



Department of Energy, Mines,
Industry Regulation and Safety

Quarter 4 | 2023

DEMIRS Approvals Performance Reporting (Mining and Petroleum) December Quarter 2023

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.

Mining and petroleum approval performance overall was positive during the December 2023 quarter, despite increases in the number applications received over most categories, when compared to the September quarter.

Quarterly approvals reports now include petroleum well activities. Before title holders can conduct any activity on a well (either petroleum or geothermal) including drilling, workovers, production or plugging and abandonment, an application with relevant documentation (e.g. drilling program and geological prognosis) must be submitted to the department's Petroleum Division for approval.

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.

Andrew Chaplyn

Deputy Director General
Resource and Environmental Regulation Group

Performance summary

Key changes in the percentage of applications finalised within target timelines for the September to December quarters include:

- all mineral tenure applications increased, achieving between 92 to 100 per cent depending on the tenure type;
- programmes of work increased from 61 to 84 per cent;
- mining proposals decreased from 51 to 43 per cent;
- petroleum environment plans decreased from 69 to 61 per cent; and
- native vegetation clearing permits decreased from 74 to 60 per cent.

For the December quarter well activity performance, which is being published for the first time, was 93 per cent.

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 graphic represents 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.

To further explain the above, refer to the Exploration License section (page 3). The average total timeline to finalise an Exploration License application is 324 business days (approx. 16 months). This consists of DEMIRS processing time (35 days), proponent time (30 days) and other agencies (244 days). There were 15 days of parallel processing. Ninety seven 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 (approx. 12 months).

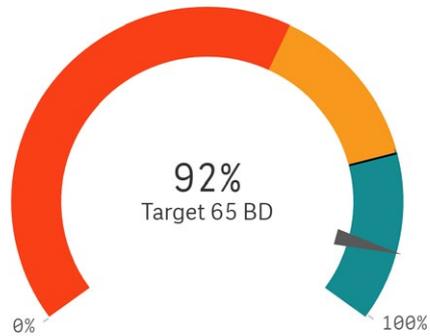
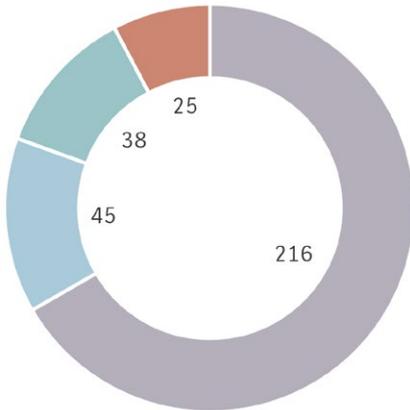
This report provides detailed information about the number of received, finalised and open applications.

Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Prospecting Licence

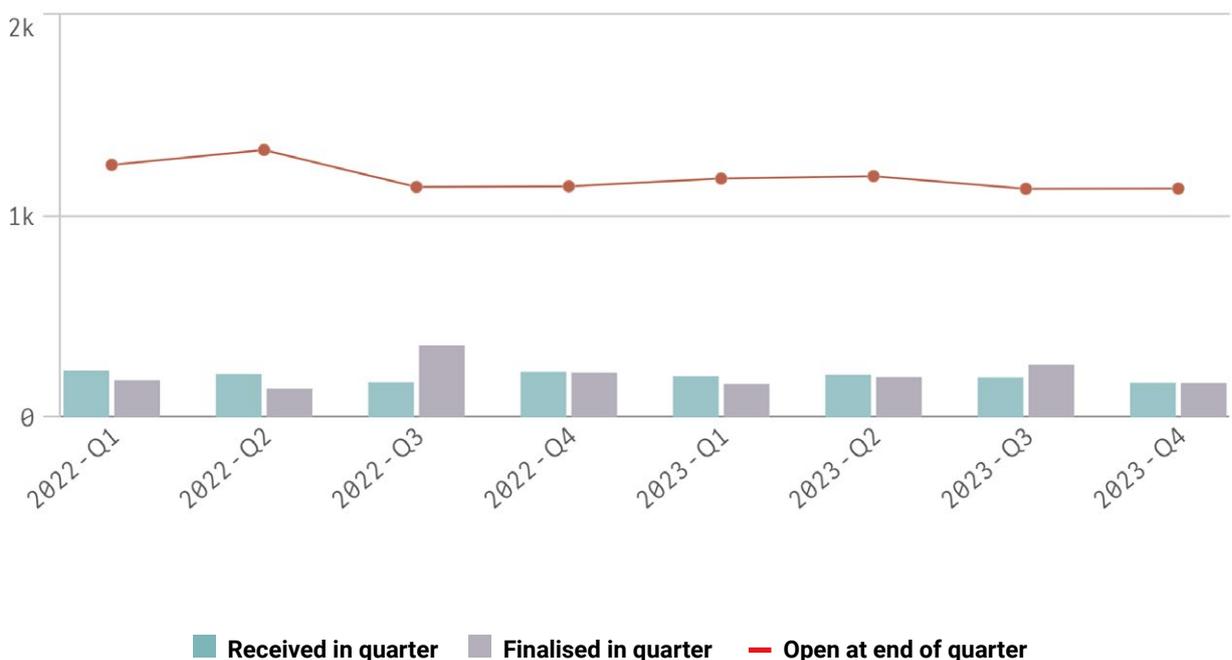
Average **324** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

