



What do we do?

The value of Western Australia's mineral and petroleum industry reached a record \$101.2 billion in 2011.

Iron ore, petroleum, and gold together accounted for 88 per cent or \$88.7 billion of all mineral and petroleum sales in 2010/11. These three sectors continue to drive strong economic growth in Western Australia.

During the past ten years the value of Western Australia's mineral and petroleum industry has grown strongly achieving average annual growth of 15 per cent.

Mineral and petroleum resources dominate the State's exports, contributing a substantial 95 per cent towards the State's total merchandise exports in 2010.

Western Australia's resources industry is expected to grow solidly in 2011 and beyond with over \$194 billion earmarked for development and expansions in major mining and petroleum projects.

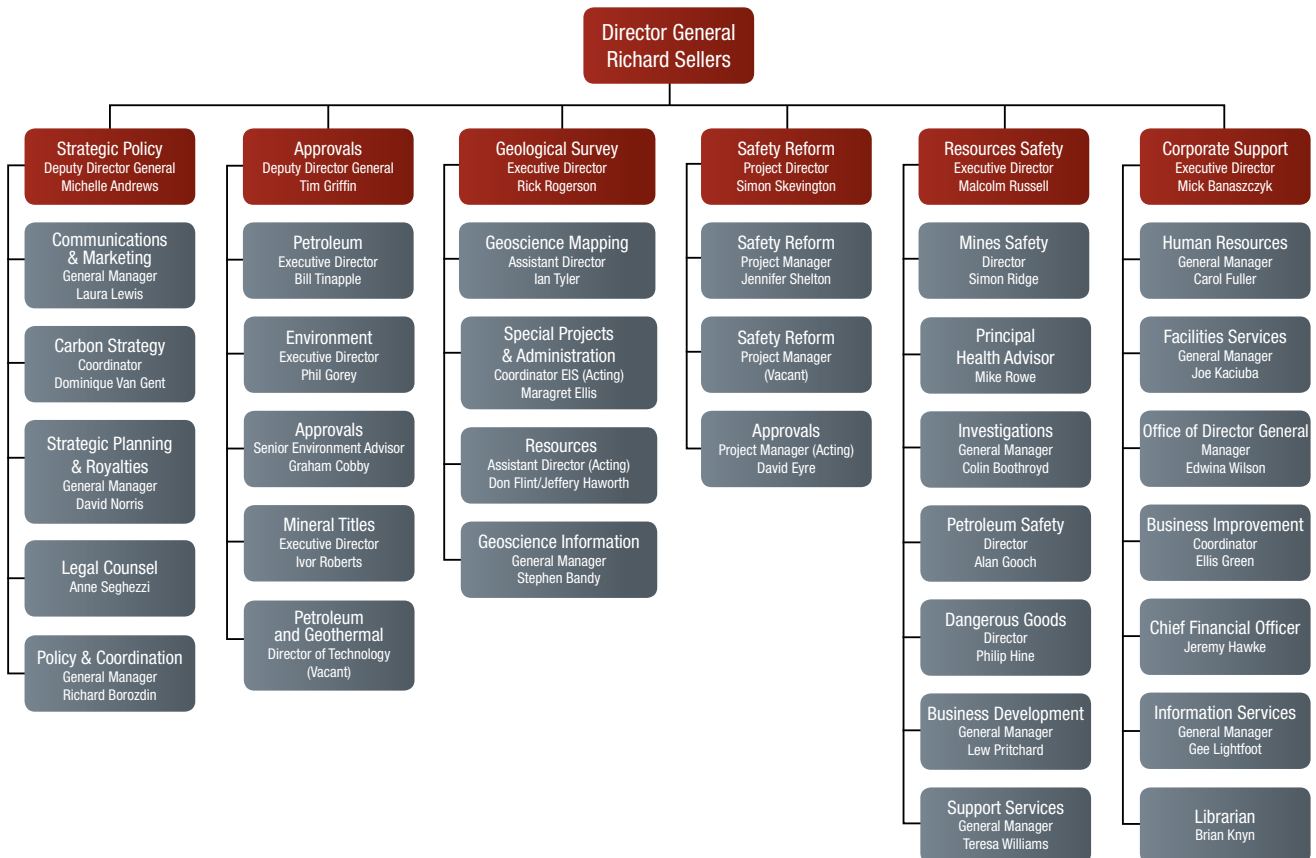
The Department of Mines and Petroleum's (DMP) mission is to promote discovery and ensure the responsible development of a world-class resources sector for the benefit of Western Australia.

