

SUMMARY OF KEY REFORMS

JULY 2020 – NOVEMBER 2024

Improved coordination, data and reporting

- **Coordinator General function established** to coordinate approvals reform efforts, improve customer service, cross agency collaboration, and provide integrated reporting for better oversight and accountability.
- **Performance Measurement Tranche 1 & 2** - analysis of average approval timeframes for certain project types to inform decision making.

Systems and process initiatives to improve the customer experience

- **Fast Track Mining Approvals Strategy – Stream 1** – reduced assessment timeframes through additional resourcing and people/cultural enhancements.
- **Occupational Licences (Lodge and Pay – Phase 1)** - enables applicants to submit licence applications and supporting information online and securely pay application fees.
- **Online Aquaculture Management and Reporting System** – provides more efficient reporting for approximately 400 aquaculture businesses.
- **Biodiversity Data Repository (BIO) (Dandjoo)** - stores and shares data from a range of sources including proponent submissions provided for regulatory purposes.
- **Environment Online** – Environmental Protection Authority's foundation supporting environmental impact assessment activities under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* went live in August 2022.
- **Small Business Friendly Approvals Program** – in partnership with 20 local governments. Implementation of the program by local governments makes it easier, faster and less costly for small businesses to establish and increase their productivity.
- **Approvals WA** – a virtual one stop shop established on wa.gov.au and administered by agencies to help proponents to navigate the approvals process across a range of project types.
- **Tourism Approvals Pilot Project** – streamlined and improved assessment processes for tourism activities and tourism developments in the Swan Canning Development Control Area.

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- **Tourism Approvals Mapping Project** – improved the management of commercial tourism operations and uses on lands and waters managed under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.
- **Improved Scientific Use Licensing** - streamlined the regulatory requirements under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* with respect to scientific licensing and permits.
- **New risk assessment tool** – to reduce processing time by 50 per cent for more than 400 low-risk proposals to take or disturb threatened species and ecological communities each year.
- **Reduced reporting burden pilot project** – stopped or halved the environmental reporting requirements for lower risk industries affecting more than 60 per cent (n. 600) of eligible licences (Part V of the EP Act).
- **Green energy approvals Initiative** - established a dedicated Green Approvals Team at DWER and Green Energy Major Projects Facilitation team at JTSI to deliver efficient approvals processing for renewable energy projects, while preserving the unique environmental biodiversity of Western Australia.

Enhanced capability in risk-based practice and to support process change

- **Four Common Understanding Workshops or events held** - to improve communication, culture and capability of frontline approvals and assessment officers.

Legislative reform to improve efficiency and simplify approvals

Since July 2020, **11 Acts have been enacted** and are being or substantially* implemented.

- *Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2020**
- *Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2024**
- *Land and Public Works Legislation Amendment Act 2023*
- *Local Government Amendment Act 2023**
- *Mining Amendment Act 2022*
- *Mining Amendment Act (No. 2) 2022*
- *Petroleum Legislation Amendment Act 2024*
- *Planning and Development Amendment Act 2020**
- *Planning and Development Amendment Act 2022*
- *Planning and Development Amendment Act 2023**
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment*