



# DMPE approvals performance reporting (Mining and Petroleum) September quarter 2025

The Department of Mines Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) is committed to transparency in its approval performance, supporting continuous improvement and assisting industry planning. During the September 2025 quarter, the mining and petroleum sectors showed varied performance across different approval categories.

DMPE acknowledges that while areas such as mining and petroleum tenure and well activity performance remained strong, other areas faced challenges that affected processing timeliness. Petroleum environment plan and mining proposal performance improved compared to the previous quarter, however DMPE continues to work to align these processing times with target timeframes.

Challenges have also occurred in processing Programme of Work applications and native vegetation clearing permits, resulting in longer assessment periods. In response, DMPE is employing broad and targeted strategies to address these processing times, including short term actions to improve current performance and longer-term reforms to support ongoing approvals efficiency.

DMPE is committed to continually enhancing its approvals processes and reporting mechanisms. Recent Public Sector Reforms provide an opportunity to work closely with key stakeholders to ensure processes are effective and aligned with industry and community needs.

## Chris Shaw

Director General  
Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) was formed on 1 July 2025. Prior to this date the activities reported in this report were undertaken by the Resource and Environmental Regulation Group within the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

## Performance summary

Key highlights and changes for the percentage of applications finalised within target timelines for the June to September 2025 quarter include:

- mining tenure performance ranged from 90 to 100 per cent;
- mining proposal performance increased from 24 to 42 per cent; and
- programme of work performance decreased from 71<sup>1</sup> to 31 per cent.

DMPE is currently experiencing challenges in meeting target timeframes for a number of environmental approvals. This is attributed to increased activity, a surge of applications between July and August 2025, and the increasing complexity of applications. DMPE has implemented a strategy to return approval timeframes to target levels.

With the implementation of the *Mining Amendment Act 2022 (Amendment Act)*, DMPE has had an increased focus on Mining Proposal and Mining Development and Closure Proposal (MDCP) assessments this quarter.

A significant increase in Mining Proposal applications in August 2025 occurred as applications were submitted prior to the commencement of the *Amendment Act* on 9 September 2025. This created a higher than usual backlog and required additional effort to transition applications to the new regulatory framework.

Prior to the commencement of the *Amendment Act*, DMPE prioritised Mining Proposals to reduce the number of applications requiring conversion to an MDCP post 9 September 2025.

The *Amendment Act* also introduced the Eligible Mining Activity (EMA) Notice framework, allowing tenement holders to seek authorisation for minimal disturbance exploration or prospecting activities by submitting an EMA notice to DMPE. Activities may commence once an EMA notice is successfully submitted, providing an alternative to the Programme of Work process. DMPE has not seen the expected uptake of this framework, with these activities continuing to be submitted under Programmes of Work.

The average total timeline is the time taken in the assessment process by DMPE, 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 DMPE 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 DMPE 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 licence’ section (page 4). The average total timeline to finalise an exploration licence application is 437 business days (approximately 20 months). This consists of DMPE processing time (38 days), proponent time (62 days) and other agencies (289 days). There were 48 days of parallel processing. Ninety-six per cent of exploration licence applications were finalised within the target for DMPE processing time of 65 business days. The Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* requirements represent the majority of this timeline (approximately 13 months). This report provides detailed information about the number of received, finalised, and open applications.

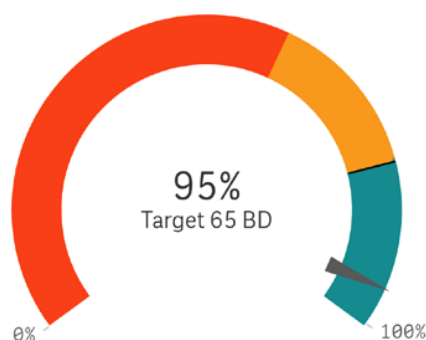
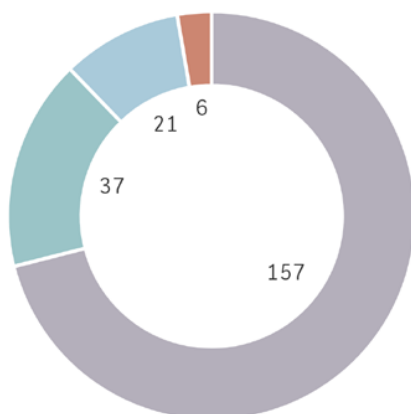
<sup>1</sup> An error has been identified from the ‘DMPE approvals performance reporting (Mining and Petroleum) June quarter 2025’ and a subsequent correction has been made. It was reported that 100 per cent of Programme of Work applications were finalised within the target timeframe, and this has since been corrected to 71 per cent of Programme of Work applications.

# Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

## Prospecting licence

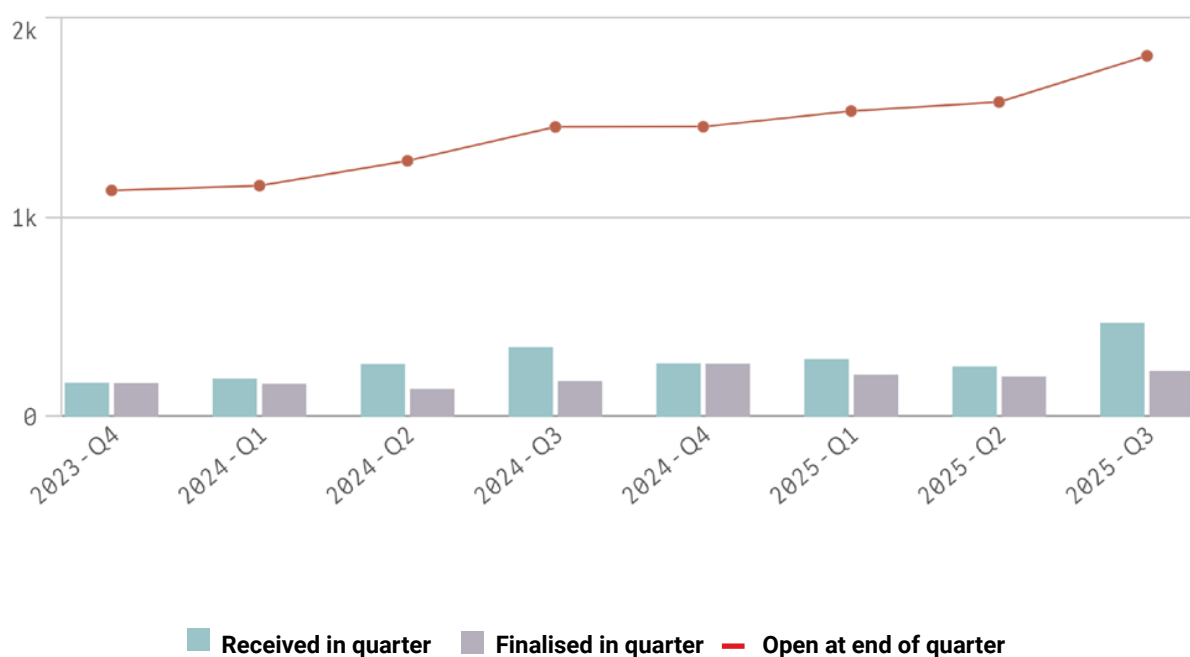
Average **221** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

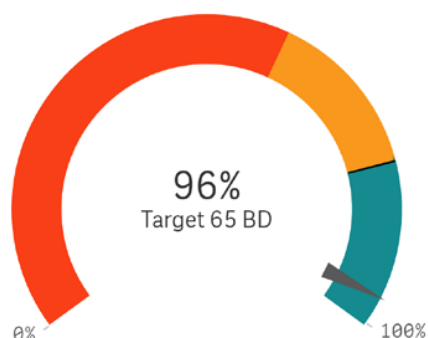
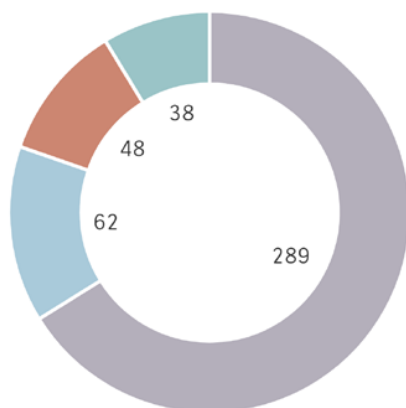


# Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

## Exploration licence

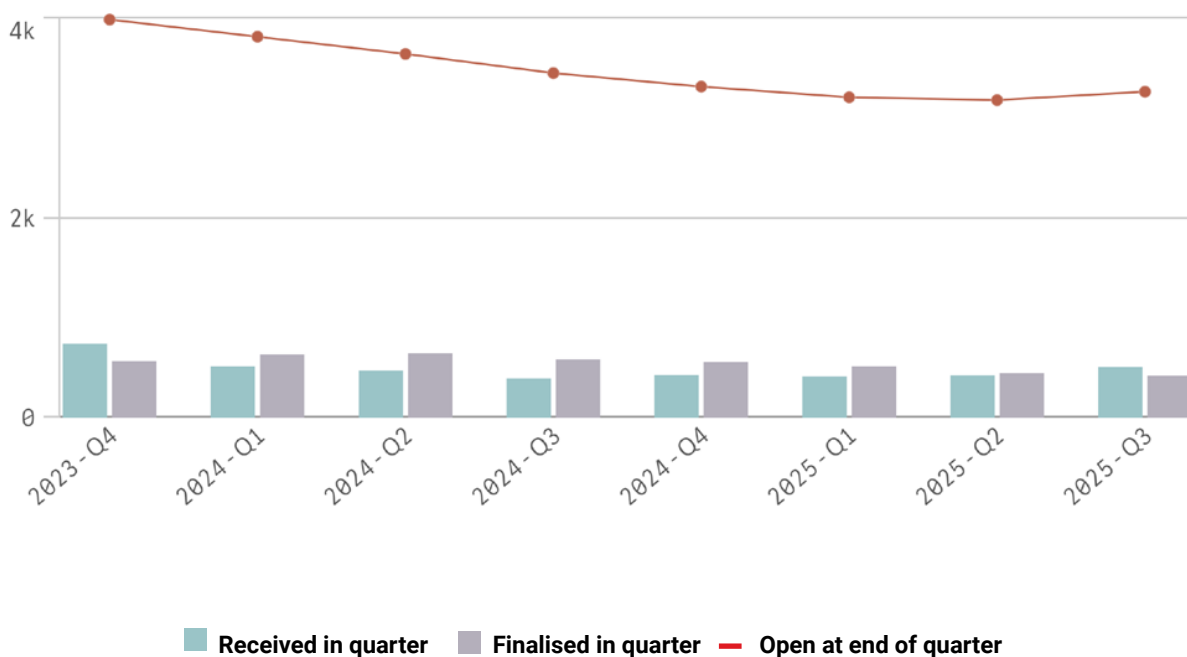
Average **437** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

