

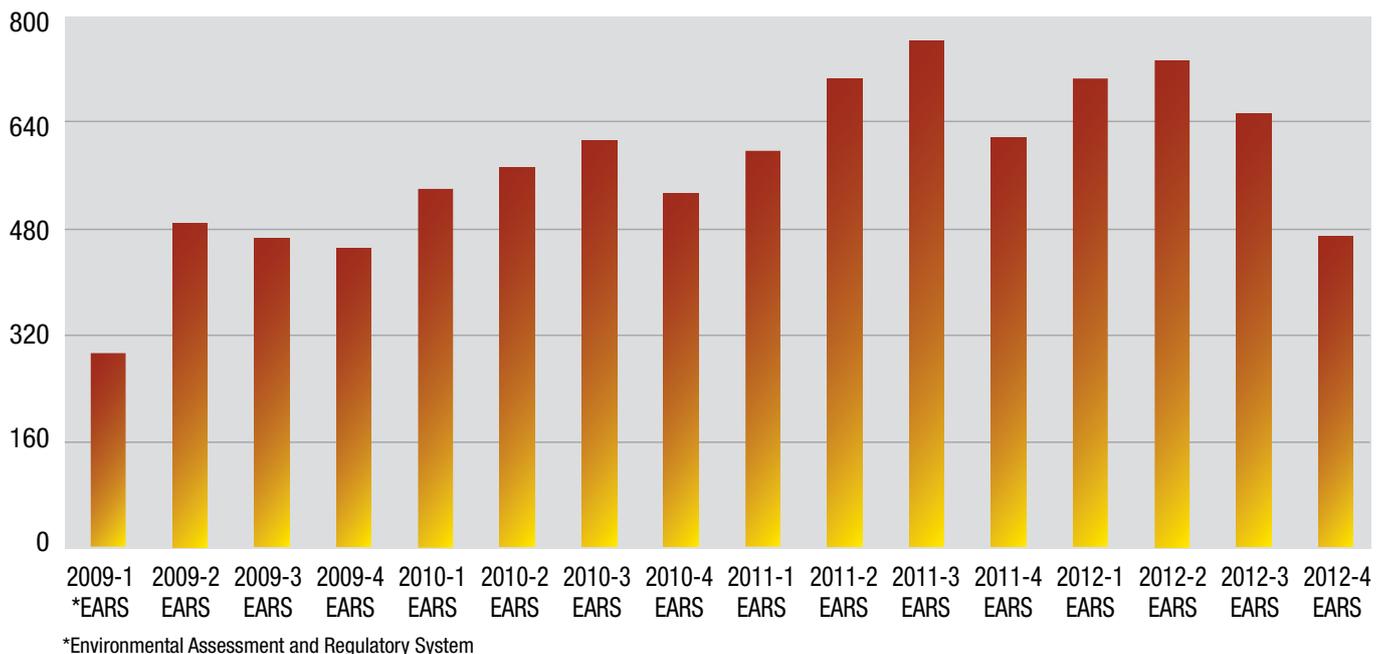


Approvals Performance Report

During the December 2012 quarter, the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) received a total of 1025 mineral tenure applications comprising 517 Exploration Licences, 415 Prospecting Licences, 69 Miscellaneous Licences, 16 Mining Leases and eight General Purpose Leases. This represents a 21 per cent increase in the number of applications received in the previous quarter. The department finalised 98 per cent of Exploration Licence applications within the target of 65 business days. 472 Programme of Work applications and 78 Mining Proposals were received during this quarter. 89 per cent of Programme of Work applications and 96 per cent of Mining Proposals were finalised within the target of 30 business days. The department employed a specialised team that developed protocols addressing long standing applications for mining leases stalled in the future act right to negotiate procedure of the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*. Consequently 147 pre January 2009 Mining Lease applications were determined in the quarter.

The number of mineral prospecting and exploration applications (Programmes of Work) decreased from 653 in the previous quarter to 472 in the fourth quarter. This decreasing trend in mineral prospecting and exploration activity from record levels of exploration activity during the last two years reflects uncertain global market conditions and the high costs of operating in WA. The graph below illustrates the number of Programmes of Work (9212) received by the department from 1Q 2009 to 4Q 2012.

MINERAL EXPLORATION – PROGRAMMES OF WORK
1Q 2009 – 4Q 2012



The department received 65 native vegetation clearing permit applications during this quarter. Sixty-one per cent of native vegetation clearing permit applications was assessed with 60 calendar days.