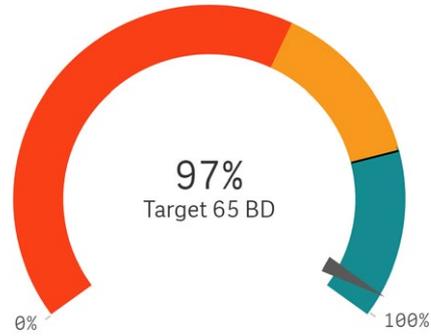
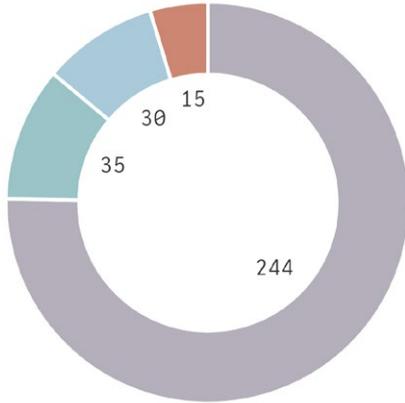


Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Exploration Licence

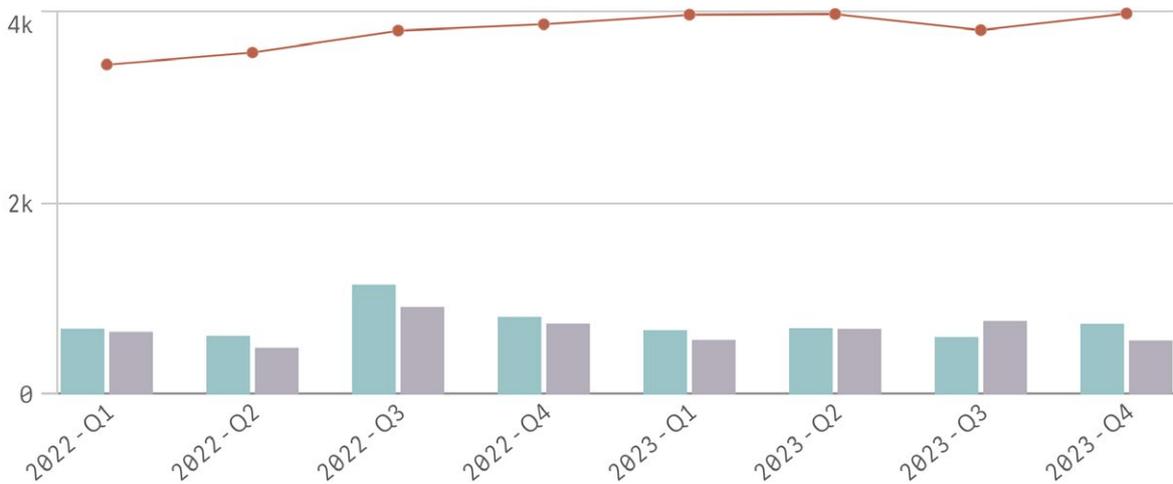
Average **324** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS
 ■ Proponent
 ■ Other Agencies
■ Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open



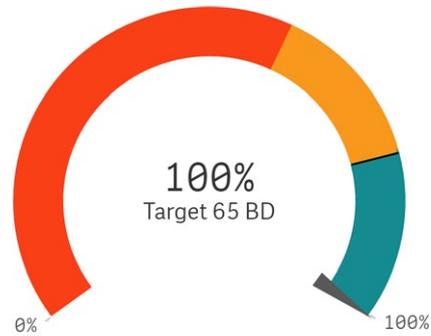
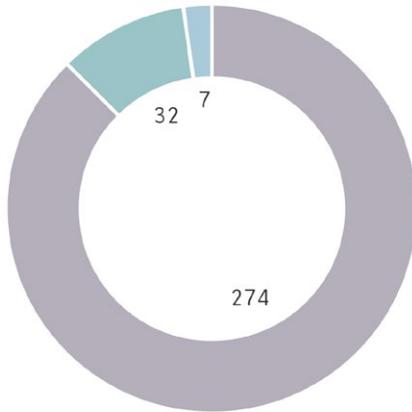
■ Received in quarter
 ■ Finalised in quarter
 — Open at end of quarter

Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Mining Lease

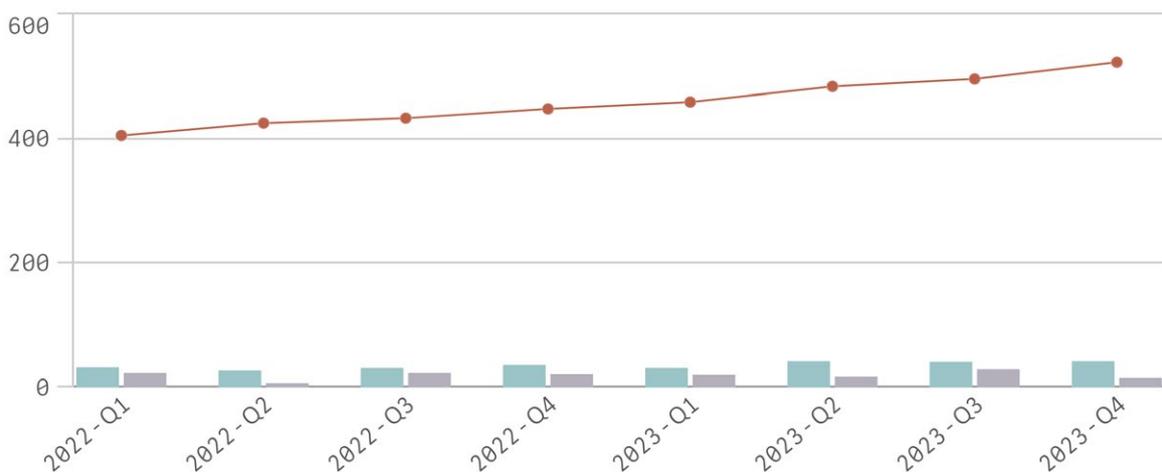
Average **313** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent ■ Other Agencies

