



Approvals Performance Report

The Department's third quarter approvals performance continued to be at high levels across key approval areas for the third quarter 2010.

Highlights include:

- the overall DMP approval performance for key mineral and petroleum approvals was at a high level;
- the number of outstanding mining tenure applications continued to decrease from the previous quarter; and
- a record 627 mineral exploration "Programme of Work" applications was received by the Department in the third quarter.

With the exception of the 3 petroleum production licences received in the third quarter, the petroleum and geothermal approval performance was at a very high level.

Online applications reduce approval times by a week

DMP introduced online lodgement capability services to a pilot group of mining and petroleum industry companies in December 2009 and announced live online lodgement services on the 25 August 2010.

An analysis of online mineral exploration "Programme of Work" (PoW) environmental applications was conducted.

Figure 1 provides an analysis of the number of online applications received during 2010.

The number of PoW online applications increased from 12 applications in the 1Q 2010 to 99 applications received in the 3Q 2010. Following the official launch of online services in August 2010, 159 online applications were received compared to 1594 paper applications (See Table 1).

The average assessment time for online and paper applications was analysed for the period January to September 2010. The DMP target timeline for assessment of a PoW application is 30 business days. The average number of business days DMP needed to complete the assessment and approval for each lodgement type was:

- ONLINE 16.8 days
- PAPER 21.7 days

This represents a reduction in assessment time of 4.9 business days for mineral exploration applications. A reduction of one week of assessment time represents potentially significant cost savings for industry.

The average time for the proponent to respond to DMP requests for additional information following the lodgement of a PoW application was analysed. This excludes PoW's not referred back to the proponent. On average the number of days with the proponent was:

- ONLINE 7.9 days (time taken by proponent)
- PAPER 13.1 days (time taken by proponent)

Proponent turn-a-round time for providing additional information was 5.2 days less for online applications compared to paper applications.

There are early indications that online lodgement is improving the overall quality of resource sector applications. This is expected to reduce the need for requests for additional information from the proponent.

DMP will continue to promote the benefits of online applications to the resource industry.

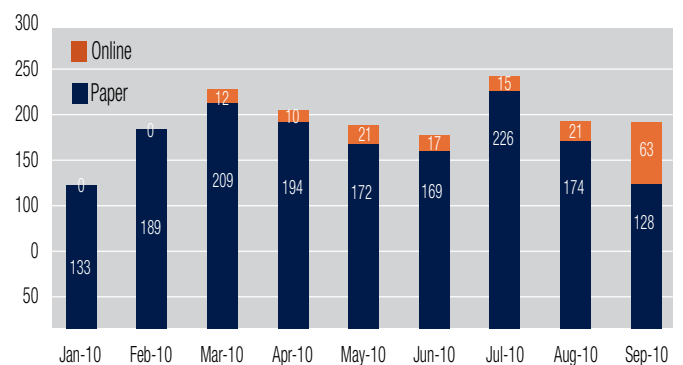


Figure 1 | PoW Application Categories between January 2010 and September 2010

Number of POW's lodged			
Month	Paper	Online	Total
Jan-10	133	0	133
Feb-10	189	0	189
Mar-10	209	12	221
Apr-10	194	10	204
May-10	172	21	193
Jun-10	169	17	186
Jul-10	226	15	241
Aug-10	174	21	195
Sep-10	128	63	191
Total:	1594	159	1753

Table 1 | POW online and paper applications received by DMP between January 2010 and September 2010.

To assist with the continual improvement of information provided, feedback from stakeholders or the public on the usefulness of this report is welcomed.

APPROVALS DATA TABLE – THIRD QUARTER 2010

The following table represents the number of applications received and processed by DMP for its key approval processes. For applications that completed the approvals process, an assessment of DMP's performance against timeline targets is also provided. The timeline target applies only to parts of the process completed by DMP and does not include, for example, the time taken for assessment by other government agencies or where the assessment process is put on hold while additional information is being sought from applicants.

It is acknowledged that the processes involved in completing approvals can vary widely in their complexity and scope. Nevertheless, for the sake of simplicity, all applications are compared with timelines within which it has been agreed that, with existing levels of assessing officers, the majority of applications can be completed.

Minerals Sector								
	Timeline target (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received in Q3 2010	No. approved in Q3 2010	No. otherwise dealt with (i.e. refused, lapsed, rejected or withdrawn)	No. approved within timeline target	% approved within timeline target	No. carried over to next quarter
Tenure Applications								
Data used to assess performance against the timeline target only applies to applications received since 1 January 2009 (when the tracking of applications commenced). The total number of applications in the system have been separated into two categories – those received since 1/1/2009 and those received prior. The percentage approved within the timeline target calculation for mining tenure applications are calculated on all determined tenements (i.e. all approved and otherwise dealt with applications).								
Prospecting Licence	65	1201	367	252	75	273	83%	1241
- pre 1/1/09		610		89	8			513
Exploration Licence	65	2978	727	324	240	520	92%	3141
- pre 1/1/09		1322		61	52			1209
Mining Lease	65	142	34	14	16	29	97%	146
- pre 1/1/09		1329		38	65			1226
Others (i.e. Miscellaneous Licence, General Purpose Lease, Retention Licence)	65	198	70	35	6	37	90%	227
- pre 1/1/09		298		8	7			283
Environmental Approvals								
DMP processes Native Vegetation Clearing Permits for the resources sector via a delegation from the Department of Environment. Performance measures are published on DEC's website.								
Programme of Work (exploration)	30	243	627	599	48	581	97%	223
Mining Proposal	30	99	78	66	8	52	79%	103
Petroleum and Geothermal Sector								
	Timeline target (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received in Q3 2010	No. approved in Q3 2010	No. otherwise dealt with (i.e. refused, lapsed, rejected or withdrawn)	No. approved within timeline target	% approved within timeline target	No. carried over to next quarter
Tenure Applications								
Includes grant or renewal of Exploration Permits, Production Licences and Retention Leases; grant, renewal or variation of Pipeline Licences; "Surveys" also incorporate Special Prospecting/Access Authorities and Scientific Investigations.								
Exploration Permit	120	41	8	3	5	3	100%	41
Production Licence Retention Lease	90	14	3	2	0	0	0%	15
Pipeline Licence	90	10	8	1	0	1	100%	17
Well	40	12	23	14	0	14	100%	21
Survey	40	21	36	5	2	4	80%	50
Environmental Approvals								
Incorporates environmental plans and oil spill contingency plans for petroleum operations in both Commonwealth and State areas.								
Environmental Plans	30	21	62	26	18	26	100%	39