The department received 40 petroleum applications and renewals. Eighty-nine per cent of petroleum well applications were finalised within 40 working days however, aspects of petroleum tenure and surveys were well below target timelines and continue to perform below expectations. The department is reviewing petroleum tenure processes to address this issue. A total of 72 petroleum Environment Plans, bridging documents and Oil Spill Contingency Plans were received for planned petroleum activities in the State. Ninety-nine per cent of petroleum Environmental Plans were finalised within the target of 30 business days.

The department received 14 mine safety Project Management Plans and four Radiation Management Plans (RMPs) during the fourth quarter. Three RMPs exceeded the target of 30 business days and the reason for the delays is being reviewed. One hundred per cent of Project Management Plans were assessed within the target of 30 business days.

2012 approval performance summary

During 2012 DMP received a total of 7048 mining, petroleum and geothermal applications. These comprised 3593 mining tenure applications, 2875 mining environmental applications, 483 petroleum and geothermal tenure and environmental applications and 97 mining safety applications. On average, the department finalised 82 per cent of applications within target timelines.

Online lodgement and approvals tracking

During 2012, DMP continued its expansion of online lodgement services to petroleum environment and resource safety applications. During this period, 28 per cent of petroleum environmental applications and 71 per cent of resource safety applications were lodged online. Fifty-six per cent of all mineral Exploration Licence applications and 46 per cent of all Mining Proposals were lodged online. Online lodgement provides more certainty and reduces approval timelines for proponents and reduces administrative handling and costs for government.

Since introducing online lodgement and approvals tracking in 2010, the majority (94 per cent) of DMP's key approval processes are now available online.

Annual environmental reports online

DMP has continued to expand its online application lodgement services. On the 14 December 2012, DMP released the Annual Environmental Report (AER) online system on its website. There are now over 100 registered industry users of the system.

The online system provides industry with the ability to track the progress of their AER both during the submission and assessment processes. It also provides an up to date electronic database for AERs which can be accessed from anywhere in the world at any time.

The online submission of AERs forms part of our commitment to continually improve project approval services and decision making transparency.

Petroleum acreage lease bidding online

The department released its latest online lodgement module for the submission of acreage release bids. The online bidding system was officially launched at the Petroleum and Geothermal Open Day on 6 September 2012 where a number of detailed demonstrations and information sessions were held for approximately 150 attendees. Feedback received from industry and other government agencies was very encouraging and highly complementary.

Benefits of the module are:

- bids for Exploration Permits and Drilling Reservations can be lodged, paid for and tracked online;
- bids can be lodged from anywhere in the world;
- a decrease in the time taken to manually enter applications into the system;
- a reduction in data entry errors;
- the creation of a seamless process from the lodgement of a bid to the refusal of an application or acceptance of a title;
- linkages between various application types (e.g. SPA to an Exploration Permit or Drilling Reservation) to show the history of the titles and blocks.

DMP APPROVALS PERFORMANCE – FOURTH QUARTER 2012

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, 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	1258	415	297	73	294	99%	1376
- pre 1/1/09		166		16				150
Exploration Licence	65	2530	517	506	246	498	98%	2541
- pre 1/1/09		496		56				440
Mining Lease	65	211	16	34	5	32	94%	193
- pre 1/1/09		707		147				560
Others (Miscellaneous, General Purpose, Retention Licence)	65	553	77	82	50	82	100%	548
- pre 1/1/09		168		17				151
Exploration and mining applications								
Programme of Work	30	409	472	554	41	488	88%	327
Mining Proposal	30	185	77	74	15	61	82%	188
Native Veg. Clearing Permit	60 calendar days*	48	65	70	7	43	61%	43
Note: DMP assess resource sector native vegetation clearing permit applications via a delegation from Department of Environment and Conservation. *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	7	14	8	1	8	100%	13
Radiation Mngt. Plans	30	0	4	3	0	0	0%	1

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 and survey applications								
Exploration Permits	120	35	25	3	3	0	0%	57
Production Licence	90	21	0	0	0	0	–	21
Retention Leases	90	18	1	0	0	0	–	19
Pipeline Licences	40	24	5	9	4	8	89%	20
Wells	40	49	9	13	7	4	31%	45
Surveys								
Petroleum environmental applications								
Incorporates environmental management plans, bridging documents and oil spill contingency plans.								
Environmental Plans	30	62	72	74	46	73	99%	60