Trends for received, finalised and open



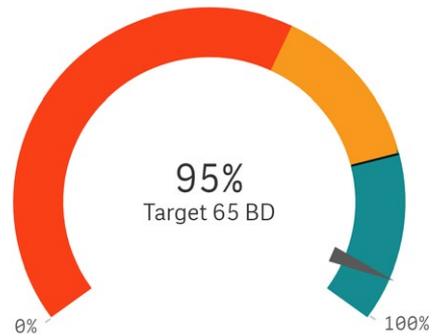
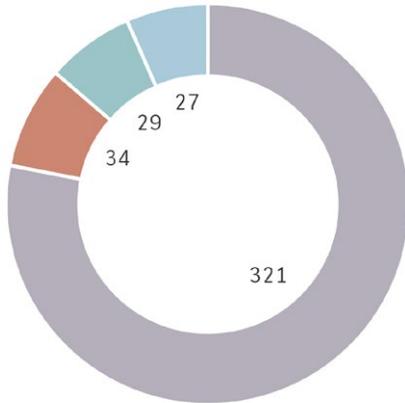
■ Received in quarter ■ Finalised in quarter — Open at end of quarter

Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

Miscellaneous Licence and other tenure

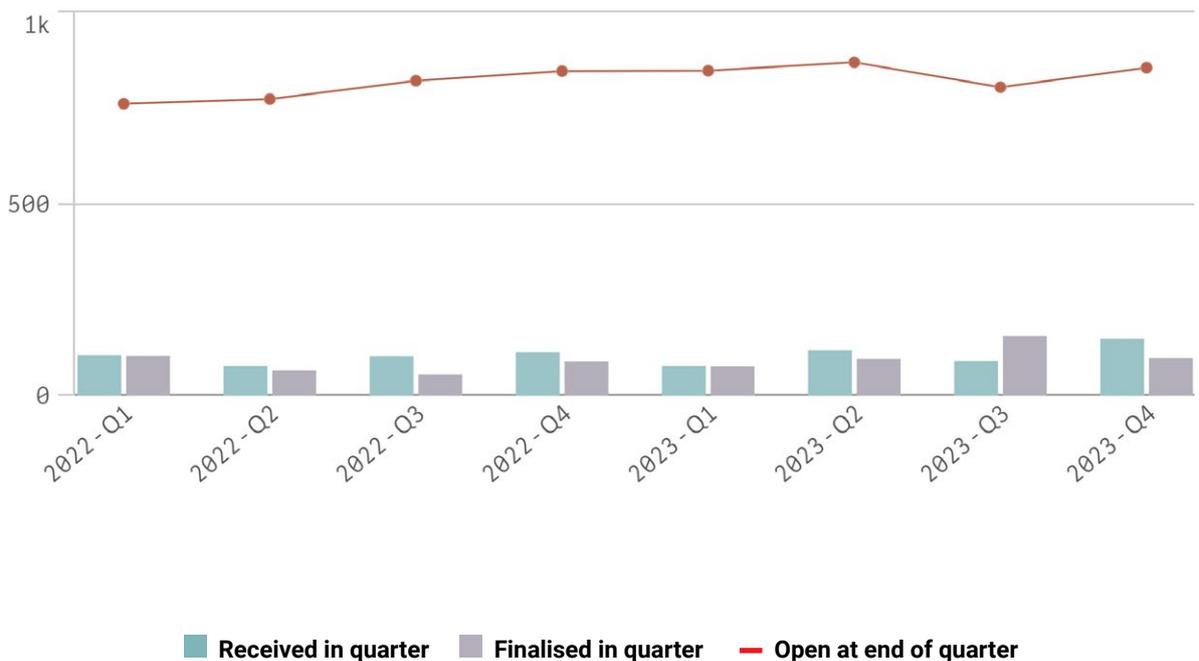
Average **411** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



- DEMIRS
- Proponent
- Other Agencies
- Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

