



Department of Energy, Mines,
Industry Regulation and Safety

Quarter 1 | 2025

DEMIRS Approvals Performance Reporting (Mining and Petroleum) March quarter 2025

The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) is committed to transparency in its approval performance, which helps drive continuous improvement and assists industry planning.

During the March 2025 quarter, the mining and petroleum sectors showed varied performance across different approval categories. Despite high demand, there were positive trends in Programme of Work, mining proposal, and native vegetation clearing permits. Significant improvements were noted in the processing times for mining lease and well activities.

However, radiation management plan approvals were impacted during the quarter by one application taking an unusually long time to finalise.

Overall, DEMIRS acknowledges the factors affecting assessment and approval timeframes and is actively pursuing reforms to alleviate pressure on the approval process and enhance processing timeframes for the industry.

Andrew Chaplyn

Deputy Director General
Resource and Environmental Regulation Group

Performance summary

Key highlights and changes for the percentage of applications finalised within target timelines for the December 2024 to March 2025 quarters include:

- mining lease performance increased from 73 to 100 per cent;
- radiation management plans decreased from 100 to 50 per cent; and
- petroleum well activities increased from 85 to 99 per cent.

The average total timeline is the time taken in the assessment process by DEMIRS, the proponent and where applicable, other government agencies. Other agency input may be required for complex applications, particularly if access is required to culturally important or environmentally sensitive areas.

The DEMIRS performance objective is to finalise 80 per cent of applications within the target timeline. Departmental performance is measured against a range of administrative and statutory targets. For example, the DEMIRS target for finalising a mineral exploration programme of work application is 15 business days (BD). The “speedo” dashboard graphics used in this report represent performance against each approval type for the quarter.

The segment titled parallel processing shows the number of overlap days where an application was on hold for both the proponent and another agency.

Most mineral and petroleum tenure applications are subject to the requirements of the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*. These applications include a four-month notification period (around 80 business days) prescribed under S29 of this Act. This period is included as part of the “Other agencies” component for mineral and petroleum tenure applications.

For further explanation of the above, refer to the Exploration License section (page 4). The average total timeline to finalise an exploration license application is 343 business days (approximately 17 months). This consists of DEMIRS processing time (39 days), proponent time (28 days) and other agencies (253 days). There were 23 days of parallel processing. Ninety-four per cent of exploration licence applications were finalised within the target for DEMIRS processing time of 65 business days. *Native Title Act 1993* requirements represent the majority of this timeline (approximately 12 months).

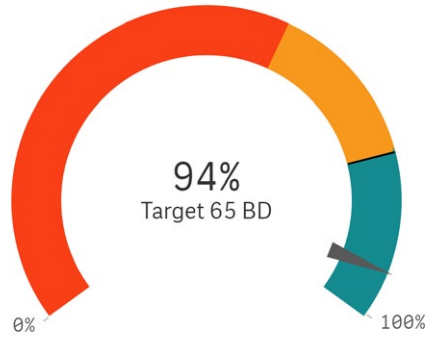
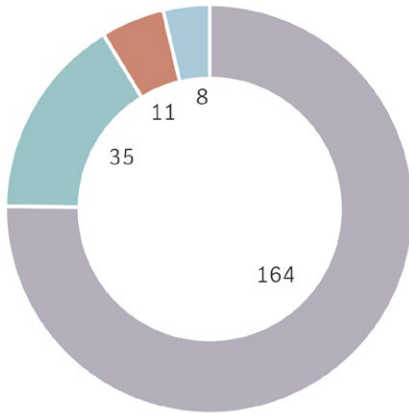
This report provides detailed information about the number of received, finalised and open applications.

Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Prospecting Licence

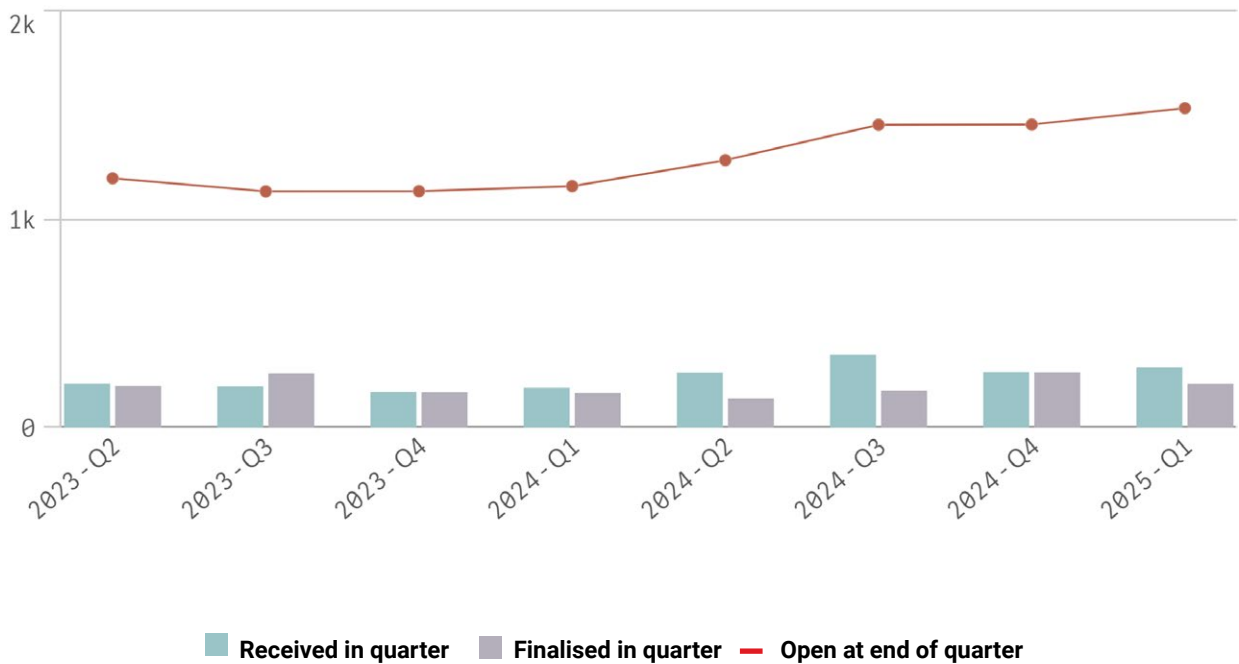
Average **218** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

