



Quarterly performance report

1 APRIL 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2016

Service delivery standards



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1. Executive summary

1.1. Overview

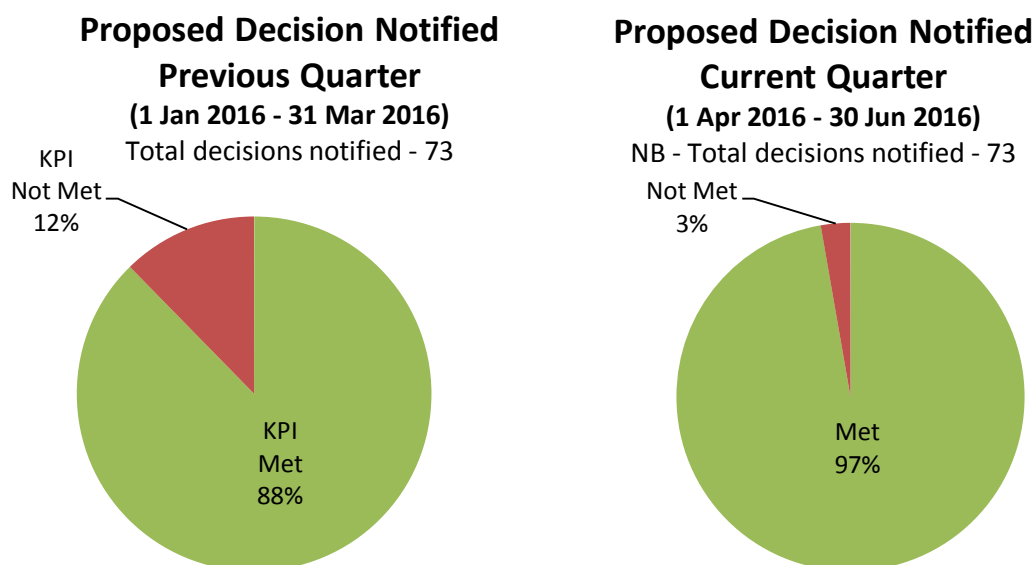
This report provides a summary of the operating performance for the provision of *Titles Services* within the Division of Resources and Energy of the NSW Department of Industry for the three-month period ending 30 June 2016.

All exploration and mining activity in NSW must be conducted in accordance with an authority (Title) issued under the *Mining Act 1992*. Certain exploration and mining activities also trigger the requirement for additional approvals and other NSW legislation may also apply. The authority gives holders (Title holders) exclusive rights to explore or mine for the mineral group(s) for which the authority is granted.

For the purpose of this report, Titles Services incorporates the process of receiving and assessing of applications and the granting of authorities pursuant to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as published by the Division of Resources and Energy from time-to-time.

The data collected for this report is from 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016. During this quarter 73 notifications of proposed decisions were issued by Titles Services. Of these notifications, 97% were processed within the required performance standard. This is a continued improvement from the 88% achieved in the previous quarter and a significant improvement compared to the 54% compliance achieved for the same period last year.

The result demonstrates an ongoing commitment to continued improvement and represents the highest level of overall performance achieved by the Division since performance targets were first introduced on 12 August 2013.



Of the 2 applications (3%) that did not meet the KPI targets in the current quarter, 1 of these related to an application received prior to 1 October 2015. Since the implementation of a new 'case management' customer service strategy and structure in early October 2015, 99% of notifications of proposed decisions for applications and renewals received since 1 October were issued within the required service levels.

