



Approvals Performance Report

During the March quarter 2014, the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) finalised the majority of key approval processes within the target timelines.

The department's electronic information systems recorded a total of 660 mineral tenure applications comprising 451 Exploration Licences, 153 Prospecting Licences, 36 Miscellaneous Licences, 15 Mining Leases, 4 Retention Licences and 1 General Purpose Lease. The department's Mineral Titles Division finalised 95 per cent of mineral exploration licence applications and 89 per cent of prospecting licences within the target of 65 business days.

DMP received 441 Programme of Work applications and 63 mining proposals. Ninety seven per cent of Programme of Work applications and 93 per cent of Mining Proposals were finalised within the target of 30 business days.

Forty seven Native Vegetation clearing permit applications were received by the Environment Division during this quarter. Seventy nine per cent of these applications were finalised within the target timeline of 60 calendar days.

The Department received 10 mine safety Project Management Plans (PMP's) during the December quarter. One Hundred per cent of PMP's and Radiation Management Plans were finalised within the target of 30 business days.

Petroleum safety approvals performance is a new addition to the Approvals Performance Report. New safety case/safety management systems have a statutory timeline of 90 calendar days and revised safety case/safety management systems have a statutory timeline of 30 calendar days. During the March quarter, 9 new and revised safety case, safety management system, diving safety and pipeline management plans were accepted by the Department. All of these petroleum safety plans were accepted within the statutory timeline.

The Department received 5 Petroleum Exploration Permit, Exploration Permit renewal, Pipeline Licence, survey and well applications for the quarter. Petroleum tenure, well and survey performance measures were below target timelines. Sixty per cent of survey applications and 75% per cent of petroleum pipeline licence applications were finalised within the target timelines. A total of 108 petroleum environment plans and oil spill contingency plans were received for planned petroleum activities in the State. Ninety one per cent of petroleum environmental plans were finalised within the target time.

Online lodgement

During the March quarter, the percentage of mineral and petroleum tenure applications lodged online were as follows:

- Prospecting Licences 25%
- Exploration Licences 70%
- Mining Leases 50%
- Miscellaneous Licence 67%
- Petroleum Exploration Permits 100%
- Petroleum Pipeline Licence 100%

During this period, the percentage of mining and petroleum activity applications lodged online were as follows:

- Mining Proposals 69%
- Programme of Work (Exploration) 100%
- Programme of Work (Prospecting) 0%
- Petroleum Environment Plans 71%
- Resource Safety Project Management Plans 100%
- Petroleum Well applications 100%

Since the introduction of DMP online lodgement facilities for key mining and petroleum approval processes, the level of resource sector uptake has steadily increased. In this quarter over 70% of all mining and petroleum applications were lodged online.

Online lodgement enables more efficient processing of applications for government. It provides the basis for approvals tracking for proponents, more certainty of process and, compared to paper based applications, a reduction in approval timelines. The Department is committed to progressively phasing out paper based applications by mid-2016.

DMP APPROVALS PERFORMANCE – FIRST QUARTER 2014

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
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	891	153	231	25	206	89%	813
- pre 1/1/09*		88		3				85
Exploration Licence	65	2207	451	569	331	542	95%	2089
- pre 1/1/09		294		114				180
Mining Lease	65	219	15	52	27	41	79%	182
- pre 1/1/09		425		12				413
Others (Miscellaneous, General Purpose, Retention Licence)	65	385	41	55	8	53	96%	371
- pre 1/1/09		122		13				109
Exploration and mining applications								
Programme of Work	30	175	441	408	28	397	97%	208
Mining Proposal	30	94	63	58	12	54	93%	99
Native Veg. Clearing Permit	60*	33	47	47	6	37	79%	33
Note: DMP assess resource sector native vegetation clearing permit applications via a delegation from the 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	15	10	13	0	13	100%	12
Radiation Mngt. Plans	30	3	1	1	0	1	100%	3

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
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, geothermal tenure applications and survey applications. Wells include petroleum applications and Greenhouse gas applications.								
Exploration Permits	120	85	2	2	0	0	0%	85
Production Licence	90	8	0	0	0	0	0%	8
Retention Leases								
Pipeline Licences	90	8	1	4	1	3	75%	5
Wells	40	3	1	0	0	0	0%	4
Surveys	40	24	1	5	2	3	60%	20
Petroleum environmental and safety applications								
Incorporates environmental management plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans.								
Environmental Plans	30	88	108	123	80	108	91%	73
New Safety Case/SMS	90*	0	4	4	0	4	100%	0
Revised Safety Case/SMS	30*	0	5	5	0	5	100%	0

Note 1: * Denotes calendar days instead of business days.

Note 2: Effective 1 January 2014, the Department introduced Petroleum Safety Case, Safety Management Systems and related plans to the Report.

Note 3: A reconciliation process has resulted in minor changes to some carry over data