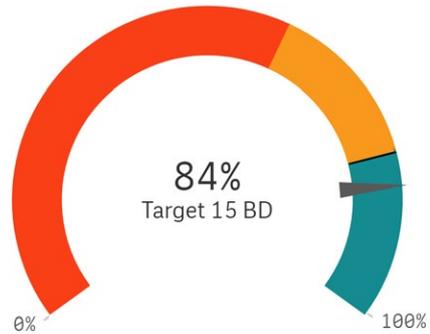
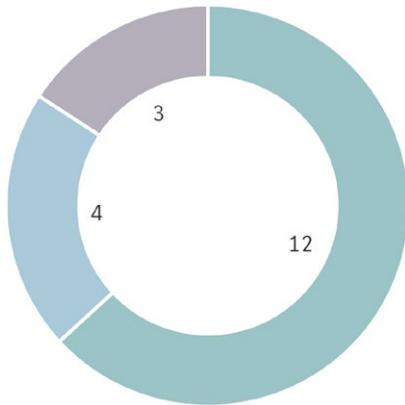


Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

Programme of Work

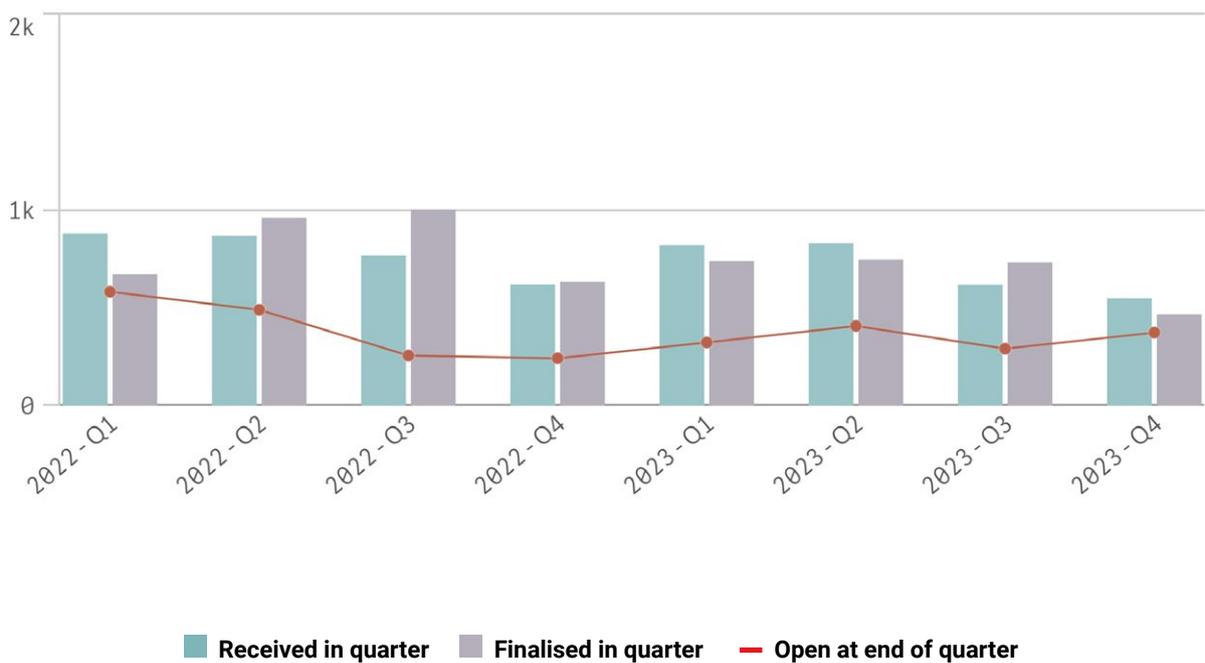
Average **19** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent ■ Other Agencies

Trends for received, finalised and open

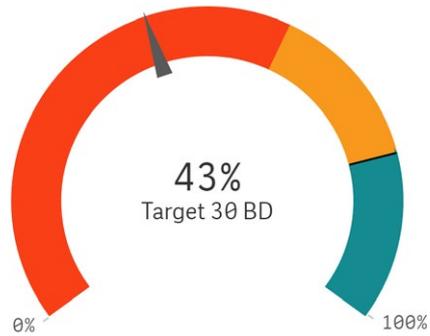
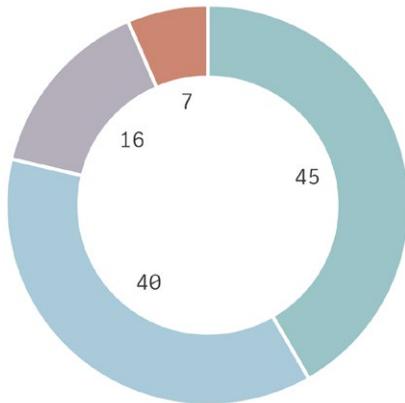


Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

Mining Proposal

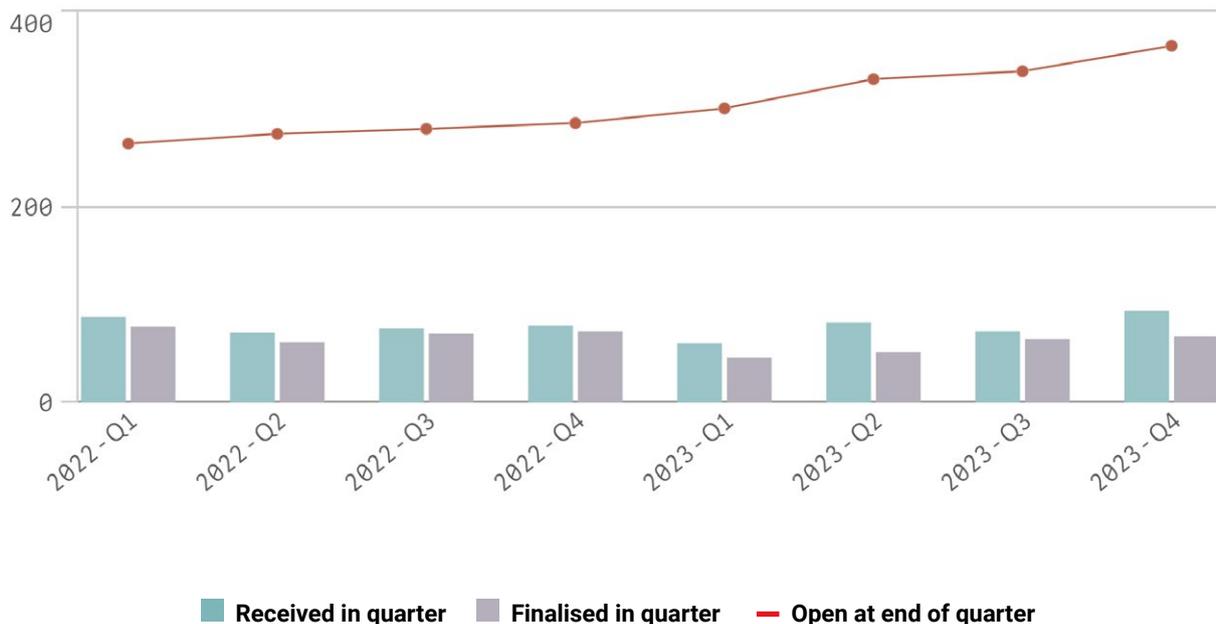
Average **108** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



- DEMIRS
- Proponent
- Other Agencies
- Parallel Processing

Trends for received, finalised and open

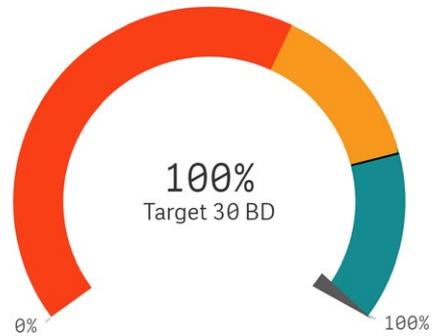
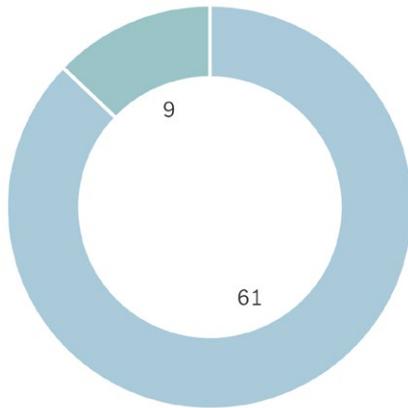


Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022

Radiation Management Plans

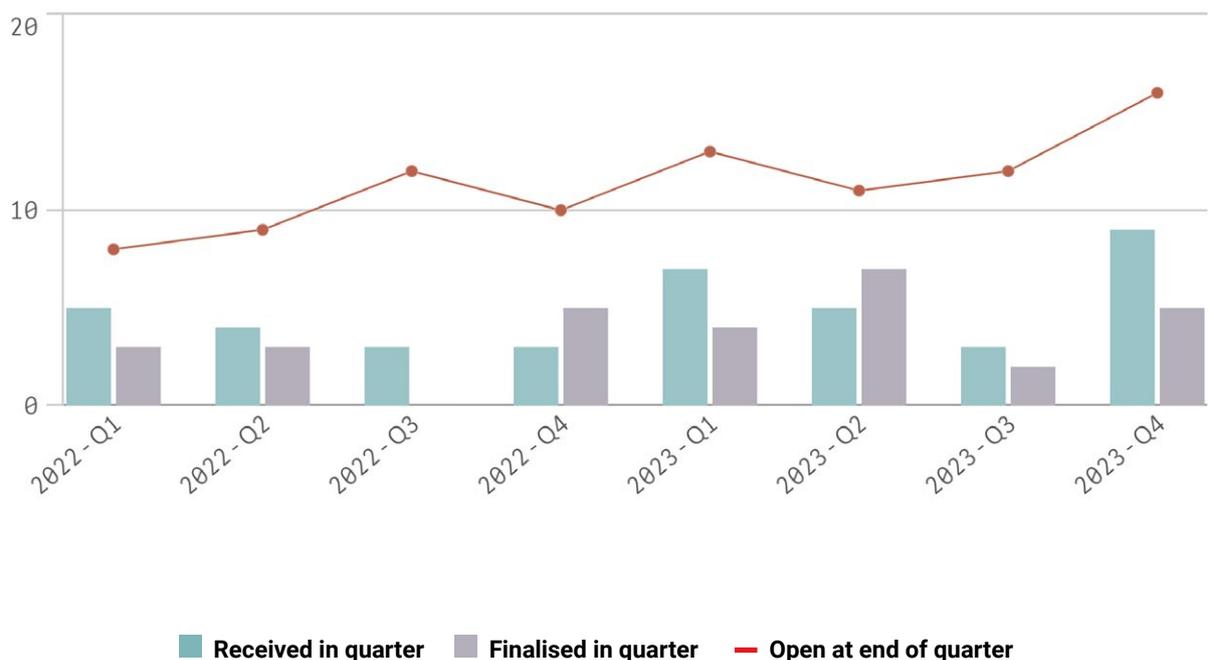
Average **70** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent