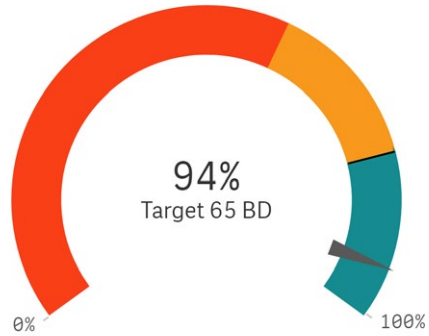
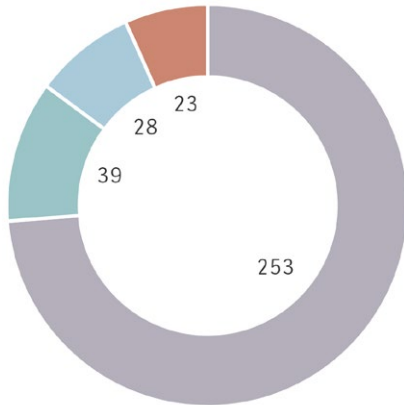


Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Exploration Licence

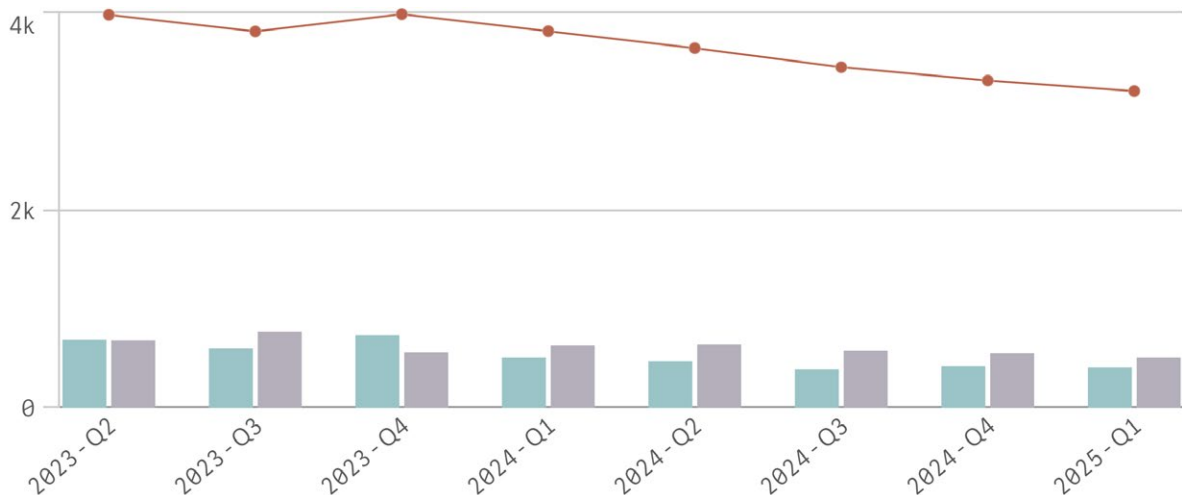
Average **343** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open



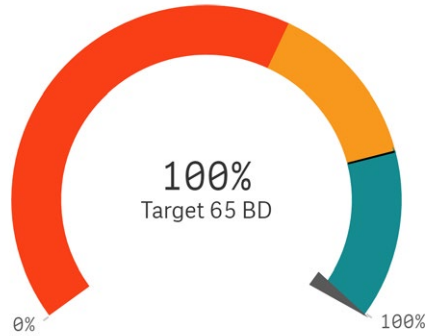
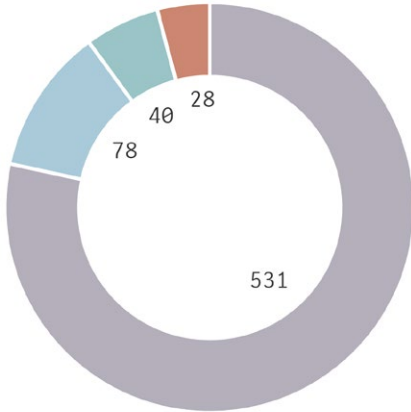
■ Received in quarter
 ■ Finalised in quarter
 — Open at end of quarter

Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Mining Lease

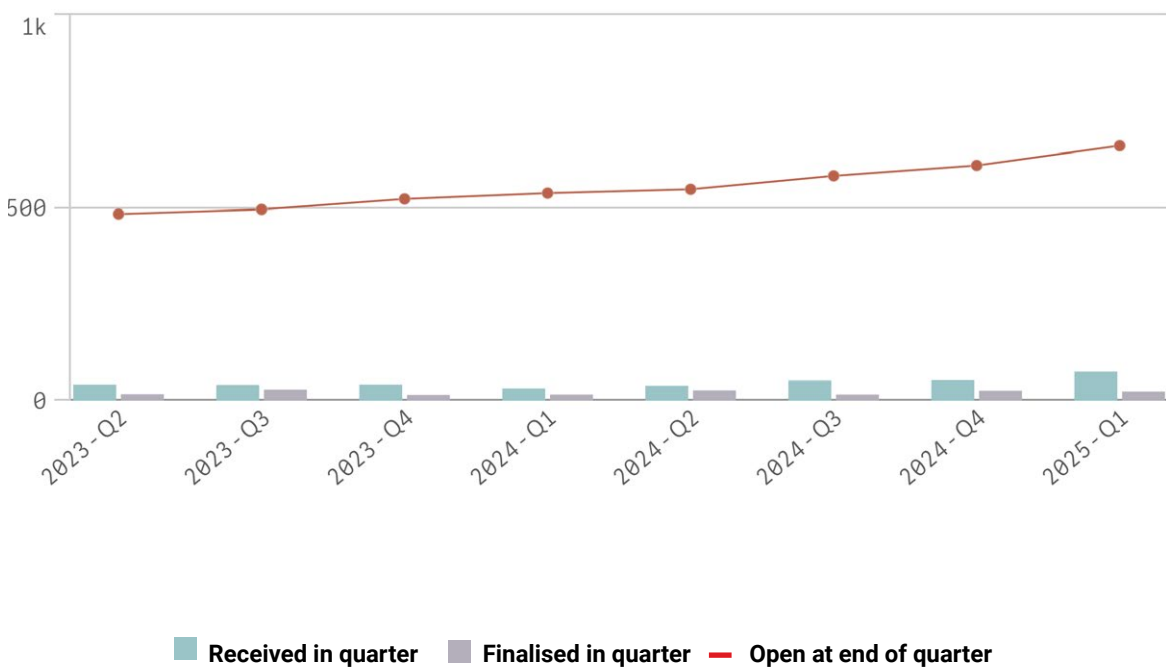
Average **677** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

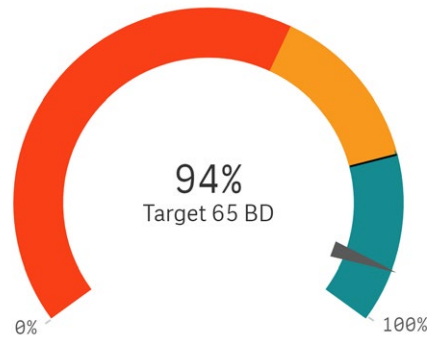
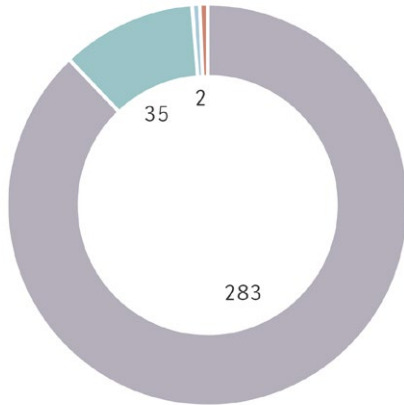


Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Miscellaneous Licence and other tenure

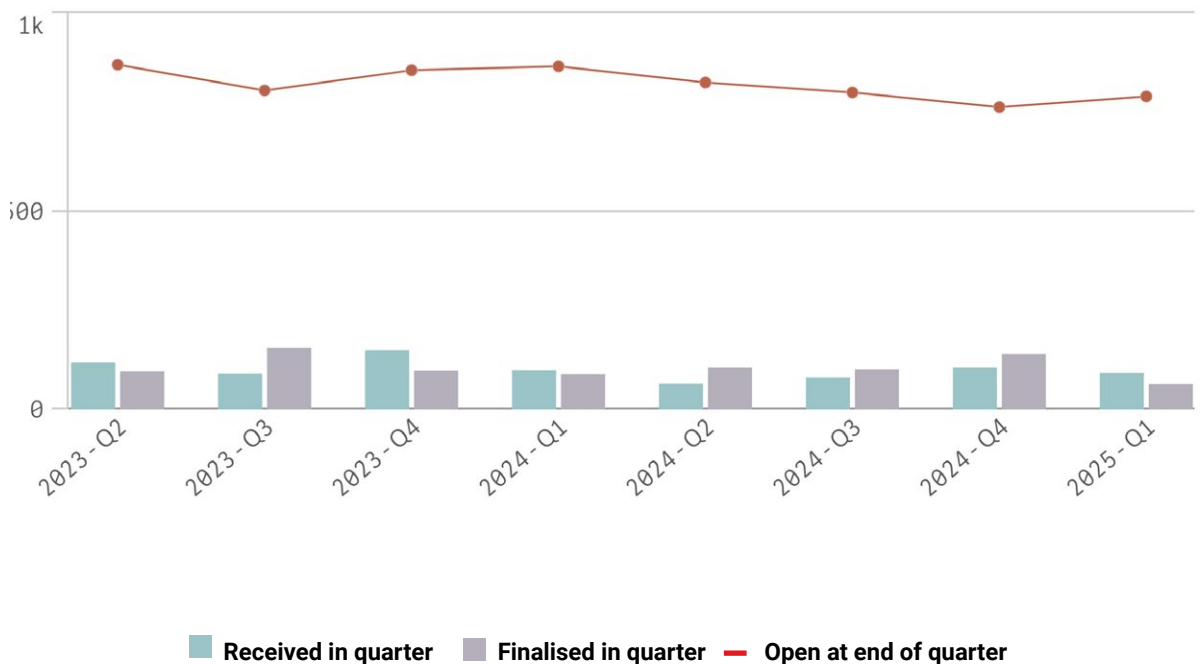
Average **322** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