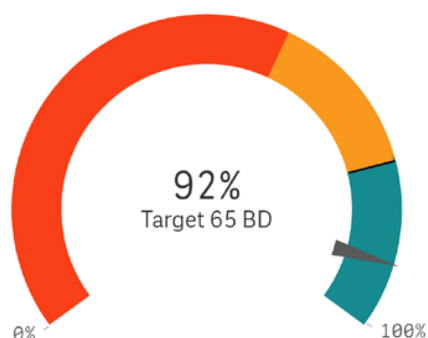
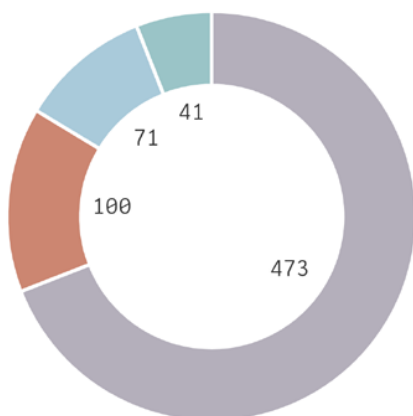


# Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

## Mining lease

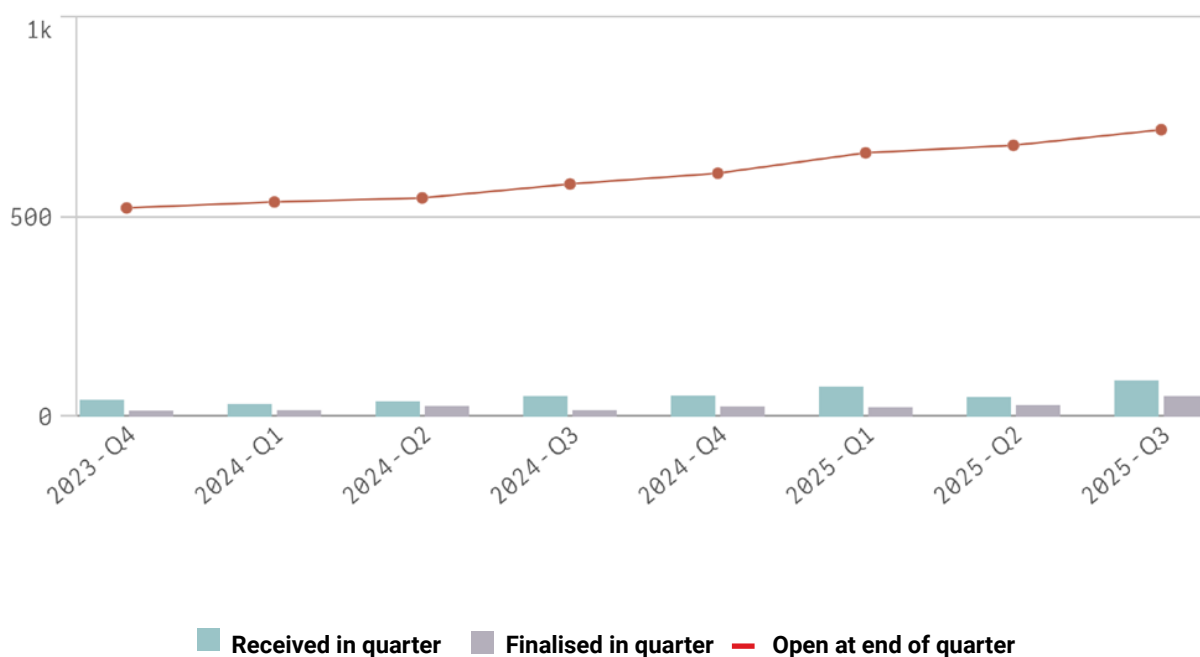
Average **685** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

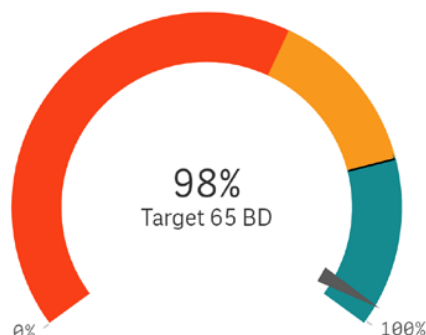
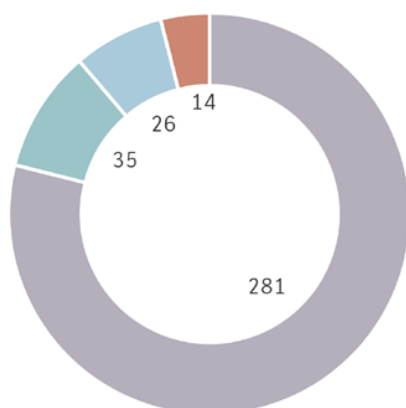


## Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

### Miscellaneous licence and other tenure

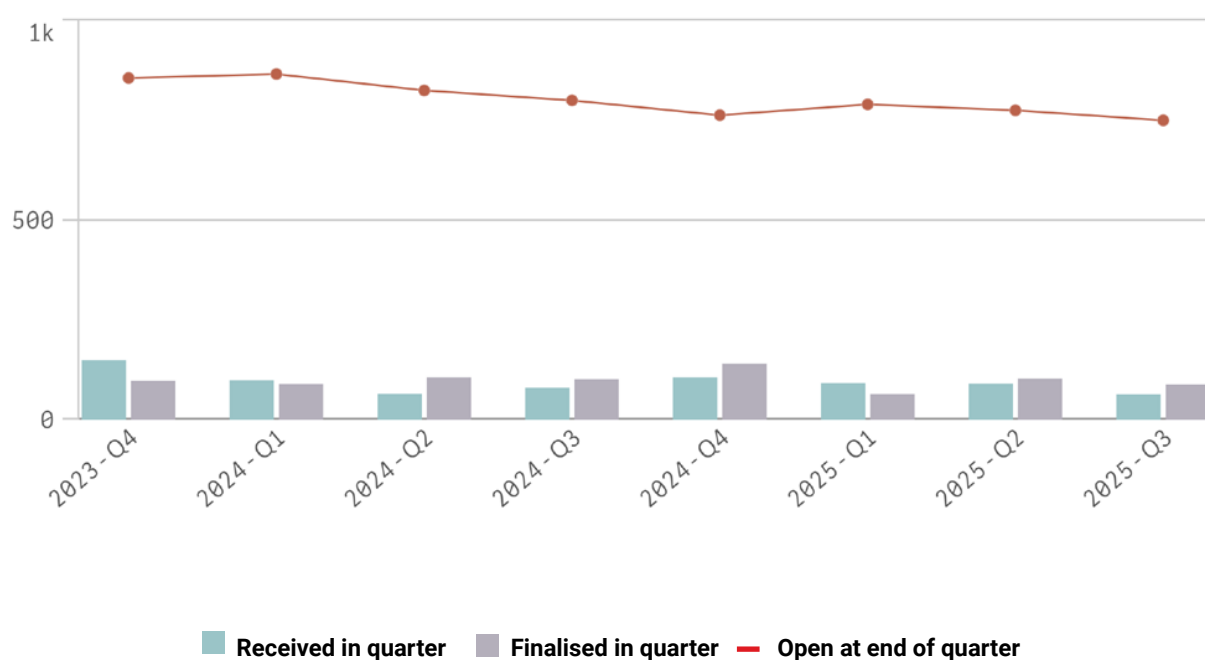
Average **356** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

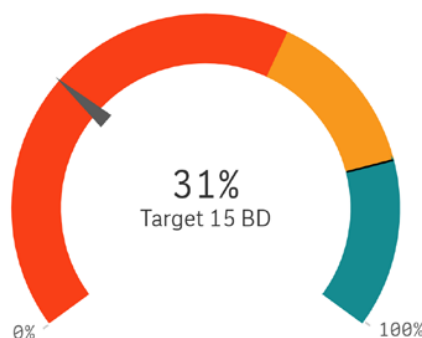
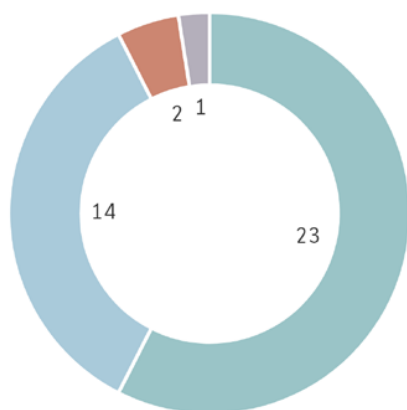


# Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

## Programme of Work

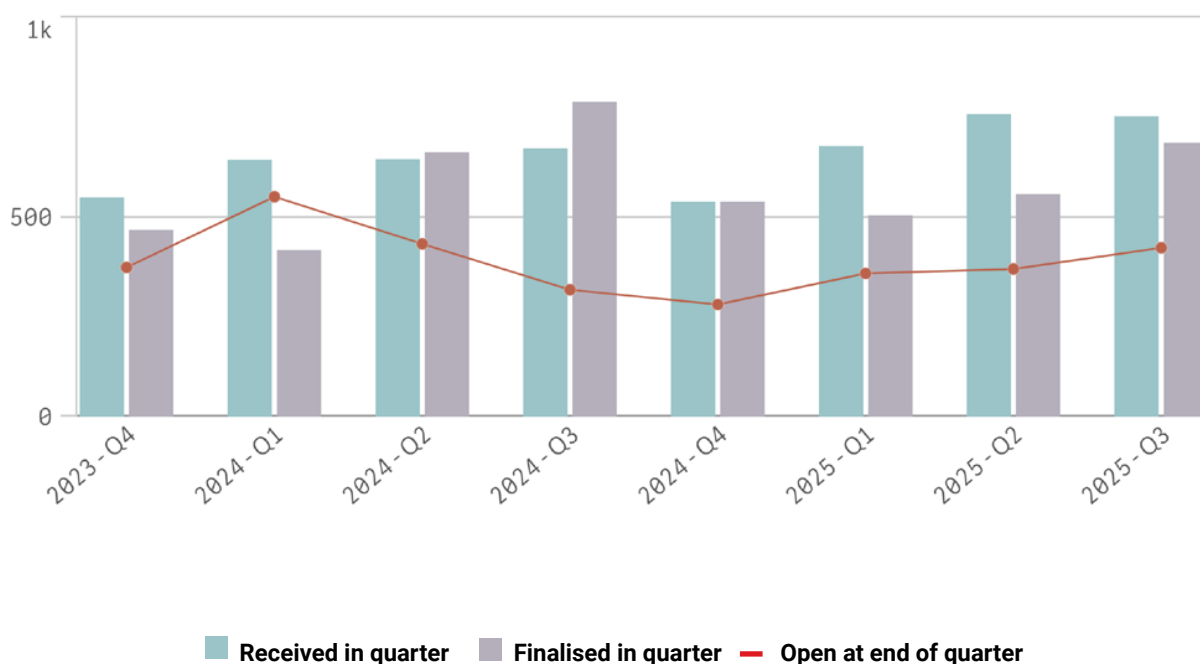
Average **40** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open