Trends for received, finalised and open

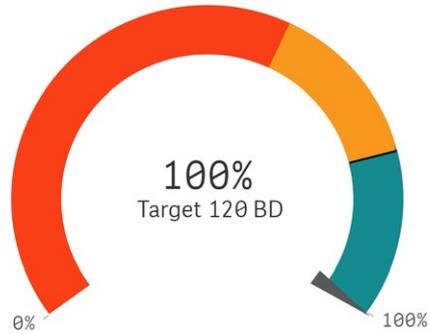
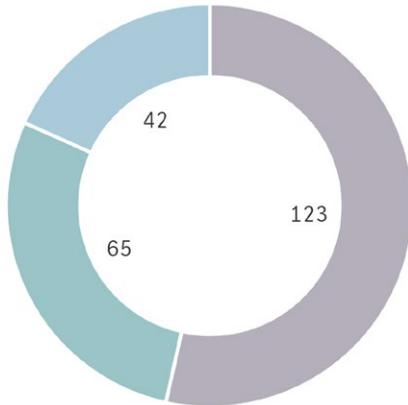


WA Petroleum Legislation

Petroleum Tenure

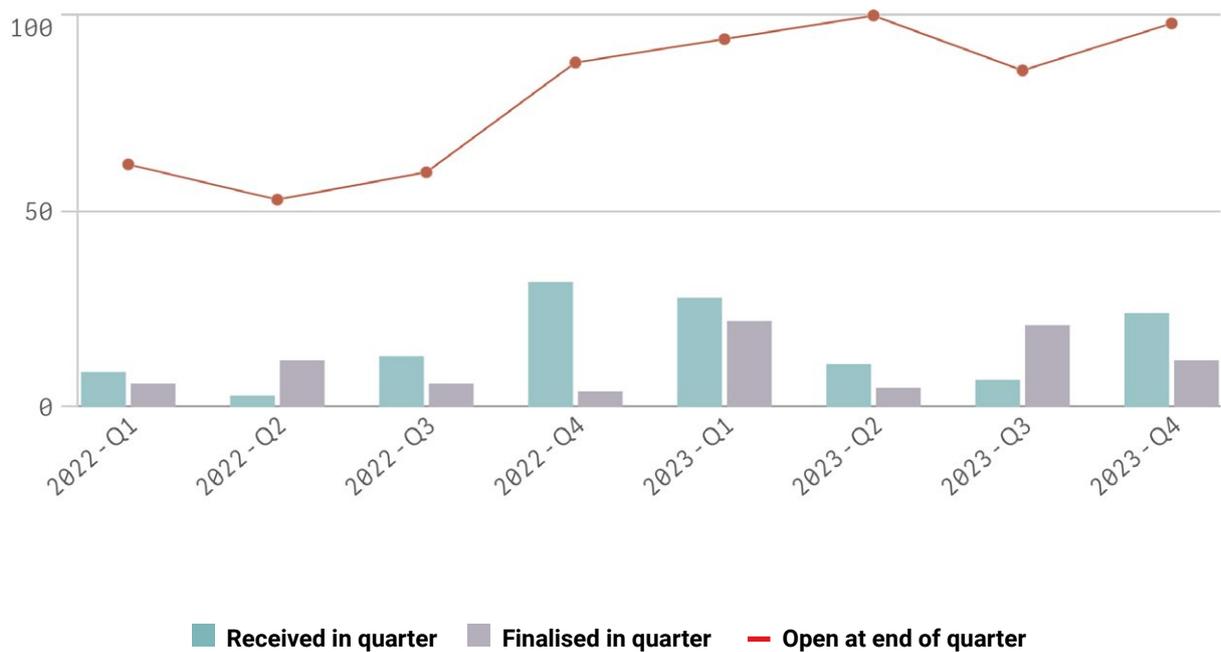
Average **220** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent ■ Other Agencies

Trends for received, finalised and open

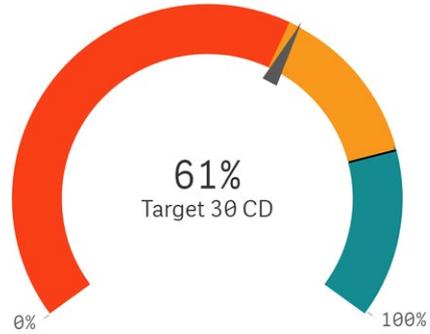
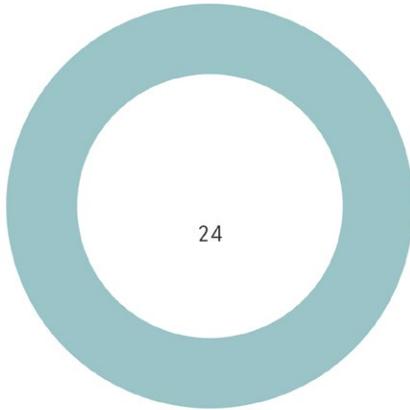


