



Approvals Performance Report

During the September quarter 2013, the DMP approval performance showed improvement across the majority of key approval processes.

The department's electronic information systems recorded a total of 948 mineral tenure applications comprising 543 exploration licences, 317 prospecting licences, 58 miscellaneous licences, 21 mining leases, six general purpose leases and three retention licences. The mineral title division finalised 95 per cent of mineral exploration licence applications and 89 per cent of prospecting licences within the target timeline of 65 business days.

This quarter, DMP received 526 mineral exploration and prospecting applications compared to 653 in the same period during 2012. 94 per cent of mineral exploration "Programme of Work" applications were assessed within the target timeline of 30 business days. This was a significant improvement from the previous quarter where only 68 per cent of programmes of work were finalised. Consistent with DMP policy, one Programme of Work was fast tracked at the request of the proponent due to an immediate fire safety risk. 64 per cent of Mining Proposals were finalised within the target of 30 business days, the same as the previous quarter.

47 native vegetation clearing permit applications were received by the environment division during this quarter. 75 per cent of these applications were finalised within the target timeline of 60 calendar days. This improvement to the previous quarterly performance (49 per cent) is the result of the full implementation of a more risk based approach to the assessment process.

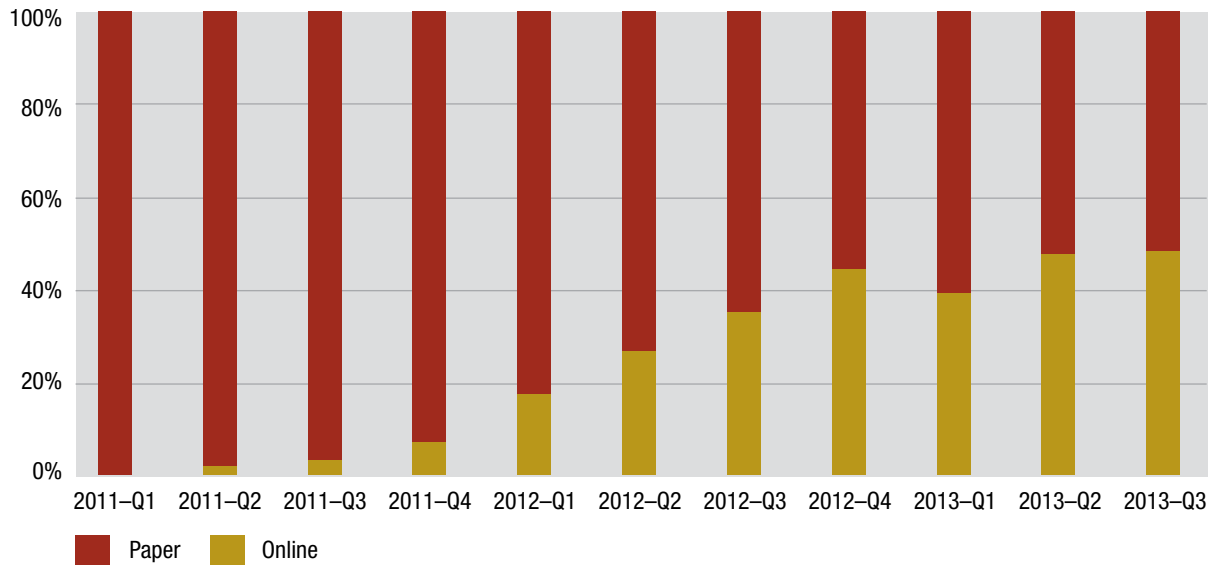
The Department received 12 mine safety Project Management Plans (PMP's) and six Radiation Management Plans (RMPs) during the September quarter. 100 per cent of PMP's and 80 per cent of RMPs were finalised within the target of 30 business days. RMP performance improved from 43 per cent in the previous quarter.

The Department received 23 petroleum tenure and activity applications. Petroleum performance was below target with only 17 per cent of exploration permit applications finalised within the target time, 58 per cent of petroleum survey and 25 per cent of petroleum well applications finalised within 40 working days. DMP is reviewing petroleum assessment processes and procedures to improve performance. A total of 131 petroleum environment plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans were received for planned petroleum activities in the State. 97 per cent of petroleum environmental plans were finalised within the target of 30 business days.

