



## Draft Approvals Performance Report

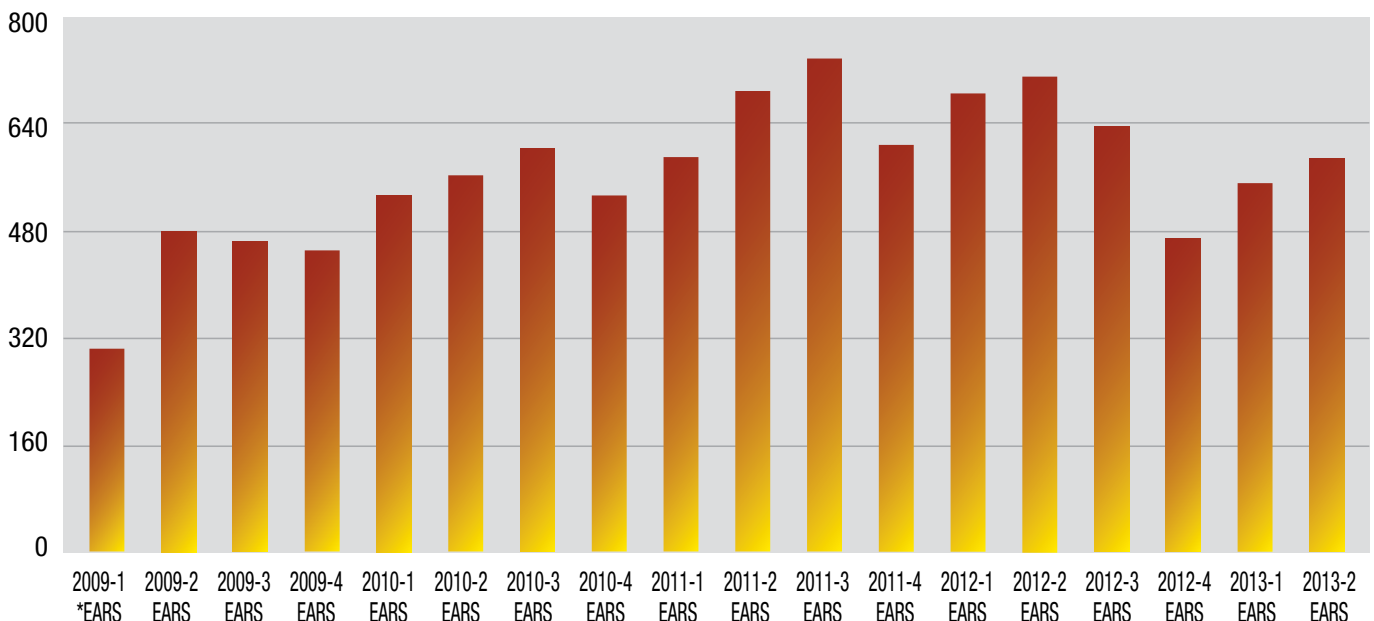
During the June 2013 quarter, the department's electronic information systems showed it received a total of 804 mineral tenure applications comprising 500 exploration licences, 233 prospecting licences, 51 miscellaneous licences, 14 mining leases, four general purpose leases and two retention licences. The June quarter recorded 200 less mineral tenement applications than the previous quarter (1004), continuing the downward trend in the number of applications received during the 2012/13 financial year. The department's mineral title division continued a positive approval performance in the June quarter, finalising 96 per cent of mineral exploration licence applications within the target of 65 business days.

Approvals performance in the environment division was below target timelines. 68 per cent of Programme of Work applications and 64 per cent of Mining Proposals were finalised within the target of 30 business days. Staffing shortfalls in the Kalgoorlie office impacted performance. Whilst regional staff recruitment is in progress, applications received in the Goldfields are reallocated to the Perth office for assessment. Contract staff is assisting with the extra Perth workload.

52 native vegetation clearing permit applications were received by the environment division during this quarter. 49 per cent of these applications were finalised within the target timeline of 60 calendar days. The native vegetation clearing permit business area has not achieved DMP's performance target of more than 80% within 60 calendar days for five consecutive quarters. DMP will introduce broader strategies to address this issue.

This quarter, DMP received 603 mineral exploration and prospecting applications compared to 738 received in the same period during 2012. The graph below illustrates the number of programmes of work received by the department from first quarter 2009 – second quarter 2013. Note that there has been a rise in the number of applications over the past two quarters from a low in the last quarter of 2012.

### MINERAL EXPLORATION – PROGRAMMES OF WORK RECEIVED 1Q 2009 – 2Q 2013



\*Environmental Assessment and Regulatory System

The Department received 16 mine safety Project Management Plans and six Radiation Management Plans (RMPs) during the June quarter. 81 per cent of Project Management Plans and 43 per cent of RMPs were finalised within the target of 30 business days. Key staff changes during the quarter impacted the RMP performance.

The Department received 12 petroleum tenure and activity applications and renewals. Petroleum performance was mixed with 100 per cent of petroleum well applications finalised within 40 working days but only 25% of petroleum survey applications finalised within the same period. A total of 60 petroleum environment plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans were received for planned petroleum activities in the State. 100 per cent of petroleum environmental plans were finalised within the target of 30 business days.

## **Financial Year 2012/13**

Despite a mixed June quarter 2013 performance, the overall performance for the 2012/13 financial year was positive with DMP achieving greater than 80% for the majority of key approval processes.

DMP received 3676 mineral title applications from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. On average, 95% of these were finalised within the target timelines. 2285 Programmes of Work were received and 85% of these were finalised within 30 business days. 80% of Mining Proposals were finalised with 30 business days.

79% of 38 petroleum exploration permit applications were finalised within target timelines and 92% of 19 petroleum well applications were finalised with target timelines. 98% of the 276 petroleum environment plans were finalised within 30 business days.

93% of the 65 Project Management Plans and 54% of the 22 Radiation Management Plans received were finalised within 30 business days.

## **Industry values online lodgement**

The WA resource sector has continued the trend for using online lodgement in preference over paper applications. During the June quarter, 100 per cent of Project Management Plans and 69 per cent of all mineral exploration licence applications were lodged online.

86% of all mining environmental applications were lodged online during the 2012/13 financial year. DMP continued to progress the availability of online lodgement for key approval processes, financial services and related approval requirement functions. 27% of all petroleum tenure and activity applications were lodged online. Of these applications 75% of Exploration Permit applications and 100% of Pipeline Licence and Well applications were lodged online.

In view of this trend and to further streamline processes in DMP, Annual Environmental Reports (AER) paper submissions will not be accepted by DMP after 1 July 2013. AER's must be lodged online.

The online system provides industry with the ability to track the progress of their AER. It also provides increased transparency enabling the public to see how resource companies are responding to their environmental responsibilities such as rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

## DMP APPROVALS PERFORMANCE – SECOND QUARTER 2013

The below table provides information regarding the number of mining and petroleum applications received by the department 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	Total no. finalised within timeline target	% finalised 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.								
Prospecting Licence	65	1269	233	306	74	289	94%	1196
– pre 1/1/09*		130		19				111
Exploration Licence	65	2736	500	685	379	656	96%	2551
– pre 1/1/09		390		65				325
Mining Lease	65	207	14	30	9	30	100%	191
– pre 1/1/09		470		54				416
Others (Miscellaneous, General Purpose, Retention Licence)	65	506	57	93	40	92	99%	470
– pre 1/1/09		136		14				122
<b>Exploration and mining applications</b>								
Programme of Work	30	503	603	710	51	484	68%	396
Mining Proposal	30	190	57	76	11	49	64%	171
Native Veg. Clearing Permit	60 calendar days*	53**	52	57	7	28	49%	48
*Note: DMP assess resource sector native vegetation clearing permit applications via a delegation from the Department of Environment and Conservation. DMP's approval performance target is to achieve greater than 80% of applications finalised within 60 calendar days.								
<b>Mine safety applications</b>								
Project Management Plan	30	15	16	16	2	13	81%	15
Radiation Mngt. Plans	30	4	6	7	5	3	43%	3

Note 1: All 2Q 2013 DMP approvals performance figures were calculated as per electronic data records effective 10 July 2013.

Note 2: DMP provided advice to the WA Planning Commission regarding 528 land planning applications during the 2012/13 financial year.

\*\*This native vegetation clearing permit carry over figure is not the same as the previous reporting period due to data correction occurring for the January-March 2013 period.

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	Total no. finalised within timeline target	% finalised within timeline target	No. carried over to next quarter
<b>Petroleum tenure and activity applications</b>								
These applications include the grant or renewal of titles for Exploration Permits, Production Licences, Retention Leases, Pipeline Licences, Infrastructure Licences, Special Prospecting Authorities and Access Authorities. Key approval processes under "Surveys" include operational activities for special prospecting /access authorities, scientific investigations and survey applications.								
Exploration Permits	120	55	7	22	19	22	100%	40
Production Licence Retention Leases	90	23	0	1	0	0	–	22
Pipeline Licences	90	17	1	5	1	2	40%	13
Wells	40	22	1	4	0	4	100%	19
Surveys	40	45	3	4	1	1	25%	44
<b>Petroleum environmental applications</b>								
Incorporates environmental management plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans.								
Environmental Plans	30	60	60	59	34	59	100%	61