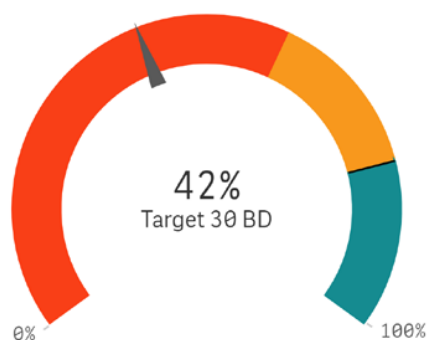
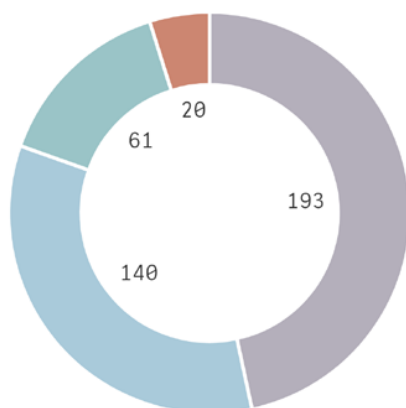
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# Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

## Mining proposal

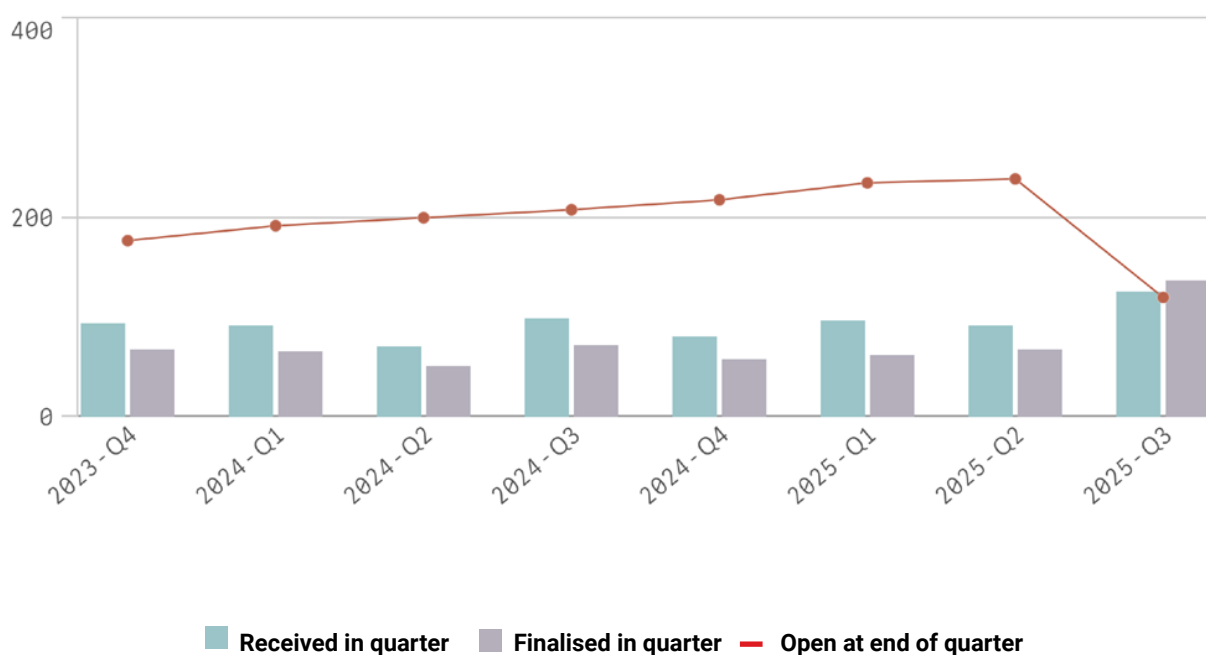
Average **414** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open



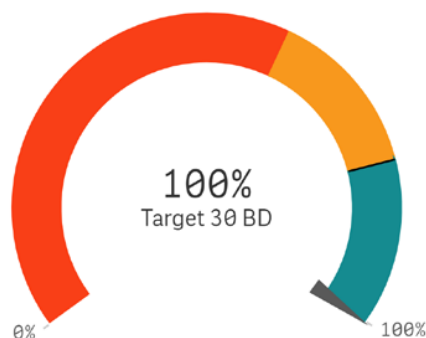
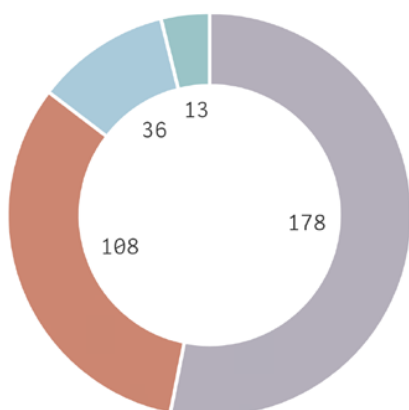


# Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022

## Radiation management plans\*

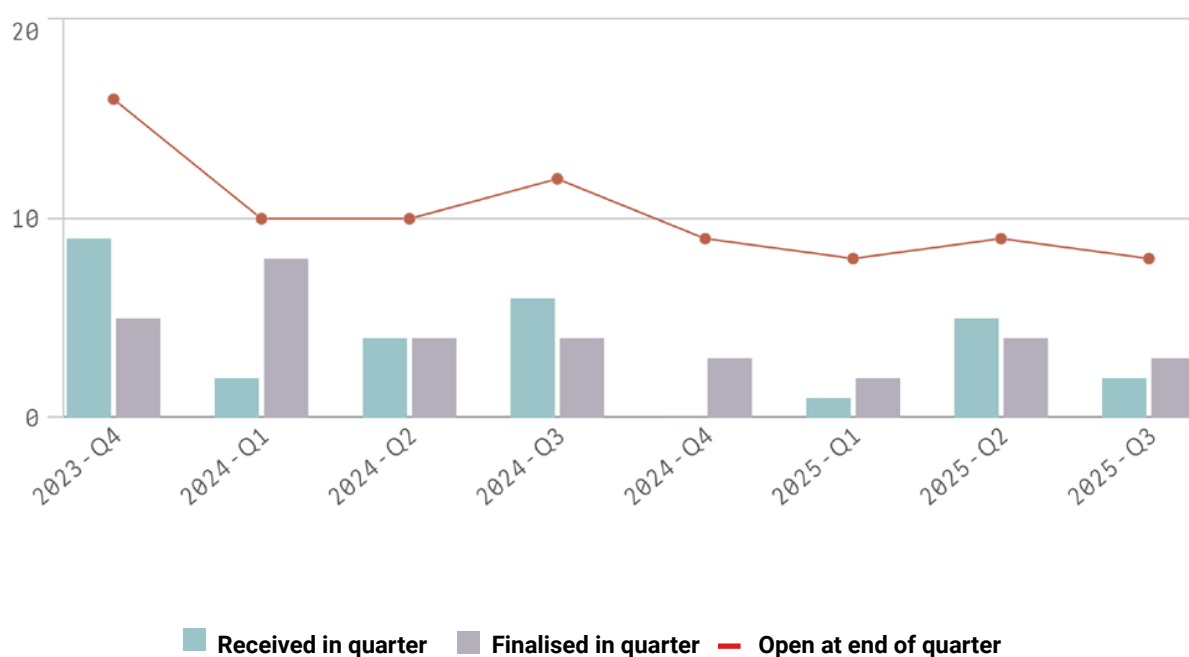
Average **335** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open



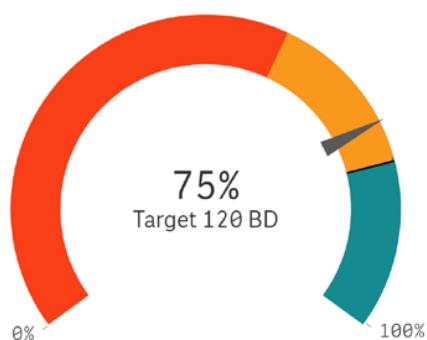
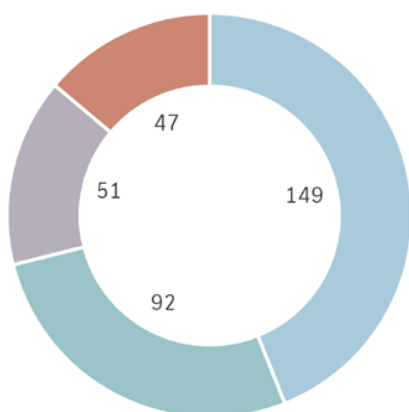
\* Administered by the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

# WA Petroleum Legislation

## Petroleum tenure

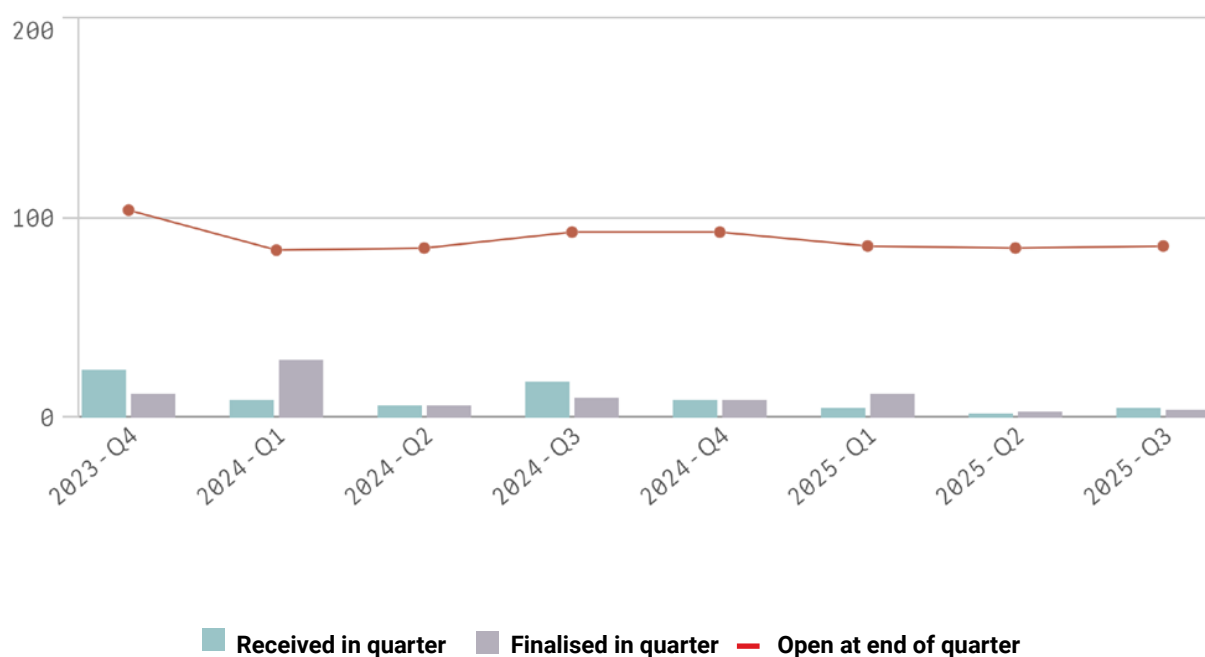
Average **339** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent Other agencies  
Parallel processing