Analysis of online and paper mineral exploration licence applications

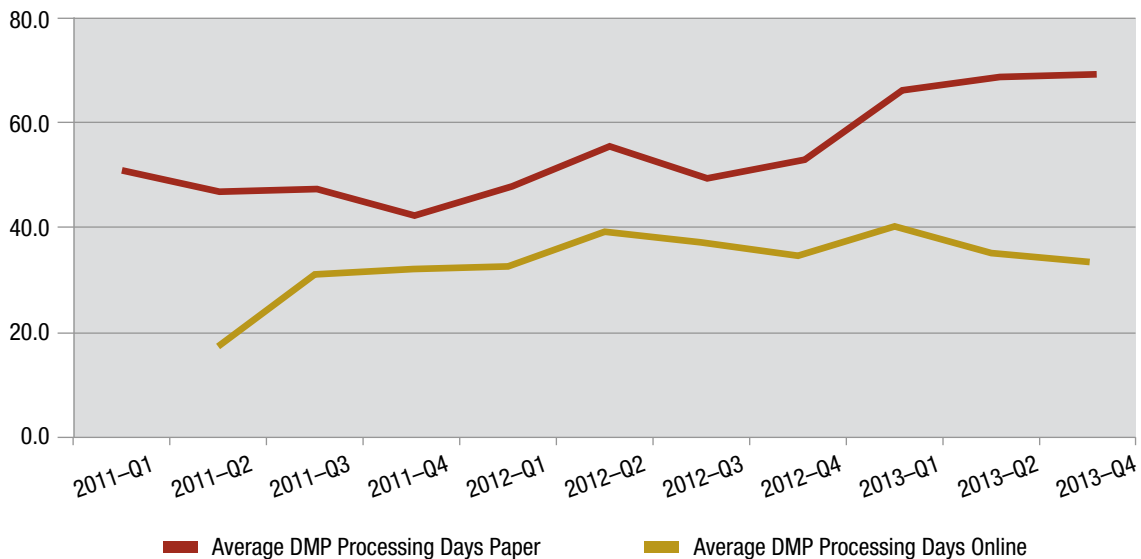
The chart below provides information about the number of mineral exploration licence applications finalised by DMP during the period from 1Q 2011 to 3Q 2013. The chart shows the proportion of online applications has steadily increased to around 50 per cent of the total number of applications.

MINERAL EXPLORATION LICENCE APPLICATIONS (online %)



The average number of DMP processing days to finalise a mineral exploration application is shown for online lodgement (34 business days) and paper applications (69 business days). The approval timeline difference between an online and paper application is 35 business days or nearly two calendar months.

MINERAL EXPLORATION LICENCE Average DMP Processing Days



An average reduction of nearly two months in the DMP exploration licence timeline is a benefit of online lodgement for the WA mineral exploration industry. Other benefits of using online lodgement include reduced number of requests for additional information from DMP, the ability to track the progress of the application and increased certainty about when an application will be finalised. The above DMP timeline does not include the time taken by the native title expedited process.

DMP APPROVALS PERFORMANCE – THIRD 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 Note 2	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	
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	1,158	317	459	82	410	89%	1,016
- pre 1/1/09*		130		19				111
Exploration Licence	65	2,251	543	622	304	589	95%	2,172
- pre 1/1/09		390		65				325
Mining Lease	65	186	21	17	6	12	71%	190
- pre 1/1/09		470		54				416
Others (Miscellaneous, General Purpose, Retention Licence)	65	490	67	150	95	144	96%	407
- pre 1/1/09		136		14				122
Exploration and mining applications								
Programme of Work	30	306	526	571	28	538	94%	261
Mining Proposal	30	124	63	77	27	49	64%	110
Native Veg. Clearing Permit	60 calendar days*	48	47	65	8	49	75%	30
Note: DMP assess resource sector native vegetation clearing permit applications via a delegation from Department of Environment Regulation. *DMP's approval performance target is to achieve greater than 80 per cent of applications finalised within 60 calendar days.								
Mine safety applications								
Project Management Plan	30	13	12	16	1	16	100%	9
Radiation Mngt. Plans	30	5	7	5	0	4	80%	7

Petroleum and Geothermal Sector								
Target Timeline (business days)	No. carried over from previous quarter Note 2	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	
Petroleum tenure and activity applications								
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	70	5	6	3	1	17%	69
Production Licence Retention Leases	90	8	0	0	0	0	0%	8
Pipeline Licences	90	4	1	1	1	1	100%	4
Surveys	40	32	14	16	2	11	58%	27
Wells	40	6	3	4	3	1	25%	5
Petroleum environmental applications								
Incorporates environmental management plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans.								
Environmental Plans	30	38	131	77	50	75	97%	92

Note 1: Approvals performance figures were calculated as per electronic data records effective 14 October 2013.

Note 2: An audit reconciliation process has resulted in changes to the carry over figures.