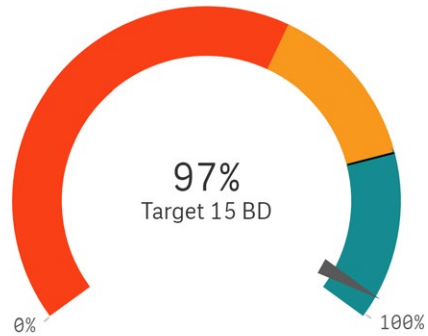
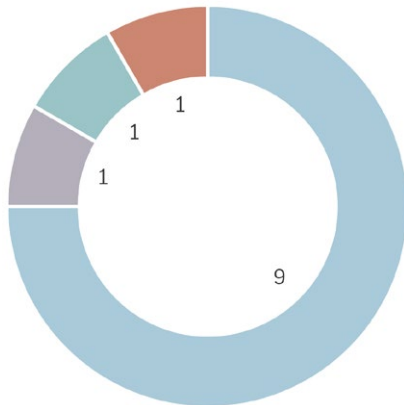


Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

Programme of Work

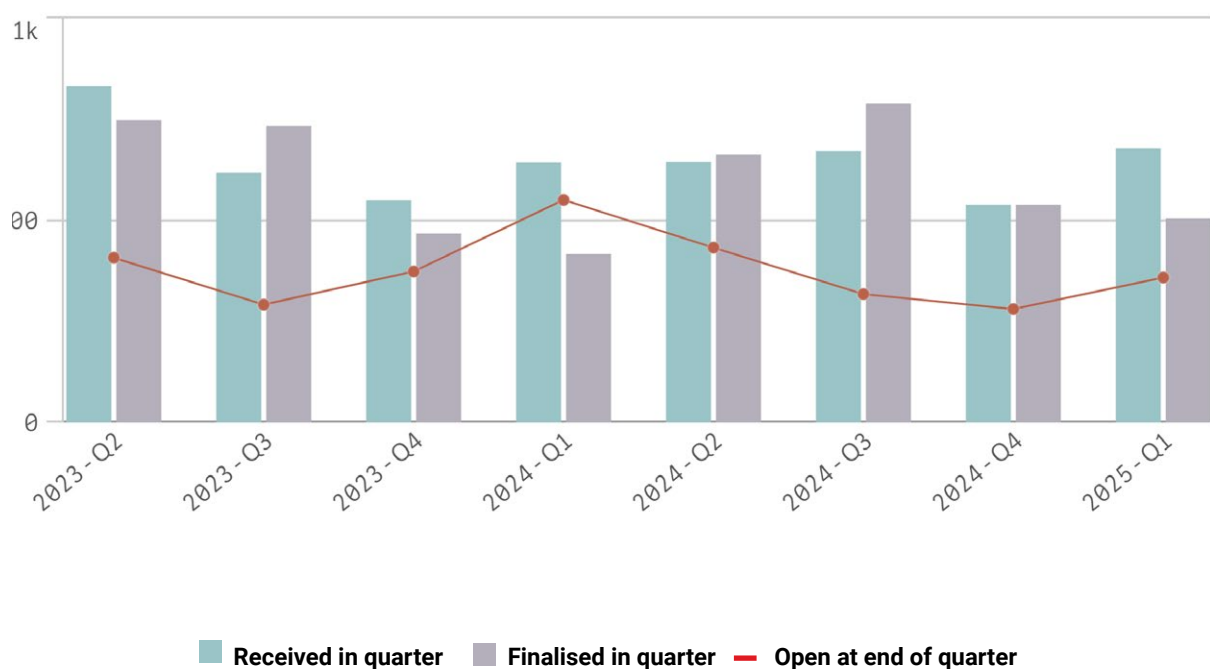
Average **12** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
 ■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

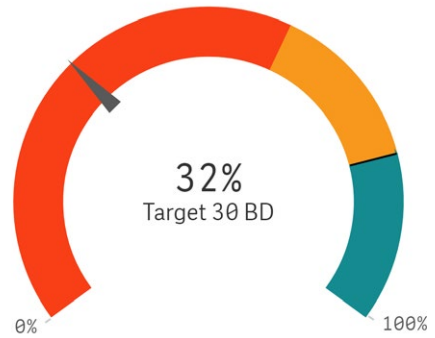
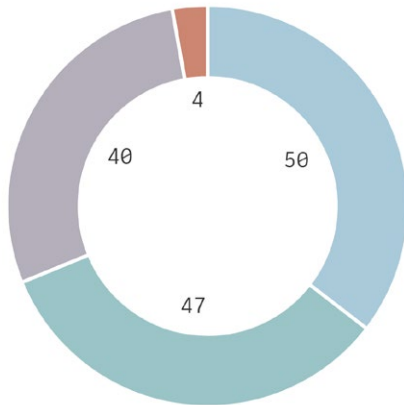


Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

Mining Proposal

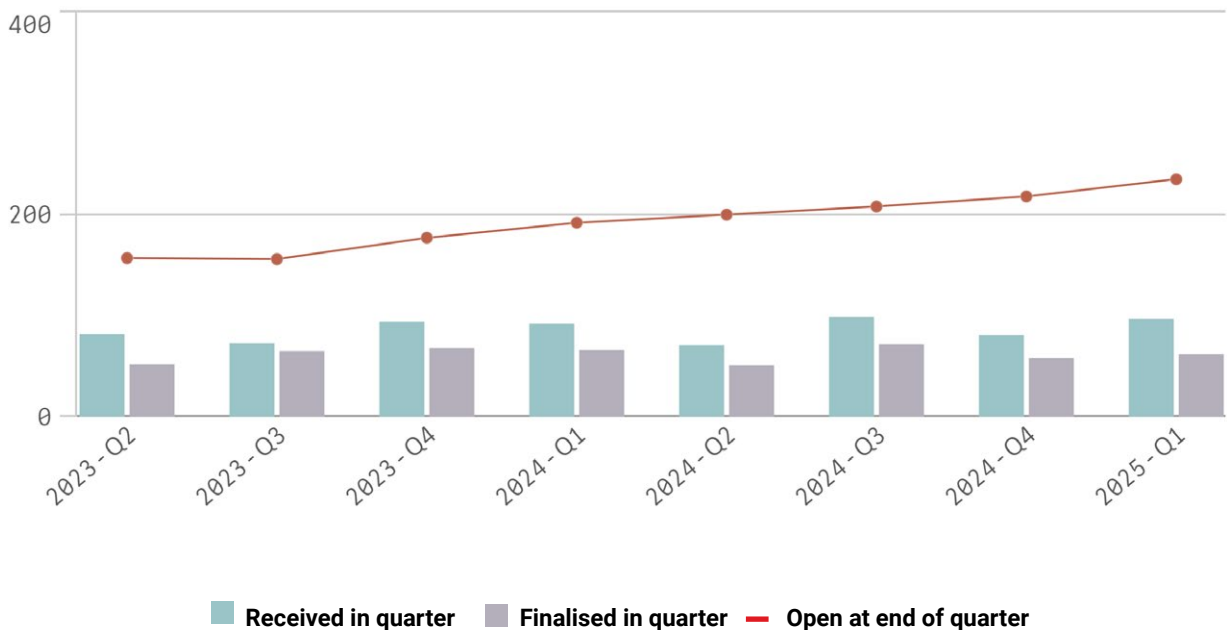
Average **141** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

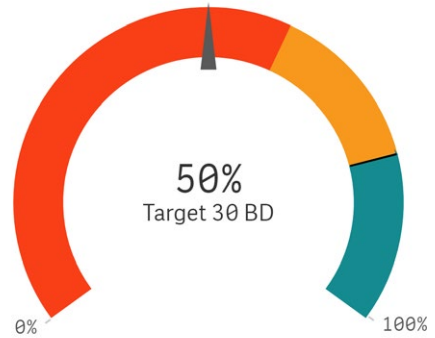
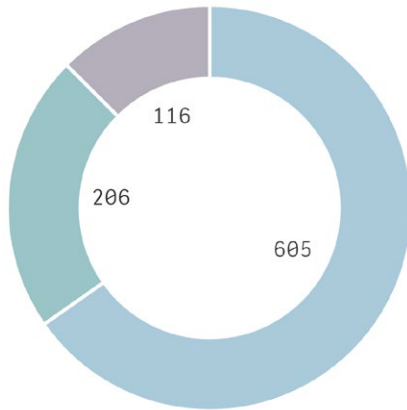


Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022

Radiation Management Plans

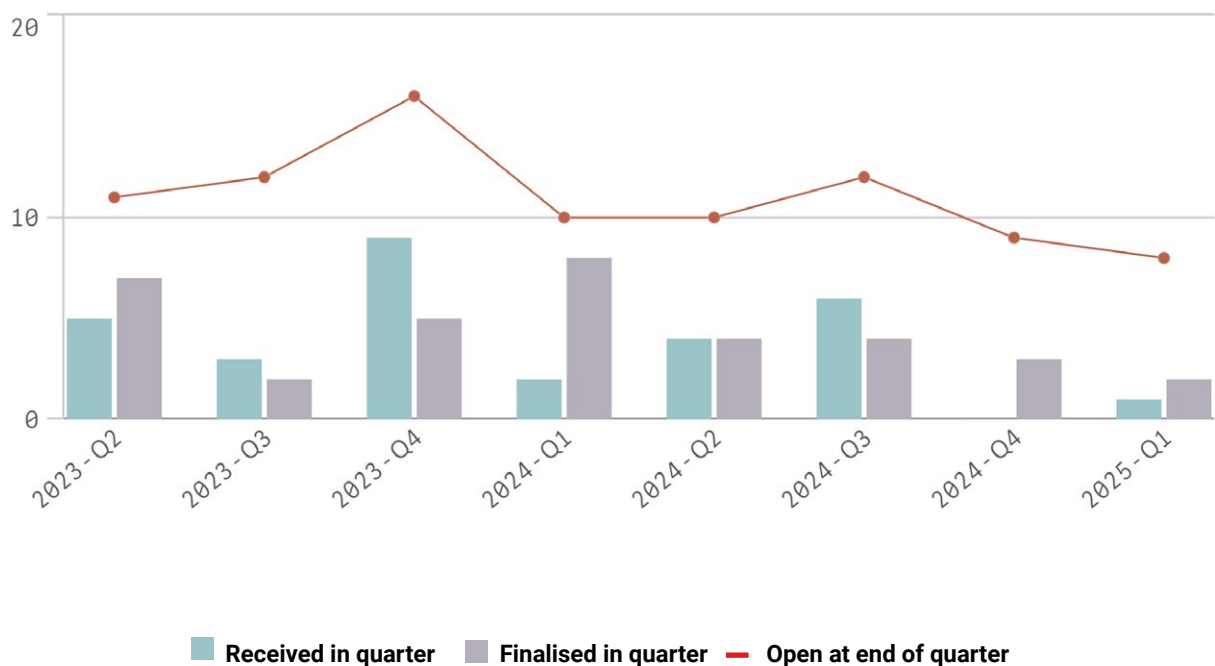
Average **927** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing ■ Proponent ■ Other Agencies