DMP is the State's lead agency in attracting private investment in resources exploration and development through the provision of geoscientific information on minerals and energy resources, and management of an equitable and secure titles systems for the mining, petroleum and geothermal industries.

It also carries prime responsibility for improving safety systems for the resources industry and dangerous goods in Western Australia, including the collection of royalties, and ensuring that safety, health and environmental standards are consistent with relevant State and Commonwealth legislation, regulations and policies.

Group structure

The department consists of five operating divisions; Mineral Titles, Petroleum and Environment, Geological Survey, Resources Safety and The Strategic Policy Division.





Mineral Titles Division

The Mineral Titles Division issues tenements for exploration and extraction of minerals. It assists applicants to meet the requirements of Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage processes and places conditions on activities in mining and exploration tenements.

The division also provides information on land availability and land access for mineral exploration and mining as well as ensuring compliance with tenement obligations, legislation and enforcement under the *Mining Act 1978*.

With over 1,100 operating mine sites (open pit, underground mines and quarries) and over 240 mineral processing plants, Western Australia is one of the most productive and diversified mineral regions in the world with more than 70 minerals being produced in commercial quantities

In 2010-11 the Division granted more than 3,000 tenements. Most of these tenements, which cover over 18 million hectares, were for exploration licences to find new mineral deposits. The Division is also responsible for the administration of nearly 23,000 granted mineral titles and just over 7,000 pending tenements (August 2011).

Over the past five years 26,250 new tenement applications were received, compared to only 20,400 in the preceding five year period. The Division is continuing the ongoing process of reducing the backlog and streamlining the approvals process. Early 2011 saw the introduction of Electronic Lodgement and Lodgement Anywhere which allows applicants to apply on-line and to lodge Mining Act forms at any Mineral Titles Office throughout the State.

Petroleum Division

The Petroleum Division is responsible for the approval and administration of petroleum and geothermal titles and associated operational activities in Western Australia. These processes include:

- Preparing the release of acreage for exploration and administering the bidding system;
- Assessment of applications and the grant of title;
- Title administration and collection of fees;
- Approval of operational activities (e.g. drill a well, conduct a survey);
- Native Title negotiation;
- Preparation of maps and publications;
- Stakeholder consultation; and
- Ensuring compliance under the relevant legislation.

The Petroleum Division provides a means by which the petroleum industry can access acreage to explore for hydrocarbons and develop petroleum projects. This involves developing and administering a legislative framework associated with petroleum and geothermal titles.

The Division also has responsibility for providing effective resource management. This includes promoting petroleum exploration and development activities as well as ensuring optimum and acceptable oil field practice.

The division administers and regulates over 400 petroleum and geothermal titles covering more than 700,000 square kilometres and 6,000 kilometres of pipelines.

The Petroleum Division was awarded the AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008 standard after being audited from September 2010 to March 2011. This certification recognises the department as a specialised and competent regulator overseeing the resources industry.



Petroleum Division *(continued)*

The Division's online Petroleum and Geothermal Register (PGR) has also won the prestigious 2010 WA Information Technology and Telecommunications Award (WAITTA) which recognises outstanding performance and contributions by members of the information technology and telecommunications community in Western Australia.

Environment Division

The Department of Mines and Petroleum's (DMP) Environment Division promotes best practice environmental management by delivering high quality and timely environmental regulatory and policy services.

The division works closely with industry to encourage mining and petroleum proponents to participate in best practice methods when exploring for, operating or rehabilitating mining, petroleum, carbon capture and storage or geothermal projects.