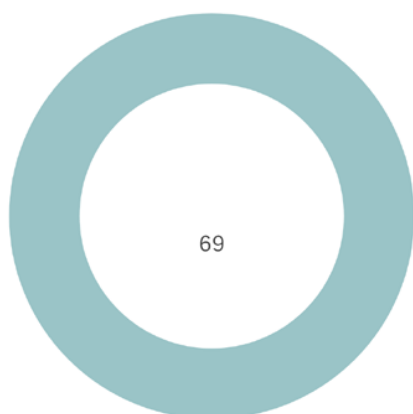
### Trends for received, finalised and open



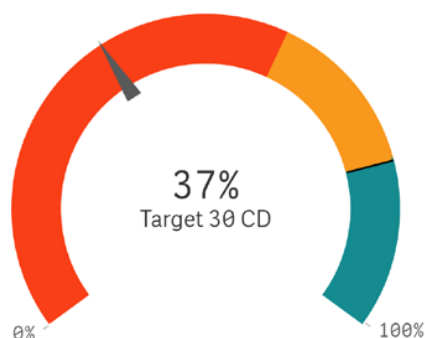
# WA Petroleum Legislation

## Petroleum environment plans

Average **69** days total

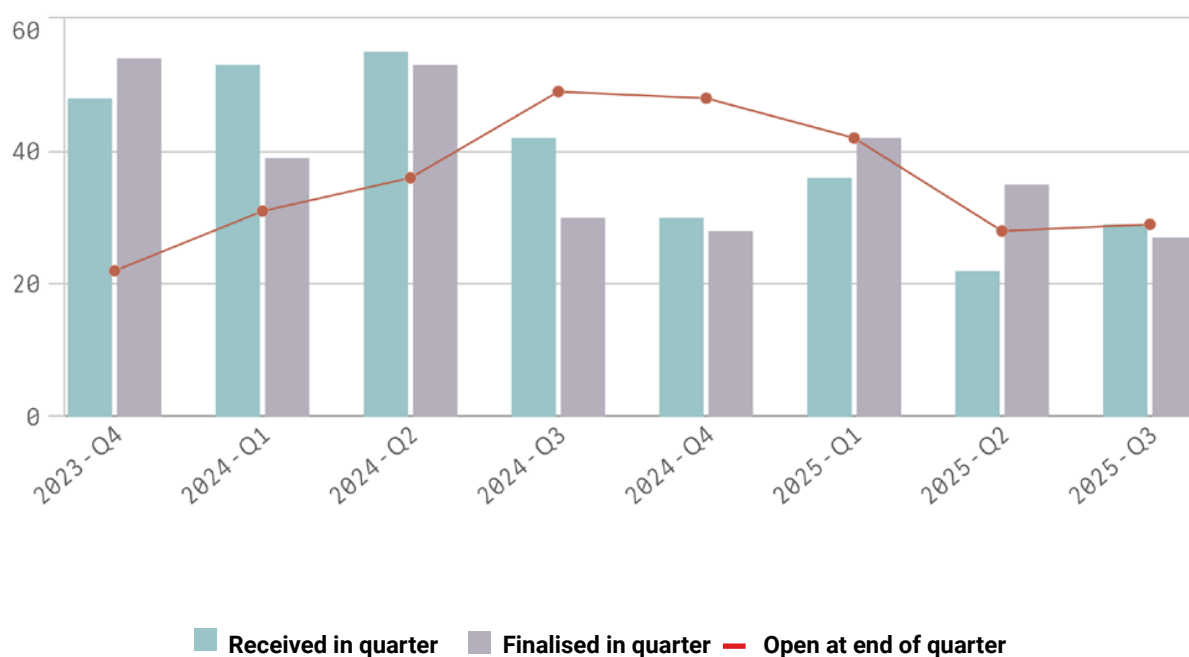


Per cent finalised within target timeline



■ DMPE

### Trends for received, finalised and open

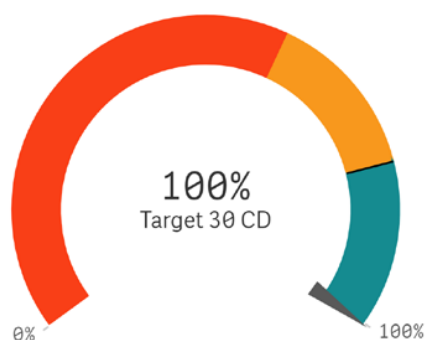
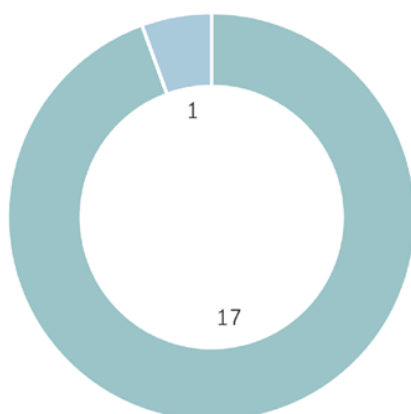


