

# Department of Mines and Petroleum's third quarterly report reveals improvements



The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) has shown a number of positive trends against key approval target timelines in its third quarterly report.

The department's Director General Richard Sellers said the DMP had continued its efforts to streamline the approvals system.

"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," he said.

The number of pending mining tenure applications had also continued downward – although that trend had slowed slightly – to currently stand at 8698.

The third quarter figures are available on the department's website and reveal that within the target timeline:

- 100 per cent of petroleum environmental approvals for management plans and oil spill contingency plans were approved within the 30 day target;
- 96 per cent of petroleum and geothermal tenure applications for exploration permits were approved within the 120 day target.

Mr Sellers said the figures showed that the DMP had continued to make significant progress in improving the approvals processes.

"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 programs of work and exploration licences," he said.

Mr Sellers said development of the DMP's information management capabilities had substantially helped improve the processing of mining and petroleum applications.

"The current priority is to deliver improvements which will allow the online lodgement of applications and proposals, and expanding the provision of online payments," he said.

"In recent months the DMP has worked with industry to enable electronic lodgement for programs 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."

He said while electronic tracking was now in place for all the key approvals, further improvements in the coming months would 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.

The latest performance report can be seen at: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/7436.aspx>