



# Approvals Performance Report

The approvals data table shows that the Department achieved a consistently high level of performance across all key regulatory areas for the first quarter 2010.

## Minerals Sector

In relation to mining tenement applications, the data also shows that a reduction in the total number of pending applications is continuing at a steady pace (see Figure 1).

The substantial increases in exploration licence applications experienced over the course of the 2009 calendar year eased during this quarter. 798 applications were received compared to the peak of 960 in Q4 2009.

However, the number of applications for environmental approval to commence exploration activities (Programmes of Work) continued to increase during Q1 2010, and this trend appears likely to continue. The number of pending applications has also increased over the past year, from 145 leading into Q1 2009 to 243 at the end of Q1 2010. Resources have been reallocated to assist in meeting the increased demand.

Figure 2 shows the number of applications for exploration environmental approvals received and processed since Q1 2009.

## Petroleum and Geothermal Sector

For petroleum tenure applications, 97 per cent of those approved in Q1 2010 were processed within the Department's target timeframe, compared to an average of 80 per cent in 2009. In addition, the number of applications carried forward now stands at 137, a reduction from the total number of pending applications (160) at 1 January 2009.

Processing of petroleum environmental applications maintained their high level of compliance with the timeline target and also achieved a marked reduction in the number of pending applications since the beginning of 2009 (from 40 down to 18).

## Approvals Performance Measures

The Department of Mines and Petroleum is continuing to implement improvements to its approvals tracking processes and reporting mechanisms. Initiatives include:

- an external review of its performance measures to provide assurance the measures being used were meaningful and consistent across the operating divisions, which has contributed to some modifications in the reporting format of the data table included in this report as well as further measures under consideration;
- a DMP systems development project working towards enabling the linking of all relevant applications assigned to particular projects across the agency (initially focusing on petroleum and geothermal projects); and
- ongoing work at an agency and whole-of-government level to allow mining and petroleum approvals to be tracked across government and provide additional data analysis.

To assist with the continual improvement of information provided, feedback from stakeholders or the public on the usefulness of this report is welcomed.

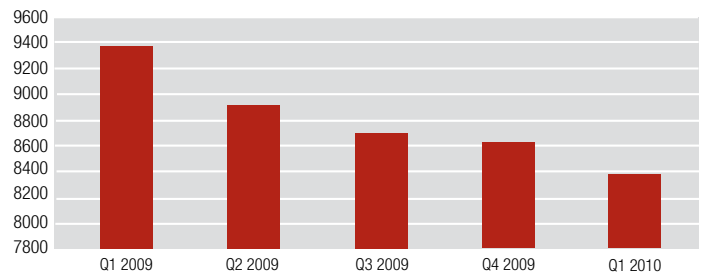


Figure 1 | **Mining Tenure Applications**  
Number carried over to the next quarter

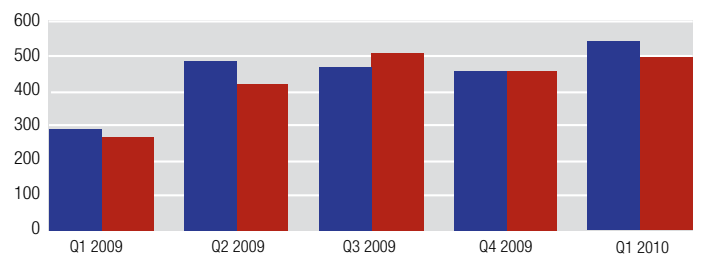


Figure 2 | **Programmes of Work**  
■ No. received ■ No. processed

## APPROVALS DATA TABLE – FIRST QUARTER 2010

The following table represents the number of applications received and processed by DMP for its key approval processes. For applications that completed the approvals process, an assessment of DMP's performance against timeline targets is also provided. The timeline target applies only to parts of the process 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.

It is acknowledged that the processes involved in completing approvals can vary widely in their complexity and scope. Nevertheless, for the sake of simplicity, all applications are compared with timelines within which it has been agreed that, with existing levels of assessing officers, the majority of applications can be completed.

Minerals Sector								
Timeline target (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received in Q1 2010	No. approved in Q1 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	
<b>Tenure Applications</b>								
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	1108	305	138	60	177	89%	1215
- pre 1/1/09		949		171	38			740
Exploration Licence	65	2558	798	256	217	402	85%	2883
- pre 1/1/09		1825		170	148			1507
Mining Lease	65	116	21	7	6	11	85%	124
- pre 1/1/09		1570		47	109			1414
Others (i.e. Miscellaneous Licence, General Purpose Lease, Retention Licence)	65	166	50	28	8	34	94%	180
- pre 1/1/09		336		2	13			321
<b>Environmental Approvals</b>								
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	195	543	463	32	432	93%	243
Mining Proposal	30	115	74	60	24	53	88%	105
Petroleum and Geothermal Sector								
Timeline target (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received in Q1 2010	No. approved in Q1 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	
<b>Tenure Applications</b>								
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	68	16	18	8	18	100%	58
Production Licence Retention Lease	90	19	3	7	0	5	71%	15
Pipeline Licence	90	13	9	10	0	10	100%	12
Well	40	17	21	16	2	16	100%	20
Survey	40	28	24	9	11	9	100%	32
<b>Environmental Approvals</b>								
Incorporates environmental plans and oil spill contingency plans for petroleum operations in both Commonwealth and State areas.								
Environmental Plans	30	9	55	32	14	30	94%	18