



Approvals Performance Report – Third Quarter 2009

The Department of Mines and Petroleum is pleased to present the third quarterly report on its approvals performance. The results show generally positive trends against key approval target timelines.

In particular, mining proposal environmental assessments improved from 68 per cent completed within 30 business days in the second quarter to 76 per cent in the third quarter. The number of pending mining tenure applications is also continuing its downward trend, now standing at a total of 8698, albeit at a slower rate in comparison to that seen in the second quarter.

Mixed results, however, were produced in relation to petroleum and geothermal tenure applications. The results reflect resourcing during this quarter being focused on reducing the number of pending tenements for licences and permits.

The results also show that the level of activity in relation to minerals exploration has increased in recent months, with continuing high numbers of applications received for Programmes of Work and Exploration Licences.

Continual enhancements to the Department's information management systems are seen as the key to delivering substantial improvements in the efficiency of processes for mining and petroleum applications. The current priority is to deliver planned improvements which will allow for the online lodgement of applications and proposals, and expanding the provision of online payments.

In recent months the Department has been working with industry to enable electronic lodgement for Programmes of Work and petroleum pipeline applications. This facility is expected to be made available to industry by November this year and will be a major step towards automating the receipt and assessment of applications.

While electronic tracking is now in place for all the key approvals, further improvements planned for the coming months will result in greater levels of transparency for the Department's approval processes. This supports the recommendation of the Auditor General's report *Improving Resource Project Approvals* (October 2008) for agencies to use data and management systems more effectively to manage approval processes.

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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 ²	% approved within timeline target	No. carried over to next quarter
Mining Environmental Approvals^{3,4}								
Programme of Work (exploration)	30 business days	229	470	457	47	437	96%	195
Mining Proposal	30 business days	112	82	51	29	39	76%	114
Petroleum Environmental Approvals^{3,4}								
Environmental Plan	30 business days	4	21	19	3	18	95%	4
Environmental Management Plan	30 business days	7	16	9	10	9	100%	4
Oil Spill Contingency Plan	30 business days	2	3	3	2	3	100%	0
Mining Tenure Applications^{4, 5}								
Prospecting Licence	65 business days	2361	379	344	191	76	98%	2205
Exploration Licence	65 business days	3895	819	267	365	33	100%	4082
Mining Lease	65 business days	2105	39	78	199	1	100%	1867
Miscellaneous Licence	65 business days	410	41	45	9	3	100%	397
General Purpose Lease	65 business days	137	7	6	4	3	75%	134
Retention Licence	65 business days	12	1	0	0	0	–	13
Petroleum and Geothermal Tenure Applications⁶								
Exploration Permit	120 business days	79	6	25	3	24	96%	57
Production Licence Retention Lease	90 business days	42	10	17	4	7	41%	31
Pipeline Licence	90 business days	16	13	12	1	5	42%	16
Well	40 business days	22	25	15	4	14	93%	28
Survey	40 business days	24	19	5	4	3	60%	34

Explanatory notes:

- 1 Applications “otherwise dealt with” include those that have been refused, lapsed, rejected or withdrawn.
- 2 All approvals timelines under are subject to the ‘Stop the Clock’ mechanism, whereby the timeline target is adjusted to not include the time taken by processes outside DMP’s control, such as referrals to other government agencies, during a prescribed public comment period or where additional information has been requested from applicants.
- 3 The Department of Environment and Conservation website began reporting on all Native Vegetation Clearing Permit statistics for the WA Government in May 2009. This will be available at <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au>
- 4 Some discrepancies between the number of applications carried over to the next quarter may occur due to ongoing auditing of pending applications.
- 5 For mining tenure applications, the number approved within the timeline target only applies to applications received since 1 January 2009.
- 6 Includes grant or renewal of Exploration Permits, Production Licences and Retention Leases; grant, renewal or variation of Pipeline Licences; “Surveys” incorporate Special Prospecting/Access Authorities and Scientific Investigations.