



Approvals Performance Report – First Quarter 2009

An efficient and timely approvals process for mining and petroleum projects is essential for guaranteeing the sustainability of the resources sector and the State's future prosperity. In recognising that the current system requires significant improvement, the Government has required key agencies to reconsider their current approaches.

The need for a more transparent system in which agencies measure and report on timelines for key approvals processes is considered to be an important aspect of reforming the current system.

The attached table is the first of the Department's quarterly reports on approvals performance. To distinguish our performance against factors outside our control, the time taken to complete processes do not take into account delays such as those due to Warden's Court objections, referrals to other government agencies, successive pegging and applicant inaction.

Past timeline management for mining tenement applications have been aimed at the overall time taken to process an application to the "Mining Act compliant" stage (i.e. completion of the process prior to native title negotiations). Implementation of a new mining tenement system will enable analysis of the Department's performance against internal processes for all applications received from 1 January 2009 and reporting will commence from the third quarter 2009.

Continuing improvement of our information systems will enable the provision of more comprehensive figures and trends in future reports, provide process tracking capabilities and advance the introduction of:

- online tracking of individual applications;
- online payments; and
- online application lodgement.

The Department will continue to strive to improve the transparency, certainty and timeliness of its approvals processes, and feedback on the utility of these reports to project proponents and the public is welcome.

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	Timeline target	No. carried over from previous quarter	No. received	No. approved	No. otherwise dealt with ¹	No. approved within timeline target	% approved within timeline target	No. carried over to next quarter
Mining Environmental Approvals²								
Programme of Work (exploration)	30 business days	145	294	236	32	215	91%	171
Mining Proposal	30 business days	132	64	50	18	30	60%	128
Petroleum Environmental Approvals²								
Environmental Plan	30 business days	15	29	26	10	24	92%	8
Environmental Management Plan	30 business days	17	13	8	5	7	88%	17
Oil Spill Contingency Plan	30 business days	8	1	3	2	1	33%	4
Mining Tenure Applications								
Prospecting Licence	65 business days	3046	313	660	166	This data will be reported from the third quarter 2009	This data will be reported from the third quarter 2009	2533
Exploration Licence	65 business days	4039	557	264	455			3877
Mining Lease	65 business days	2834	18	79	384			2389
Miscellaneous Licence	65 business days	429	30	22	9			428
General Purpose Lease	65 business days	120	17	4	1			132
Retention Licence	65 business days	12	0	0	1			11
Petroleum Tenure Applications								
Exploration Permit	120 business days	58	14	10	1	8	80%	61
Production Licence	90 business days	34	5	1	1	1	100%	37
Pipeline Licence	90 business days	21	5	4	0	2	50%	22
Well	40 business days	23	26	21	0	18	86%	28
Survey	40 business days	24	19	12	3	11	92%	28

1 Applications “otherwise dealt with” include those that have been refused, lapsed, rejected or withdrawn.

2 The Department of Environment and Conservation website will begin reporting on all Native Vegetation Clearing Permit statistics for the WA Government in May 2009. This will be available at www.dec.wa.gov.au