



Approvals Performance Report

The Department's fourth quarter approval performance consolidated a positive approvals performance for the calendar year 2010. During this period, the total number of mining, petroleum and geothermal applications received by the Department increased compared to the previous year.

For example, in 2010 the Department received 2293 mineral exploration applications ("Programmes of Work") of which 94% were approved with 30 business days. By comparison, during 2009 the Department received 1702 "Programmes of Work" with a 94% performance measure. A total of 5022 mining and petroleum tenure applications were received during 2010, an increase from 4893 received in the previous year.

In the 4Q 2010, the Department achieved high levels of performance with 100% of petroleum pipeline, wells, surveys and petroleum environment plans assessed and completed with target times. Similarly, between 88% and 96% of all mineral tenure applications, 96% of Programmes of Work and 72% of Mining Proposals were completed within target timelines.

Petroleum exploration permits and retention lease applications were below normal performance targets. The 4Q 2010 data showed an increase in the number of applications being carried forward into the next quarter. These performance measures are being monitored and addressed by the Department.

During 2010 the Department also implemented actions to support the WA Lead Agency Framework by providing inter-agency approvals coordination services for identified project proponents.

Online lodgement of mining and petroleum applications

During 2010, the Department introduced online lodgement and approvals tracking for key approval applications such as Programmes of Work, Mining Proposals, Project Management Plans (Resource Safety), Petroleum Pipeline Licences and payments online.

Online lodgement service	Introduced	% applications online (4Q 2010)
Programmes of Work	3Q 2010	23%
Mining Proposals	3Q 2010	12%
Project Management Plans	3Q 2010	100%
Petroleum Pipeline Licences	2Q 2010	100%
Petroleum Payments Online	4Q 2010	35%

In the 4Q, the proportion of online lodgement of Programmes of Work compared to paper applications increased from 16% (3Q) to 23% (4Q) of the total number of applications. The proportion of Mining Proposals lodged online increased from 2% in the 3Q to 12% in the 4Q.

Analysis shows that the assessment time for online applications is less compared to equivalent paper applications with time savings of up to one week for proponents. Industry has provided feedback on the online lodgement experience to date allowing the Department to continue to improve the service delivery.

What's next?

Work will continue during 2011 with the Department providing additional online lodgement and approvals tracking services. Following amendments to the *Mining Act 1978*, and gazettal of supporting mining regulations (early 2011), the department will provide online lodgement for the following mineral title application forms:

- Form 21 – Tenement Application
- Form 5 – Operations Report
- Form 18 – Exemption from Expenditure
- Form 16 – Objections

Following this (2Q 2011), the Department plans to roll out online lodgement services for mineral exploration radiation management plans, petroleum wells, seismic surveys and administrative functions such as changes to a company name and ACN validation.

APPROVALS DATA TABLE – FOURTH QUARTER 2010

This table provides information regarding the number of mining and petroleum applications received by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) during the specified period. DMP timeline target, approval performance measures and number of applications carried over to the next quarter are provided for key approval processes. The timeline target applies to processes 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. As part of the WA approval reform process Government is developing systems to provide a whole of project approval timeline for key approval processes.

Minerals Sector								
	Timeline target (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received in Q4 2010	No. approved in Q4 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	1241	485	133	41	157	90%	1552
- pre 1/1/09		513		35	32			446
Exploration Licence	65	3141	811	370	315	658	96%	3294
- pre 1/1/09		1209		47	106			1066
Mining Lease	65	146	47	11	11	21	95%	171
- pre 1/1/09		1226		40	86			1100
Others (i.e. Miscellaneous Licence, General Purpose Lease, Retention Licence)	65	227	97	25	10	31	88%	289
- pre 1/1/09		298		8	3			272
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	199	540	520	29	500	96%	190
Mining Proposal	30	122	81	79	10	57	72%	114
Petroleum and Geothermal Sector								
	Timeline target (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received in Q4 2010	No. approved in Q4 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	34	26	11	0	7	64%	49
Production Licence Retention Lease	90	15	5	4	0	0	0%	15
Pipeline Licence	90	17	5	2	0	2	100%	20
Well	40	21	17	21	0	21	100%	17
Survey	40	50	29	31	5	30	97%	43
Environmental Approvals								
Incorporates environmental plans and oil spill contingency plans for petroleum operations in both Commonwealth and State areas.								
Environmental Plans	30	38	65	42	29	42	100%	32