WA Petroleum Legislation

Petroleum Environment Plans

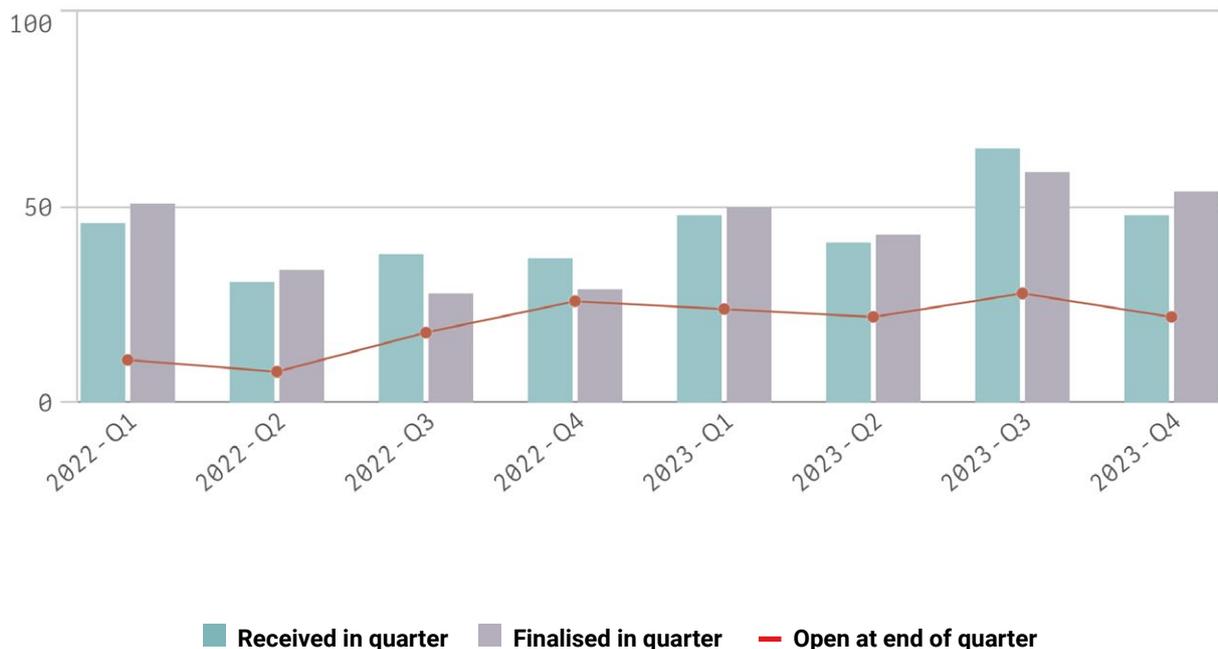
Average **24** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS

Trends for received, finalised and open

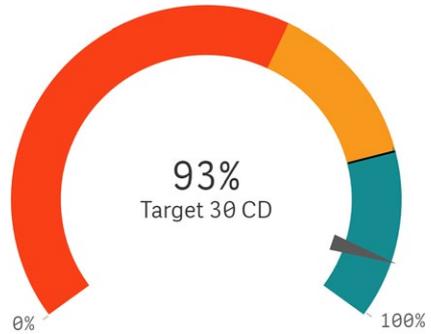
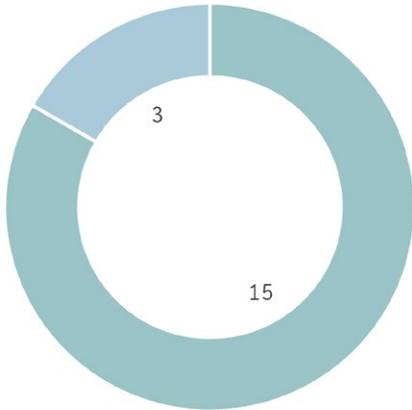


WA Petroleum Legislation

Well Activities

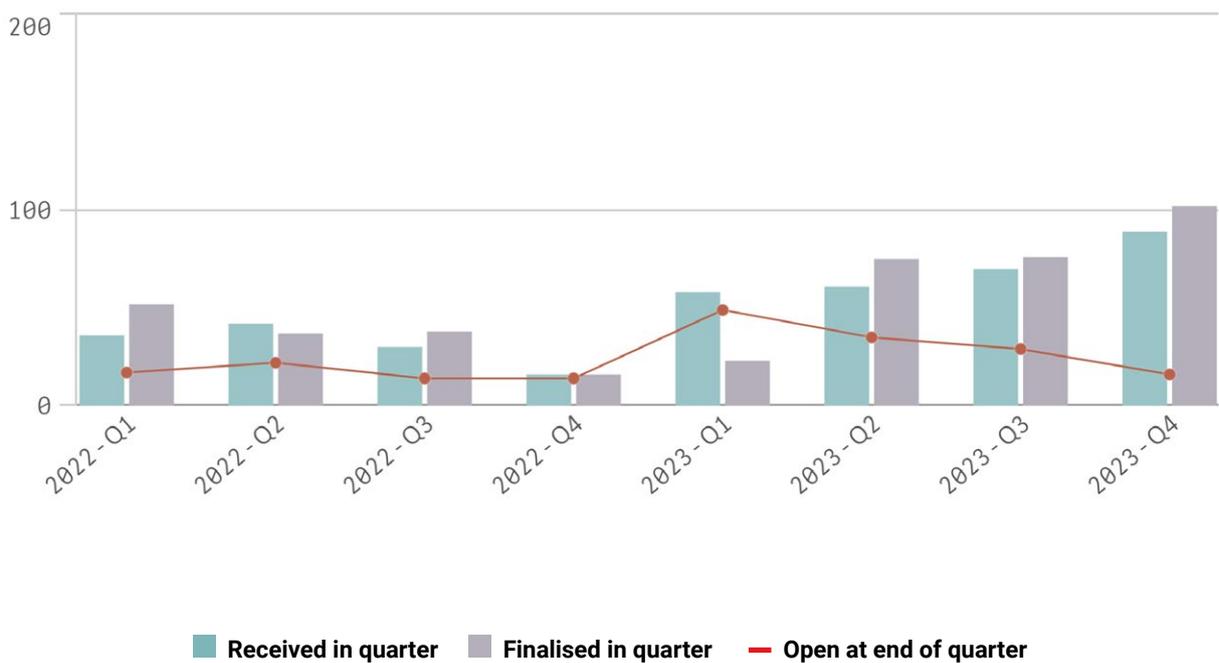
Average **18** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent ■ Other Agencies

