



Approvals Performance Report

In the third quarter of 2011, DMP received high levels of mineral and petroleum applications reflecting strong resource sector activity in Western Australia.

During this period, 1037 mineral tenure applications were received comprising 592 Exploration Licences, 326 Prospecting Licences, 77 Miscellaneous Licences, 28 Mining Leases and 14 General Purpose Leases. The Department finalised 95% of mineral Exploration Licence applications within 65 business days. A record 767 mineral exploration applications or Programmes of Work (see Figure 1 below) and 76 Mining Proposals were received during the third quarter. 96% of Programme of Work applications and 85% of Mining Proposals were finalised within 30 business days.

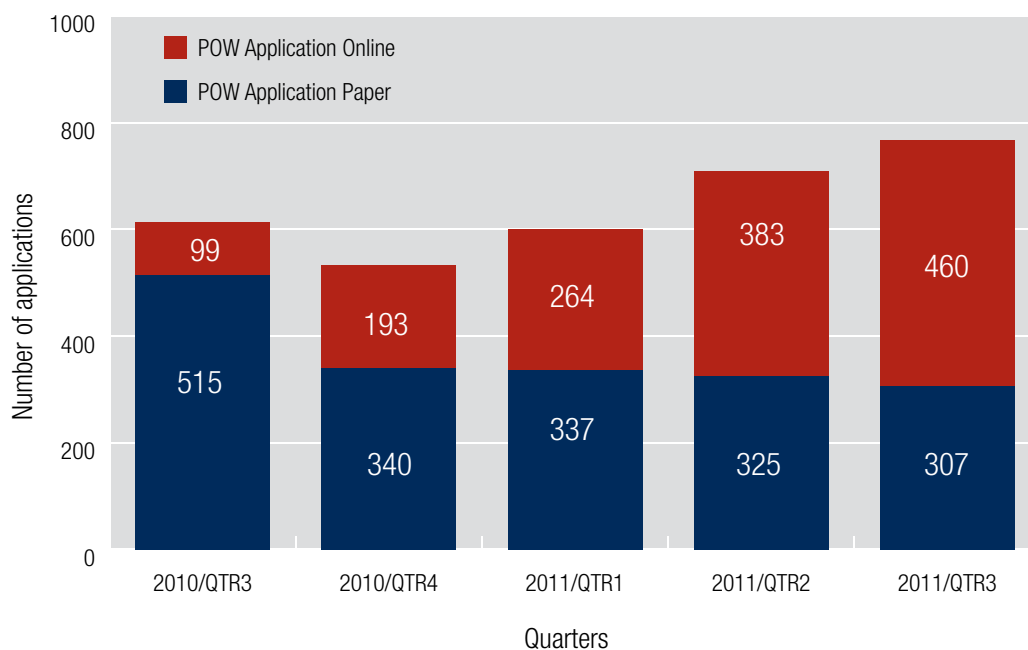


Figure 1 | **Programme of Work Applications Received**

The Department received 16 petroleum survey and 12 well applications during this period. 92% of petroleum well applications were finalised within 40 working days. A total of 90 petroleum environment plans were received for planned petroleum activities in both State and Commonwealth jurisdictions. 98% of these environmental plans were finalised within 30 business days. A total of 39 petroleum permits, retention leases and pipeline licences were finalised in the period, significantly reducing the number of applications carried over from the previous period. Petroleum tenure applications however, were below normal performance targets. Increased numbers of onshore petroleum tenure applications, legislative change and the effect of the establishment of the Commonwealth National Offshore Petroleum Titles Authority (NOPTA) were contributing factors. Onshore applications generally have more stakeholder and land access requirements than offshore tenure applications. As NOPTA is established, DMP will receive less offshore applications. Given the additional complexity involved with onshore applications, DMP is reviewing the adequacy of onshore petroleum timeline targets.

The Department will continue to implement actions to further reduce the number of pending applications. In July 2011 a full time Mining Warden was appointed by Government addressing a key approvals reform commitment. It is expected that this will reduce the backlog of objections in the Warden's Court and help reduce approval timelines for mineral tenement applications. The Department will monitor and report on the number of objections registered in the Wardens Court during 2011/12.

Online lodgement systems – minerals and petroleum

Since the introduction of online lodgement for key mineral title applications in March 2011, the percentage of online applications has continued to increase. During this quarter 211 Exploration Licence applications were received online compared to 381 paper applications. This represents 36% of the total number of Exploration Licence applications received. (Figure 2).

Online modules for Programmes of Work and Mining Proposals were introduced in August 2010. Industry uptake of this service has continued to increase with 60% of Programmes of Work and 36% of Mining Proposal applications lodged online in this quarter.