In order to do this effectively, the division regularly liaises with other key departments including the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA), Department of Water (DoW) and the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) in Western Australia.

Key roles of the division include:

- Administering the environmental aspects of State and Commonwealth mineral and petroleum legislation.
- Assessing, auditing and monitoring environmental aspects of mining and petroleum projects.

- Providing incident investigation services and initiating the department's enforcement policy as required.
- Liaising with core stakeholders and benchmarking the division's performance against customer expectations.
- Regulating the provisions of the native vegetation clearing regulations for the resources sector.
- Providing strategic policy advice regarding State and Commonwealth environmental initiatives that may affect the regulation of and access for the resources sector, including environmental assessment policies, legislation and planning.

The Department's Environment Division is also responsible for developing and publishing a range of environmental guidelines and policies to ensure industry is well informed about correct industry practices.

The Division also coordinates the annual Golden Gecko Awards for Environmental Excellence which recognise demonstrated leadership and excellence in environmental practices in the mineral and petroleum sector.

These awards recognise leading innovation in environmental management within the mining, petroleum and geothermal sector.



Geological Survey of Western Australia Division

The Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) publishes high-quality reports, maps, and state-of-the-art databases documenting the geology and mineral and energy resources of Western Australia, continuously improving our knowledge of the geological framework of the State. This information is used by a number of stakeholders and by the Department to promote the resource exploration potential of the State to exploration companies worldwide. It is also critical in Government decision making, particularly on resource policy formulation, resource-related approvals, and in land use planning.

GSWA has more than 22 terabytes of data online and one petabyte of geoscience information off-line. Field-based, regional geological mapping programs are spread across Western Australia taking a multidisciplinary approach combining geochemical surveys, advanced geochronology and isotope studies, and airborne and ground-based geophysical surveys to produce robust interpretations of tectonic setting, crustal architecture and geological evolution that can be fed into regional exploration models for both mineral and petroleum systems.. Modern core library facilities at Perth and Kalgoorlie are used by both exploration companies and research groups to undertake cutting-edge geoscientific studies.

Strategic Policy

The Strategic Policy division has a lead role in working across the department and with other agencies to promote a policy framework that supports and strengthens WA's resources sector.

The division provides specialist support to operational areas dealing with key strategic issues, including legal, policy and communications services.

The State's royalties system is administered by the division, supported by economic research and analysis of the resources sector.

The division also works to enhance organisational performance through strategic and operational planning processes, and business continuity and risk management activities.

Carbon capture and storage is a priority project for the Department with a focus on promoting opportunities at the business level, including facilitating the Collie CO2 Hub project.



Resources Safety Division

The Resources Safety division is the State's specialist regulator for occupational health and safety in the minerals, onshore petroleum and geothermal energy sectors, and for the safe use of dangerous goods.

Resources Safety promotes safety in the mining, petroleum and dangerous goods industries through compliance and enforcement activities, licensing and educating and providing information to industry. The division has an extensive online presence of guidance material, and publishes the *MineSafe* magazine three times a year.

The Mines Safety branch administers the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 (WA)* and promotes occupational safety and health in the exploration, mining, extraction and processing of Western Australian resources.

The Petroleum Safety branch administers the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 (WA)* and the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969 (WA)* providing occupational safety regulatory services for onshore petroleum, technical safety case assessments and review, and specialist advice, auditing and investigations.

The Dangerous Goods Safety branch administers the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004 (WA)* for the manufacture, storage, handling, transport and use of dangerous goods, including the operation of major hazard facilities.

In late 2009, the Western Australian Government committed to overhauling the way that safety in the resources industry is regulated. The department is coordinating the safety reform strategy, which includes:

- recruiting staff to fill specialist inspectorate roles
- establishing a multidisciplinary team approach to inspectorate activities
- improving data handling, analysis and reporting
- increasing opportunities for industry liaison
- supporting the development of positive safety cultures at workplaces.

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