Trends for received, finalised and open

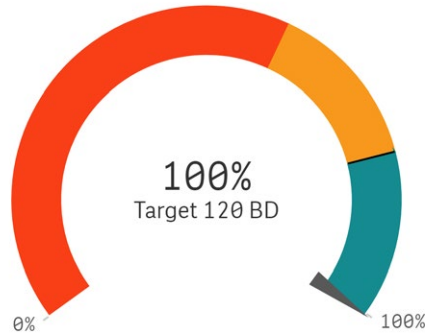
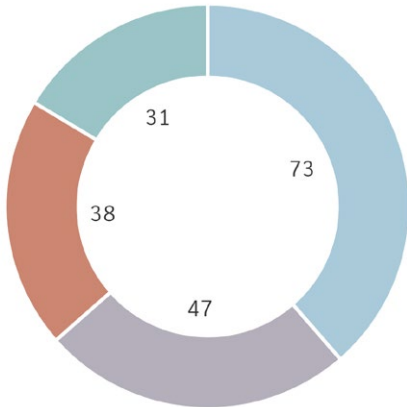


WA Petroleum Legislation

Petroleum Tenure

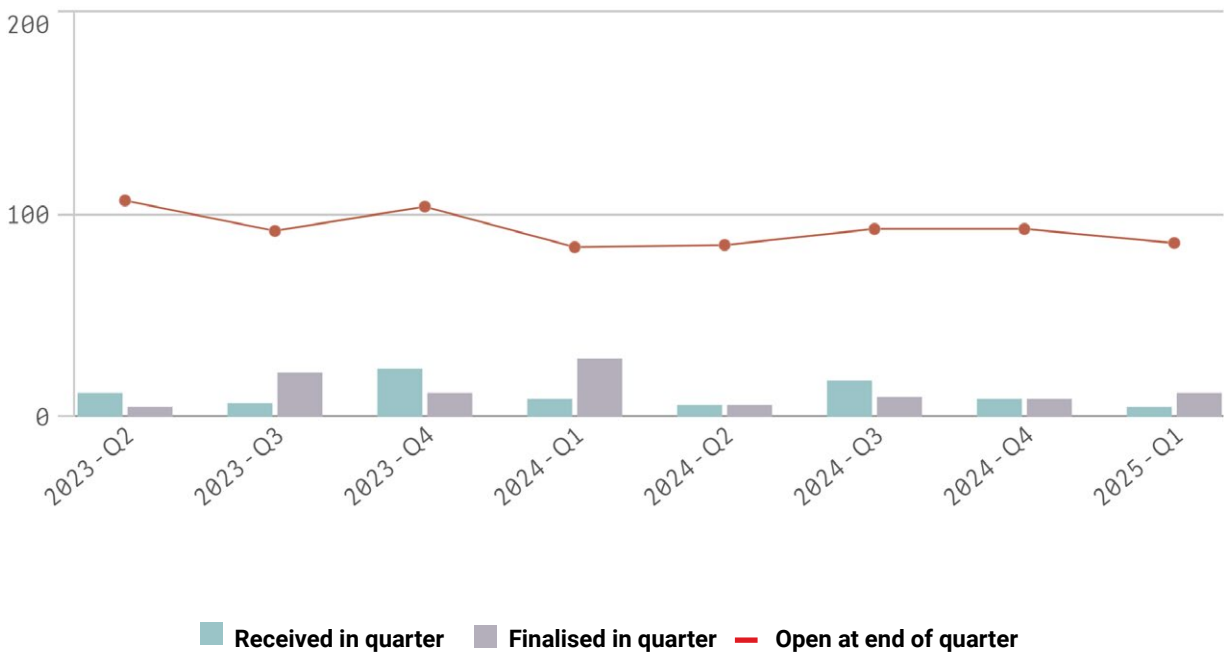
Average **189** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



