



Approvals Performance Report

During the 2012 June quarter, the Department received high numbers of applications reflecting continued high levels of exploration and mining activity in Western Australia.

There were a total of 982 mineral tenure applications comprising 447 exploration licences, 376 prospecting licences, 121 miscellaneous licences, 24 mining leases and 14 general purpose leases. This represents a 32% increase on the number of applications received in the previous quarter. The Department finalised 96% of exploration licence applications within the target of 65 business days. 738 Programme of Work applications and 77 Mining Proposals were received during this quarter. 98% of Programme of Work applications and 90% of Mining Proposals were finalised within the target of 30 business days.

The Department received 17 petroleum special prospecting authorities, seismic surveys and well applications during this period. 100% of petroleum well applications were finalised within 40 working days. A total of 67 petroleum environment plans and oil spill contingency plans were received for planned petroleum activities in the State. 98% of these environmental plans were finalised within the target of 30 business days.

In State jurisdiction, the Department received a total of 49 petroleum applications covering exploration permits, pipeline and production licences, retention leases, surveys and well applications. As part of the new Commonwealth Offshore Authority arrangements, in effect from 1 January 2012, the Department assessed 18 petroleum exploration permit and renewal notifications in Commonwealth waters.

Mineral exploration applications – online lodgement only

Following the staged introduction of online lodgement of mineral exploration applications throughout 2010/11 the majority of exploration and mining companies now lodge applications online. Because of the rapid uptake by industry and the administrative benefits, the Department has decided to only accept online applications for Programme of Work (PoW-Exploration) from the 31 May 2012. These changes do not apply to Programme of Works Prospecting (PoW-P). To lodge online it is necessary for applicants to register for access to the Environmental Assessment Regulatory System (EARS). To find out how to register for EARS online [click here...](#)

Petroleum pilot program success

Effective 7 June 2012, petroleum environmental applications can now be lodged online following a successful pilot program. During March and April 2012, the Department tested online lodgement capabilities with a number of petroleum companies. Following the success of the pilot program, Environmental Management Plans, bridging documents, written notifications, Oil Spill Contingency Plans and revisions can be lodged online.

Mining Proposals with Mine Closure Plan

From 7 June 2012, proponents can lodge Mining Proposals, Mining Proposals with Mine Closure Plans or Mine Closure Plans online. This allows proponents to track approval progress for each of these types of applications.

Review of target timelines

The Department has reviewed internal timeline targets when internal advice from other areas of the Department is required. Internal processing timelines have been set at 20 business days. Where agreed, the external inter-agency target timeline for provision of advice is 20 business days for standard applications. These targets are to take advantage of the benefits of parallel processing both within the Department and externally.

The Department has updated DMP standard target timelines, internal and external timelines and “stop the clock” information on the website located at: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/7434.aspx>.

New Radiation Management Plan target timeline

In June 2012, the Department formalised a new target timeline of 30 business days for Radiation Management Plans (RMP's). It is planned to include RMP performance data in future quarterly performance reports.

Native vegetation clearing permit timelines

The Department assess resource sector native vegetation clearing permit applications via a delegation from the CEO of Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). This delegation has been in effect since 1 July 2005.

The DEC has assigned two target timelines for the processing of native vegetation clearing permit applications. These are:

- 80% of applications finalised within 60 calendar days; and
- 100% of applications within 90 calendar days.

DMP applies a target of 80% of applications finalised within the allocated target timeline for its key mineral and petroleum approval processes. To be consistent with DMP approval performance measures, the Department will publish the DEC target of 80% of clearing permit applications finalised within 60 calendar days.

The DMP Native Vegetation Branch has recently implemented reforms to business processes. It is expected that the beneficial input of these improvements will be reflected in future performance reports.

DMP APPROVALS PERFORMANCE – SECOND QUARTER 2012

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.

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	1255	376	267	78	262	98%	1364
- pre 1/1/09		220		13	6			201
Exploration Licence	65	2769	447	646	234	621	96%	2570
- pre 1/1/09		618		56	10			552
Mining Lease	65	221	24	20	4	20	100%	225
- pre 1/1/09		854		16	3			835
Others (i.e. Miscellaneous Licence, General Purpose Lease, Retention Licence)	65	484	135	66	28	65	98%	553
- pre 1/1/09		229		4	4			221
Programme of Work	30	478	738	814	74	800	98%	402
Mining Proposal	30	160	77	49	7	44	90%	188
Native Veg. Clearing Permit	60 calendar days	53	62	66	8	29	44%	49
Note: DMP assess resource sector native vegetation clearing permit applications via a delegation from Department of Environment and Conservation. *DEC have two target timelines – 80% of applications finalised within 60 calendar days & 100% of applications within 90 calendar days. For each of the key approval processes, DMP aims to achieve greater than 80% of applications finalised within the allocated target timeline.								
Mine Safety Approvals								
Project Management Plan	30	11	23	16	1	14	88%	18
Petroleum and Geothermal Sector								
	Target Timeline (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 and Activity 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	66	12	76	34	52	68%	2
Production Licence Retention Lease	90	10	6	5	0	3	60%	11
Pipeline Licence	90	18	14	10	0	10	100%	22
Wells	40	21	5	2	0	2	100%	24
Survey	40	46	12	10	0	8	80%	48
Environmental Approvals								
Incorporates environmental management plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans.								
Environmental Plans	30	51	67	58	35	57	98%	60