days	3877	706	258	414			3911
Mining Lease	65 business days	2389	27	50	261			2105
Miscellaneous Licence	65 business days	428	25	38	5			410
General Purpose Lease	65 business days	132	9	7	1			133
Retention Licence	65 business days	11	1	0	0			11
Petroleum and Geothermal Tenure Applications								
Exploration Permit ⁴	120 business days	61	31	11	2	10	91%	79
Production Licence Retention Lease ⁴	90 business days	37	7	0	2	0	–	42
Pipeline Licence ⁴	90 business days	22	1	7	0	5	71%	16
Well	40 business days	28	14	18	2	16	89%	22
Survey	40 business days	28	2	6	0	6	100%	24

1 Applications “otherwise dealt with” include those that have been refused, lapsed, rejected or withdrawn.

2 The Department of Environment and Conservation website began reporting on all Native Vegetation Clearing Permit statistics for the WA Government in May 2009. This will be available at www.dec.wa.gov.au

3 Some discrepancies between the number of applications carried over to the next quarter may occur due to ongoing auditing of pending applications.

4 Includes time for Native Title and Commonwealth approval processes and requests for additional information from applicants.