



Approvals Performance Report

In the 2011/12 financial year the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) received 3,660 mineral tenement, 2,826 mineral exploration and 788 petroleum applications. The numbers are similar to the previous financial year, when the Department received 4,731 mineral tenement applications, 2,453 mineral exploration and 883 petroleum applications. The reduced numbers of petroleum applications reflect the lesser role Western Australia plays in the Commonwealth offshore regulatory regime since 1 January 2012.

During the 2012 September quarter, the Department received a total of 845 mineral tenure applications comprising 412 exploration licences, 322 prospecting licences, 88 miscellaneous licences, 17 mining leases and 6 general purpose leases. The Department finalised 96% of exploration licence applications within the target of 65 business days. 653 Programme of Work applications and 79 Mining Proposals were received during this quarter. 98% of Programme of Work applications and 96% of Mining Proposals were finalised within the target of 30 business days. A focus on improving the native vegetation clearing permit performance has resulted in an improved performance of 62% of applications within 60 calendar days.

The Department received 41 petroleum applications, dealings, variations and renewals. 100% of petroleum well applications were finalised within 40 working days. A total of 63 petroleum environment plans and oil spill contingency plans were received for planned petroleum activities in the State. 98% of petroleum environmental plans were finalised within the target of 30 business days. Petroleum surveys and pipeline licences, were below target timeline and are being investigated.

Automatic notification of certain applications with other agencies

As part of the lead agency framework, DMP coordinates resource project approvals with other approval agencies. Some applications require multi agency approvals or advice. Automating this process improves interagency communication and allows government to better track interagency timelines for project approvals.

Since 6 August 2012, the Department has enhanced the approval tracking system to automatically notify the Department of Indigenous Affairs when a mining exploration application has the potential to affect a registered Aboriginal heritage site.

Since 22 August 2012, all mineral exploration "Programmes of Work" that have the potential to affect a Department of Environment and Conservation managed land are now automatically forwarded to the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Petroleum applications online

All petroleum environmental management plans, bridging documents, written notifications, oil spill contingency plans and revisions can now be lodged online. This quarter 42% of petroleum environmental applications were lodged online.

Mining Proposals online

During this quarter, 46% of Mining Proposals were lodged online. Since June 2012, proponents are able to 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.

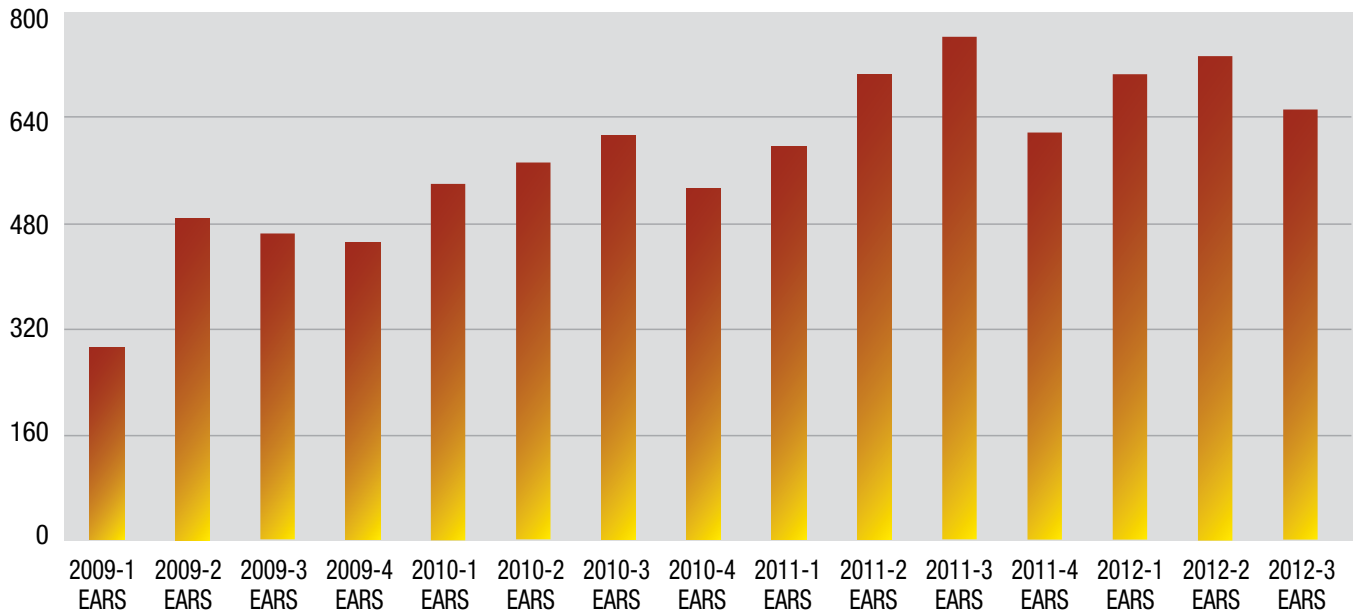
Radiation Management Plans online and approval performance reporting