- DEMIRS Licensing
- Proponent
- Other Agencies
- Parallel Processing

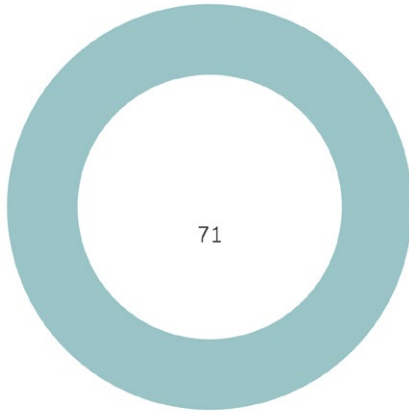
Trends for received, finalised and open



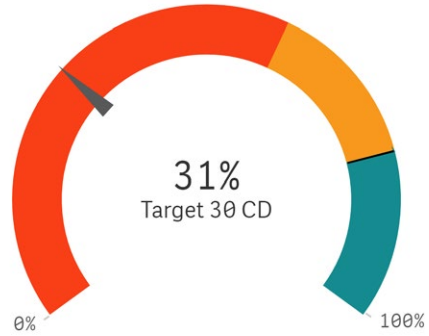
WA Petroleum Legislation

Petroleum Environment Plans

Average **71** days total

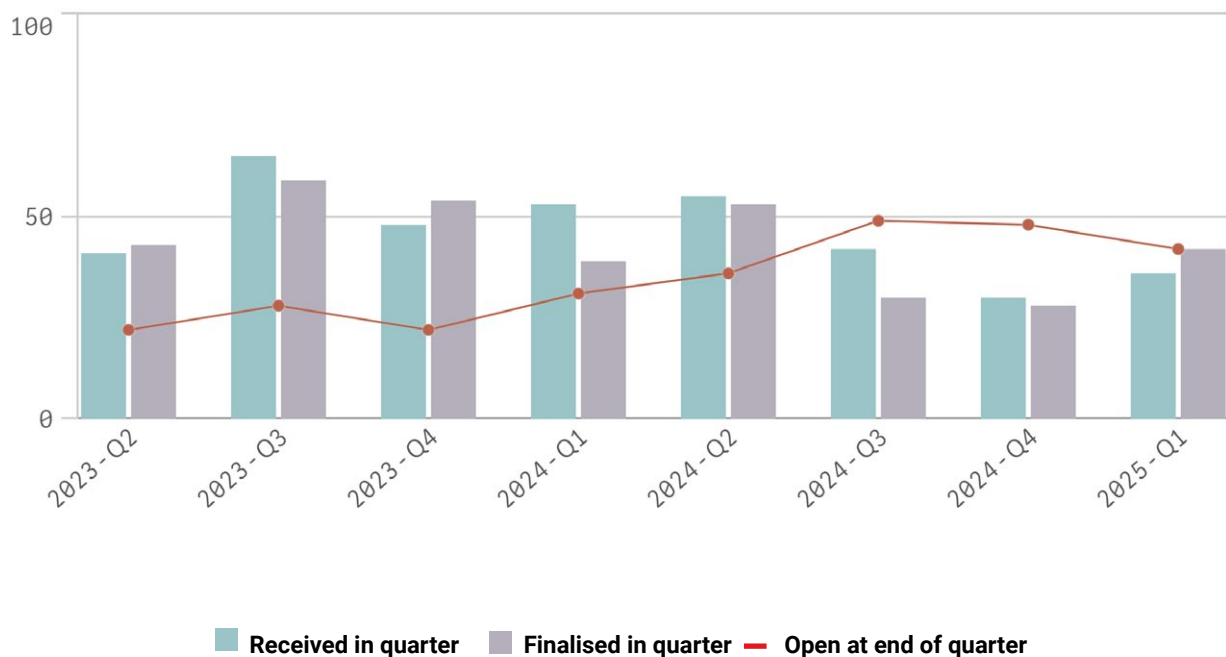


% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS

Trends for received, finalised and open

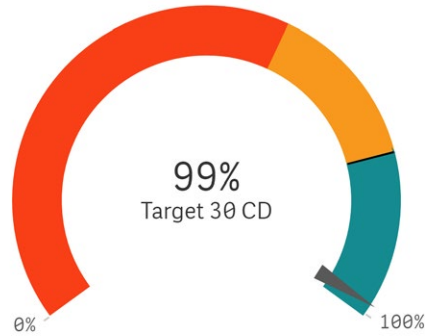
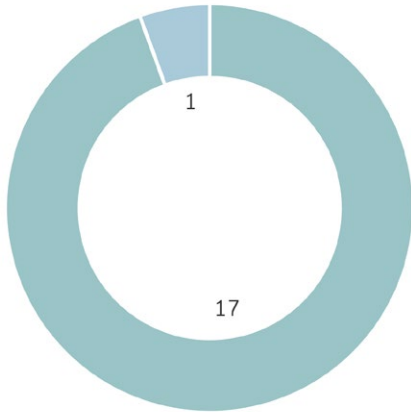


WA Petroleum Legislation

Well Activities

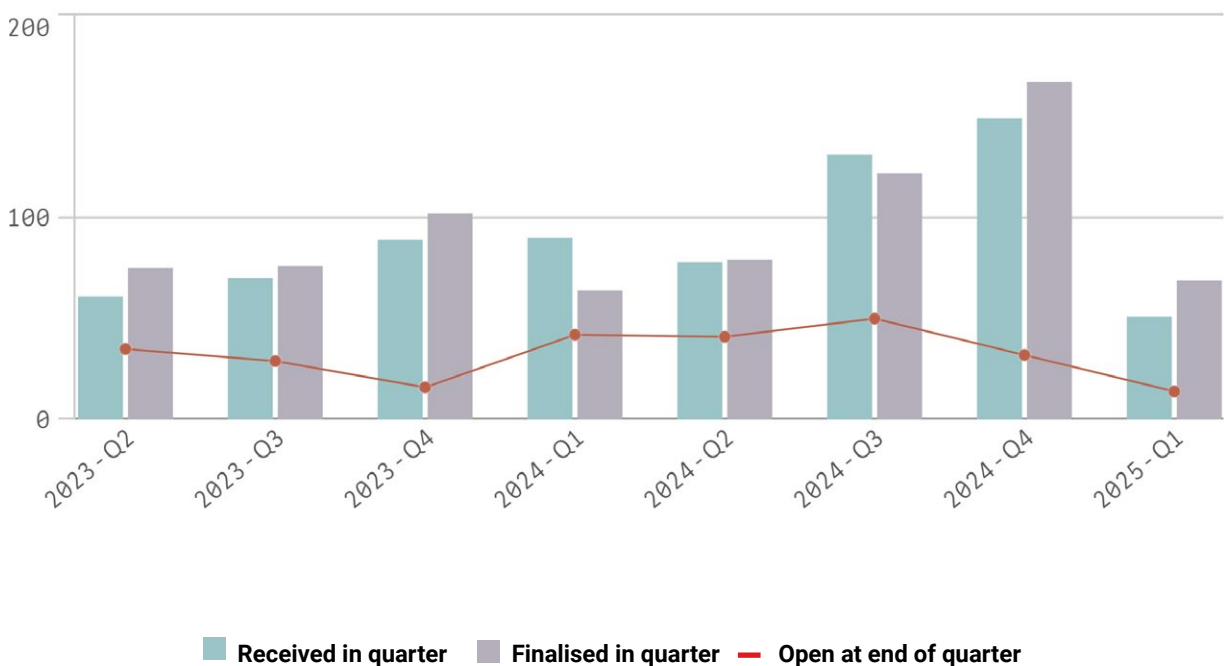
Average **18** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing ■ Proponent