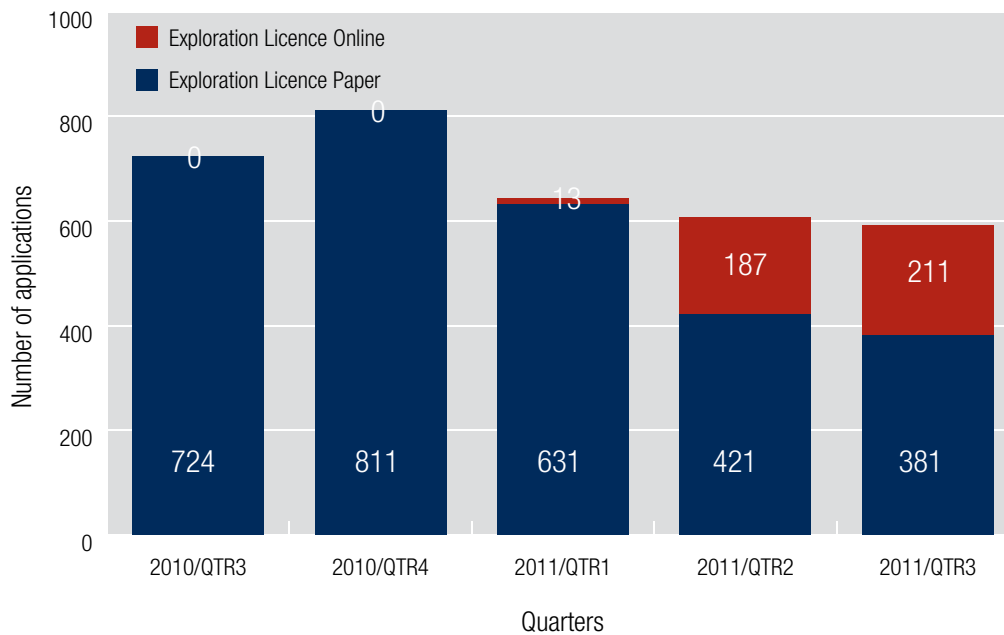


Figure 2 | **Exploration Licence Applications Received**

The Department has continued to expand electronic lodgement capability during the quarter with further upgrades of the Petroleum and Geothermal Register (PGR). On the 20 September 2011, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Norman Moore, announced a new PGR module enabling online lodgement for petroleum drilling applications.

Planned online PGR enhancements

New PGR online modules are planned for 2011/12 including Declaration of Locations, Exploration Permits and Acreage Release. Under the Declaration of Location, proponents will have the ability to lodge and track the following applications online: Declaration of Location, Extension of Location, Revocation of Location and Variation of Location. Online lodgement will include a spatial component where proponents will be able to view the blocks on a map and click the blocks to select which ones are part of the location.

Development of an online bidding system is in progress for delivery 1H 2012 including acreage release and online lodgement of Exploration Permit bids. Proponents will have the ability to view details of the acreage release via PGR, submit and pay for bids (whilst the release is still open) and track bids online. In addition, proponents and industry will be able to track when a preferred bid becomes an actual Exploration Permit Application.

APPROVALS DATA TABLE – THIRD QUARTER 2011

The below 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. applications received	Total No. finalised	No. refused, lapsed, rejected or withdrawn within timeline	Total no. finalised within timeline target	% finalised 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.								
Prospecting Licence	65	1409	326	461	35	456	99%	1274
- pre 1/1/09		339		56	8			283
Exploration Licence	65	3242	592	995	315	945	95%	2839
- pre 1/1/09		953		105	51			848
Mining Lease	65	194	28	21	9	18	86%	201
- pre 1/1/09		1042		56	32			986
Others (i.e. Miscellaneous Licence, General Purpose Lease, Retention Licence)	65	325	91	66	18	61	92%	427
- pre 1/1/09		261		9	8			252
Programme of Work	30	364	767	783	89	752	96%	348
Mining Proposal	30	164	82	89	19	76	85%	157
Native Veg. Clearing Permits	90 calendar days	51	79	76	8	75	99%	54
Note: DMP assesses native vegetation clearing permit applications from the resources sector via a delegation from Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). DEC target timelines include 100% of applications within 90 calendar days and 80% within 60 calendar days.								
Mine Safety Approvals								
Project Management Plan	30	7	14	13	1	12	86%	8
Petroleum and Geothermal Sector								
	Timeline target (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. applications received	Total number finalised	No. refused, rejected or withdrawn within timeline	Total no. finalised within timeline target	% finalised 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	64	2	27	17	5	18%	39
Production Licence Retention Lease	90	21	3	7	1	2	28%	17
Pipeline Licence	90	15	0	5	1	2	40%	10
Well	40	13	12	12	0	11	92%	13
Survey	40	42	16	13	7	9	69%	45
Environmental Approvals								
Incorporates environmental plans and oil spill contingency plans in both Commonwealth and State jurisdictions.								
Environmental Plans	30	45	90	87	46	85	98%	48

Footnote: The Department receives referrals and requests from other agencies for advice. For example, The Department received 160 referrals from the Western Australian Planning Commission for comment on land development proposals that may affect access to resources during the 3Q 2011.