Trends for received, finalised and open

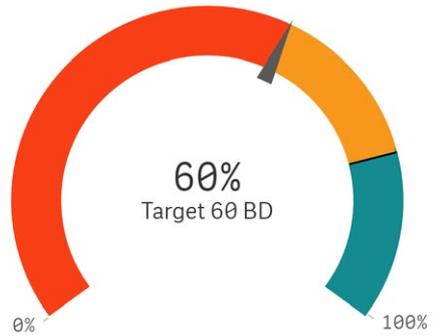
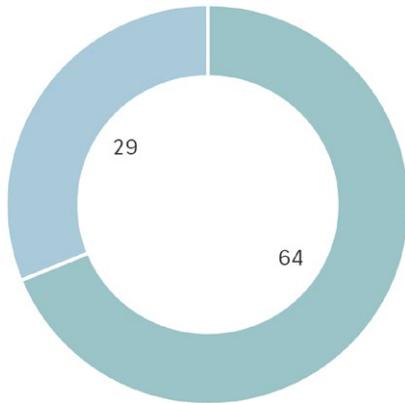


WA Environmental Protection Act 1986 –

Native vegetation clearing permits – By delegation from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

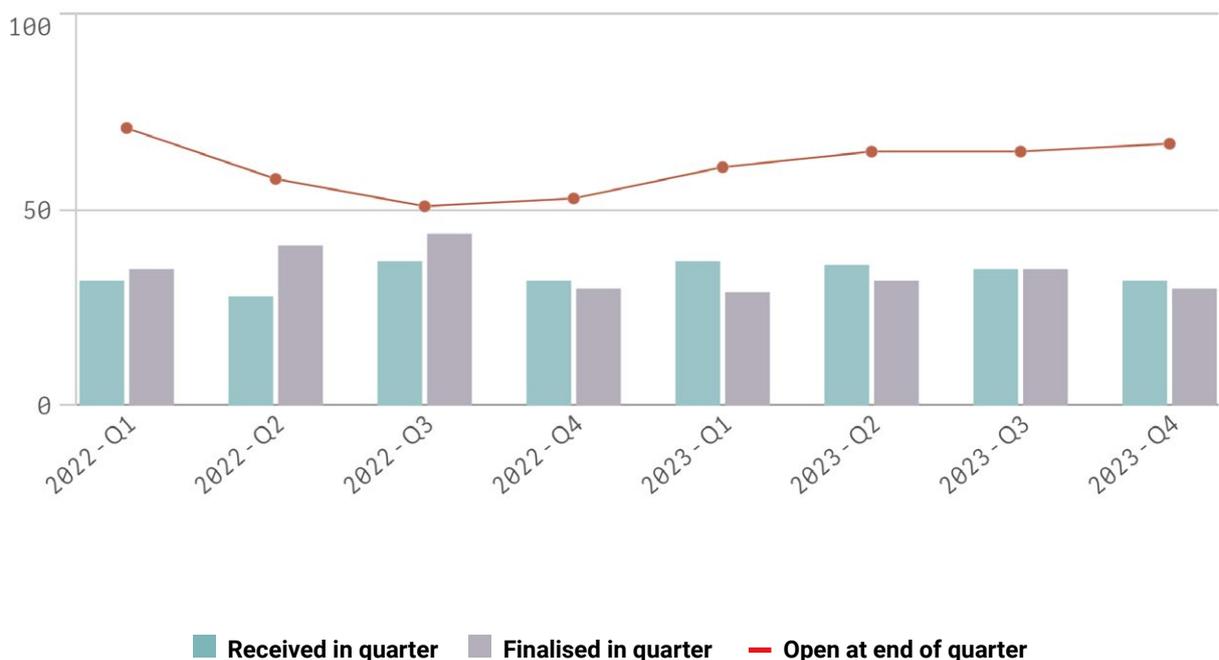
Average **93** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ 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).

The DEMIRS native vegetation clearing permit target timeline has been updated from 43 to 60 business days. This has been done to ensure DEMIRS and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) targets are consistent.