Trends for received, finalised and open

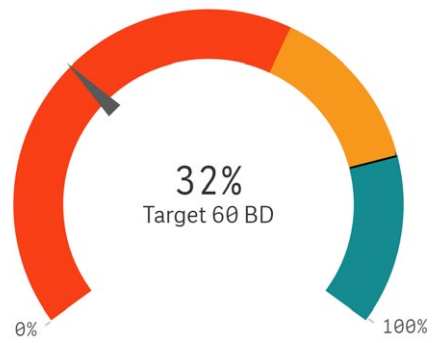
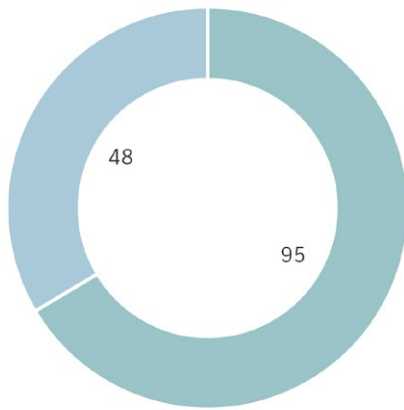


WA Environmental Protection Act 1986

Native vegetation clearing permits

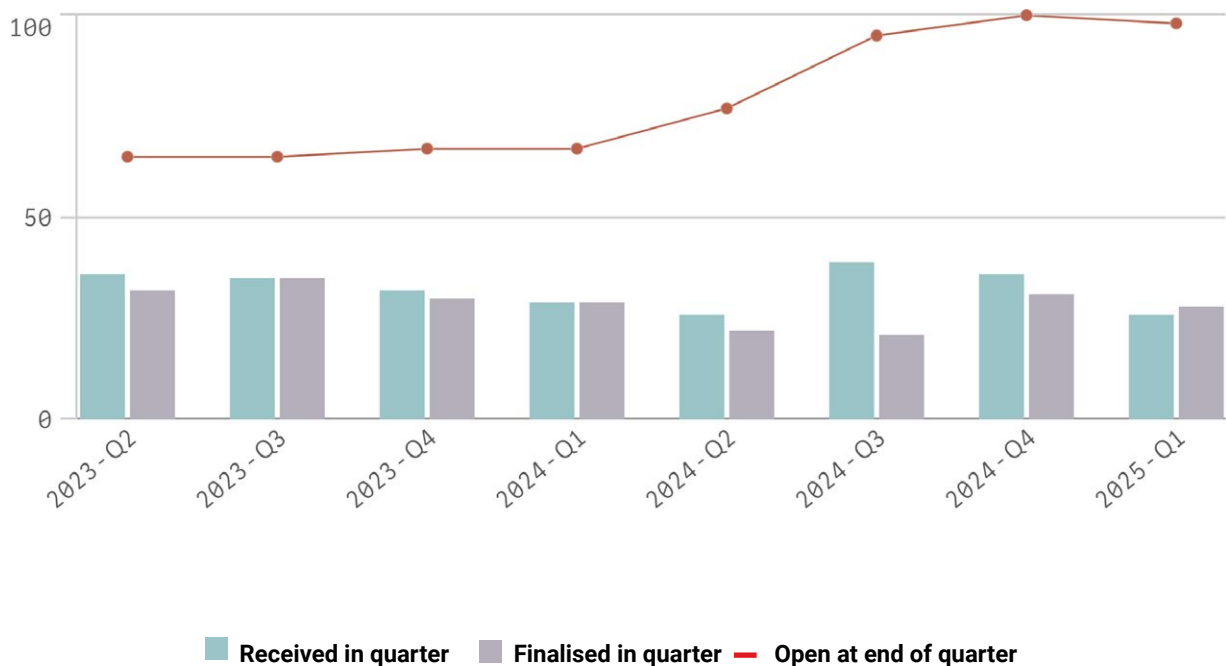
Average **143** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing ■ Proponent

Trends for received, finalised and open



Appendix – DEMIRS target timeline information

Key approval processes	Target timeline (business days)
Mining Tenure	65
Petroleum Tenure	120
Petroleum Environment Plan	21
Mining Proposal	30
Programme of Works	15
Radiation Management Plan	30
Well Activities	21
Native Vegetation Clearing Permit	60

Note: Petroleum Environment Plans and Well Activities have a statutory target of 30 calendar days (21 business days).