Effective August 2012, Radiation Management Plans can be lodged online. The target timeline for the assessment of a radiation management plan is 30 business days. The Department has introduced Radiation Management Plan approval performance reporting into its quarterly approval performance reports.

WA exploration activity trends

The graph below shows the number of mineral exploration or Programme of Work applications received by the Department since 1 January 2009. The number of applications received has increased from 297 in the 1Q 2009 to 653 in the 3Q 2012. The trend appears to be stabilising between 600 – 700 applications a quarter.

MINERAL EXPLORATION – PROGRAMMES OF WORK 1Q 2009 – 3Q 2012



DMP APPROVALS PERFORMANCE – THIRD 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	1364	322	428	63	413	96%	1258
- pre 1/1/09		201		35				166
Exploration Licence	65	2570	412	452	202	433	96%	2530
- pre 1/1/09		552		56				496
Mining Lease	65	225	17	31	9	29	94%	211
- pre 1/1/09		835		128				707
Others (Miscellaneous, General Purpose, Retention Licence)	65	553	94	94	26	90	96%	553
- pre 1/1/09		221		53				168
Mining Environmental applications								
Programme of Work	30	402	653	646	71	634	98%	409
Mining Proposal	30	188	79	82	19	79	96%	185
Native Veg. Clearing Permit	60 calendar days*	49	65	66	8	41	62%	48
Note: DMP assess resource sector native vegetation clearing permit applications via a delegation from Department of Environment and Conservation. *DMP has adopted the DEC target of achieving greater than 80% of applications finalised within 60 calendar days.								
Mine Safety Approvals								
Project Management Plan	30	18	15	26	1	25	96%	7
Radiation Mngt. Plans	30 ¹	7	2	9	1	6	67%	0
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, renewal, variation and dealings for Exploration Permits, Production Licences, Retention Leases and Pipeline Licences.								
Exploration Permits	120	48 ²	10	23	9	20	87%	35
Production Licence	90	22 ²	9	4	0	3	75%	27
Retention Leases								
Pipeline Licences	90	22	7	11	0	7	64%	18
Wells	40	24	8	8	0	8	100%	24
Surveys	40	48	5	4	0	1	25%	49
Environmental Approvals								
Incorporates environmental management plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans.								
Environmental Plans	30	60	63	61	35	60	98%	62

The Department receives referrals and requests from other agencies for advice. For example, The Department received 127 referrals from the Western Australian Planning Commission for comment on land development proposals that may affect access to resources during the 3Q 2012.

¹ Radiation Management Plan applications have been included under the category of Mine Safety Approvals.

² From 1 July 2012, pending petroleum exploration permits, production licences and retention leases in the Native Title processes are included in the number of applications carried over each quarter for the first time.