



# Quarterly reporting Q1 2014–15

## *Approvals summary*

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# Approvals summary

## Works approvals and licences

### Major resource projects

For major resource project approvals, the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) has set a target to decide (grant or refuse) 100 per cent of works approval and licence applications within 60 working days.

### Delivery status

Eight new major resource project licence applications were received in the first quarter of 2014–15 (higher than each of the four 2013–14 quarters).

The percentage of new licence applications decided within the target time frame remains at 100 per cent.

Ten licence applications were decided (higher than each of the preceding three quarters and double the number decided in the fourth quarter of 2013–14). The average processing time was 48 days (higher than 35 days for the preceding quarter).

In the first quarter of 2014–15, DER received a total of 22 new works approval applications for major resource projects, fewer than for each of the preceding three quarters.

Twenty-nine works approvals for major resource projects were decided (four fewer than the preceding quarter).

The average processing time for major resource project works approvals during the quarter was 50 days, the same as for the preceding quarter.

Eighty-six per cent of works approval applications for major resource projects were decided within the target time

frame (60 days). This is a decrease in percentage since the preceding quarter (94 per cent) and is the lowest percentage since the first quarter of 2013–14.

### Non-major resource projects (other projects)

For non-major resource project (other project) approvals, DER has a target to decide 80 per cent of works approval and licence applications within 60 working days.

### Delivery status

In the first quarter of 2014–15 DER decided 76 per cent of other project works approval applications within the target time frame. This is an increase from 70 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2013–14.

Three other project licences were decided by DER in this quarter. The average time to process a licence application decreased to 56 days from 74 days in the preceding quarter.

DER decided 67 per cent of other project licences within the target time frame. This is an increase from 57 per cent in the preceding quarter.

Twenty-one other project works approvals were decided by DER in this quarter. The average processing time for other works approval applications decreased during this quarter to 49 days, compared to 53 days in the preceding quarter.

DER is continuing its reform program to streamline the decision-making process in order to achieve the target time frames.

## Approvals summary data—Works approvals and licences

Department of Environment Regulation	Q1 2013–14	Q2 2013–14	Q3 2013–14	Q4 2013–14	Q1 2014–15
<b>Works approvals (major resource projects only)</b>					
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	44	23	35	39	35
No. of applications received	19	32	36	29	22
No. of applications granted/refused	40	20	30	33	29
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	21	14	6	21	19
No. of applications withdrawn	0	0	2	0	1
Average time for decision (business days)	48	49	53	50	50
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark timeframe of 60 business days	92	95	90	94	86
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	23	35	39	35	27
<b>Licences (Major resource projects only)</b>					
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	27	22	20	17	17
No. of applications received	7	5	1	7	8
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	12	8	2	3	3
No. of applications granted/refused	11	6	4	5	10
No. of applications withdrawn	1	1	0	2	1
Average time for decision (business days)	50	45	43	35	48
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark timeframe of 60 business days	100	83	100	100	100
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	22	20	17	17	14
<b>Works approvals (other projects)</b>					
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	27	29	35	43	43
No. of applications received	21	28	31	24	24
No. of applications granted/refused	19	22	20	23	21
No. of applications withdrawn	0	0	3	1	3
Average time for decision (business days)	49	37	47	53	49
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark timeframe of 60 business days (target is 80%)	74	91	90	70	76
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	29	35	43	43	43
<b>Licences (other projects)</b>					
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	19	17	16	15	13
No. of applications received	16	12	7	6	10
No. of applications granted/refused	17	11	8	7	3
No. of applications withdrawn	1	1	0	1	0
Average time for decision (business days)	39	56	42	74	56
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark timeframe of 60 business days (target is 80%)	88	64	88	57	67
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	17	17	15	13	20

## Native vegetation clearing permits

For native vegetation clearing permits, target time frames are 80 per cent of applications decided<sup>1</sup> within 60 calendar days of receipt, and 100 per cent of applications to be decided within 90 calendar days.

DER's clearing permit system database records details of clearing permit applications and decisions made for both DER and the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP),<sup>2</sup> and forms the basis of the published records available on DER's website.

The quantitative information presented in the tables in this report is provided for both DER and DMP. The qualitative information in the text provides information on DER only.

### Delivery status

DER received a total of 107 native vegetation clearing permit applications in the first quarter of 2014–15, slightly higher than the 103 received the previous quarter.

DER made 85 decisions on applications, which is lower than the figure of 107 decisions for the previous quarter. The average time to make a decision was 60 days, which is higher than for the

preceding four quarters, (38, 52, 54 and 53 days respectively).

DER decided 64 per cent of applications within 60 days compared with 63 per cent in the preceding quarter and 93 per cent within 90 days, compared with 94 per cent in the preceding quarter. Seven per cent of decisions took longer than 90 days, compared with six per cent the preceding quarter.

The six applications that did not meet the 90-day target time frame were applications that required modifications and further information during the assessment process. Of those applications, three were finalised within 100 days, two within 110 days and one within 120 days.

Of the 85 decisions made on applications, 64 clearing permits were granted within an average time frame of 54 days. One application for a clearing permit was refused. Of the remaining applications, 17 were withdrawn and three invalid applications were declined.

The number of open clearing permit applications at the end of this quarter increased to 145, compared to 124 at the end of the preceding quarter; however, this was lower than the figure of 170 open applications at the same time last year.

DER is working to improve its performance in deciding clearing permit applications.

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<sup>1</sup> A 'clearing permit decision made' means an application to clear has been granted, given an undertaking to grant, refused, declined, withdrawn, amended, revoked or suspended.

<sup>2</sup> Under s 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DER has delegated decision-making on clearing applications to DMP for the following activities:

- An activity under an authority granted, or a requirement imposed, under the Mining Act 1978, the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967, the Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969 or the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982.
- An activity under a government agreement administered by the Department of State Development.

## Clearing permits—time frame data for DER applications/decisions

Department of Environment Regulation	Q1 2013–14	Q2 2013–14	Q3 2013–14	Q4 2013–14	Q1 2014–15
No. of applications carried over from previous periods*	162	171	132	128	123*
No. of applications received	146	104	115	103	107
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	64	61	73	53	53
Average time in 'stop the clock' for decisions in days	149	111	126	131	158
Average time for decision in days (excluding time in 'stop the clock')	53	54	52	38	60
No. decisions on applications	138	140	117	107	85
No. of outstanding applications at end of quarter	170	135	130	124	145
<b>Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frames</b>					
60 days (80% of applications finalised)	53	60	61	63	64
90 days (100% of applications finalised)	96	97	94	94	93
>90 days	4	3	6	6	7

\* This figure is not the same as the outstanding applications at the end of the previous quarter due to date correction occurring for Q1, 2014-15 period.

## Clearing permits—time frame data for DMP applications/decisions

Department of Mines and Petroleum	Q1 2013–14	Q2 2013–14	Q3 2013–14	Q4 2013–14	Q1 2014–15
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	48	30	37	37	49
No. of applications received	48	44	47	67	63
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	33	26	25	41	38
Average time in 'stop the clock' for decisions in days	37	34	16	32	24
Average time for decision in days (excluding time in 'stop the clock')	57	48	39	54	47
No. decisions on applications	65	43	47	55	63
No. of outstanding applications at end of quarter	31	31	37	49	49
<b>Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frame</b>					
60 days (80% of applications finalised)	75	86	79	87	86
90 days (100% of applications finalised)	90	98	100	100	97
>90 days	10	2	0	0	3