# WA Petroleum Legislation

## Well activities

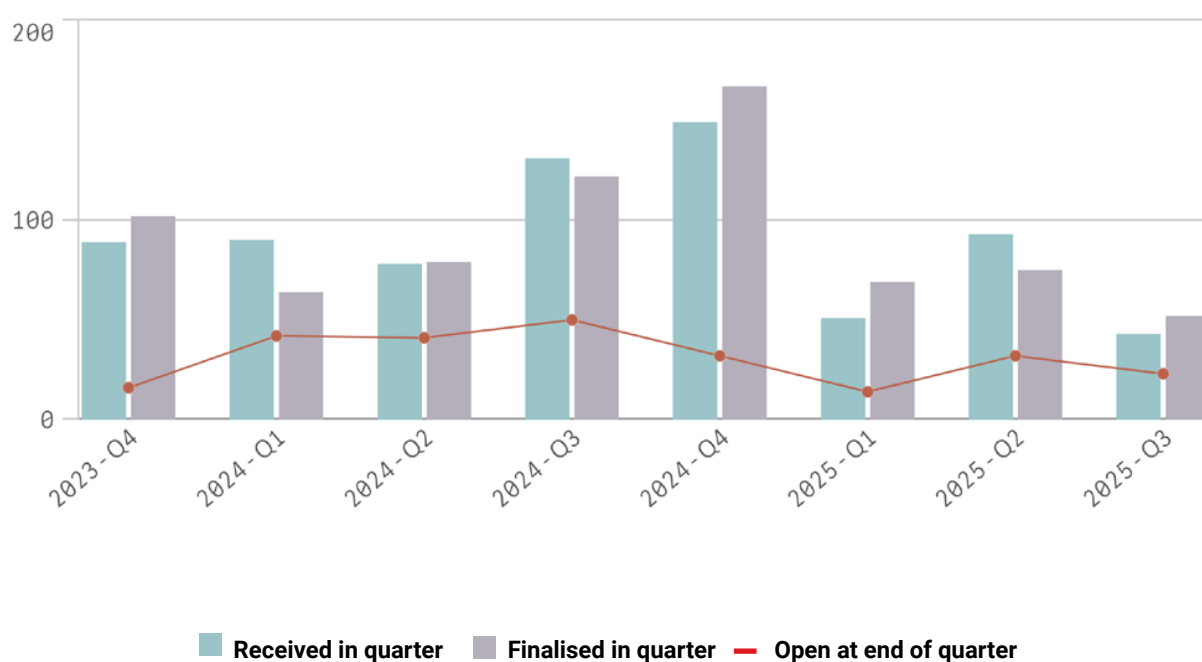
Average **18** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



DMPE Proponent

### Trends for received, finalised and open

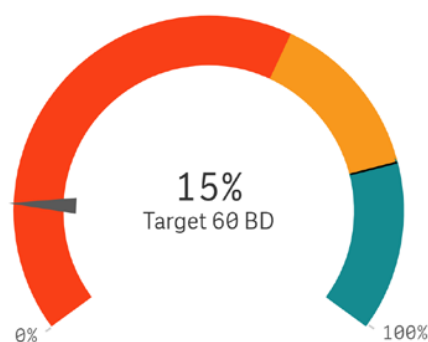
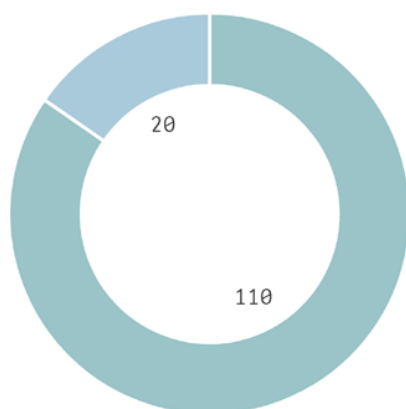


## WA Environmental Protection Act 1986

### Native vegetation clearing permits

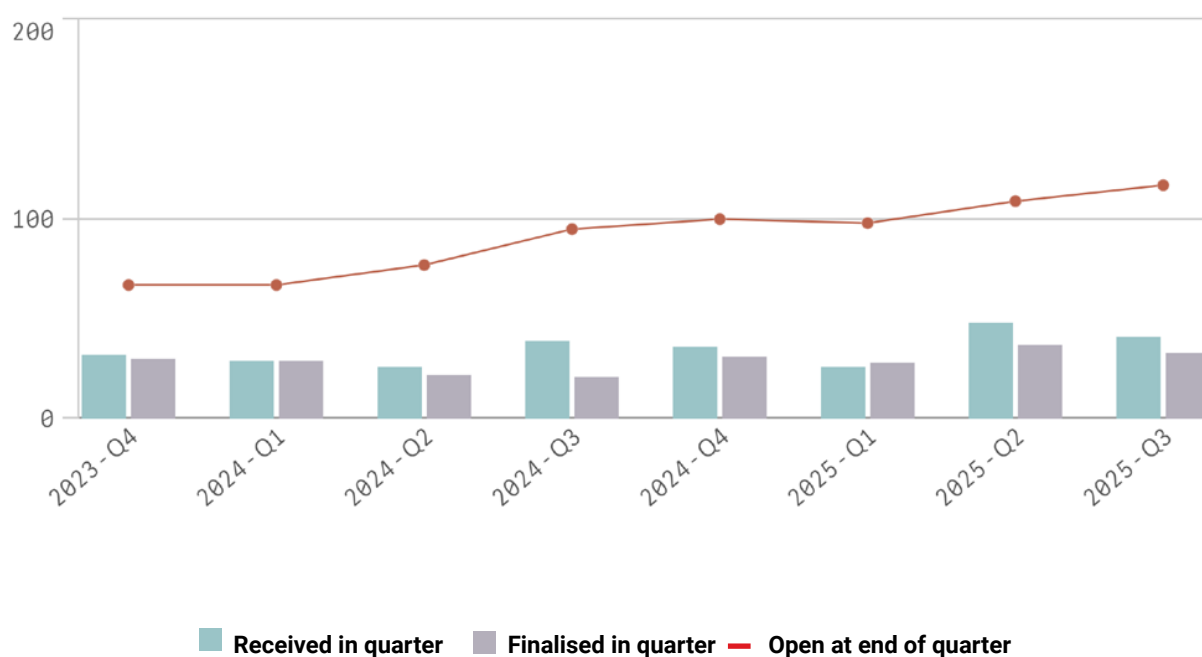
Average **130** days total

Per cent finalised within target timeline



■ DMPE ■ Proponent

#### Trends for received, finalised and open



## Appendix – DMPE 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).