1.2. Service performance review

Activity/approval	Last quarter Jan-Mar 2016		This quarter Apr-Jun 2016		Same period last year Apr-Jun 2015	
	Service Performance	Decisions Notified	Service Performance	Decisions Notified	Service Performance	Decisions Notified
Coal exploration licence applications ¹	N/A	0	N/A	0	0%	1
Mineral exploration licence applications ²	100%	22	100%	28	76%	17
Mineral & coal mining lease applications ²	83%	6	50%	2	0%	1
Assessment lease applications	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Coal exploration licence renewals ²	100%	1	92%	12	100%	4
Mineral exploration licence renewals ²	91%	34	100%	28	71%	24
Mineral & coal mining lease renewals ²	56%	9	100%	3	50%	2
Assessment lease renewals	0%	1	N/A	0	N/A	0
Review of Environmental Factors (REF) approvals (including Non-Common Exploration Activities) ³	100%	7	100%	4	80%	5
Mining Operations Plan (MOP) approvals ³	98%	43	98%	49	64%	42
Security deposit reviews ³	96%	85	90%	114	59%	159
Security deposit release ⁴	100%	31	100%	60	100%	47
Surface Disturbance Notice approvals (including Common Exploration Activities) ⁴	100%	30	100%	35	65%	48
Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) variation approvals ⁵	100%	1	100%	7	100%	3

Performance Standards and Legend

¹ 90% within 85 business days

² 90% within 45 business days

³ 90% within 30 business days

⁴ 90% within 10 business days

⁵ 90% within 90 business days

	69% or less
	70% - 89%
	90% or more

2. Additional information

2.1. Service levels and operations

For those mineral exploration licence applications, which do not require the approval of the Minister, the processing time for service level reporting is complete when the applicant is notified of the result of the proposed decision, or in the case of withdrawal, when the withdrawal of the application is finalised. Exploration licence applications for coal and petroleum, where the approval of the Minister is required, the processing time for service level reporting where applicable is complete when the submission is completed and sent to the Minister for consideration.

If an application is deficient, the applicant is notified immediately and given 10 business days pursuant to submit all supporting information required for assessment purposes. Processing timeframes commence when a complete application, including all required supporting information is received.

Any change to processing time occurs only under a *Stop-the-Clock* provision. Stop-the-clock provisions generally apply where additional information is required from the applicant or in the event of an exception identified in Appendix A.

Information regarding legacy work (dealings received before 1 January 2013) is provided in Appendix B. A flowchart of the application process for Titles Services is provided at Appendix C.

2.2. Service definitions

Activity	Purpose/definition
Exploration licence	Gives the holder exclusive rights to explore for petroleum or minerals within a designated area but it does not permit mining, nor does it guarantee a mining or production lease will be granted.
Mining lease /Petroleum production lease	Gives the holder the exclusive right to mine for petroleum or specific minerals or to conduct mining related activities on or under a specific area of land.
Assessment lease	Allows the holder to maintain an authority over an identified project area without being obligated to conduct further exploration activity.
Review of Environmental Factors (REF)	Informs the Department's consideration of the likely environmental impact of a proposed activity under Part 5 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> .
Mining Operations Plan (MOP)	A plan which facilitates the monitoring of approved mining and rehabilitation activities during the life of a mine in accordance with the requirements of a development approval or any lease agreement.
Security deposits	Monies held in trust for rehabilitation works in the event of default by the titleholder.
Surface Disturbance Notice approvals (including Common Exploration Activities)	Notification of exploration activities involving disturbance or exposure of the soil or surface rock layer and/or degradation or deterioration in any manner of the physical surface of land.
Subsidence Management Plan (SMP)	Mining Lease Extraction Plan (MLEP) describes how subsidence impacts will be managed to meet the requirements of the development consent.

2.3. Applications received

Activity	1 Apr 2015 to 30 Jun 2015	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Sep 2015	1 Oct 2015 to 31 Dec 2015	1 Jan 2016 to 31 Mar 2016	1 Apr 2016 to 30 Jun 2016
COAL					
Exploration Licence Applications	0	0	0	1	2
Assessment Lease Applications	0	0	0	0	0
Mining Lease Applications	6	8	4	2	5
TOTAL	6	8	4	3	7
Exploration Licence Renewals	8	8	14	9	7
Assessment Lease Renewals	1	0	0	0	0
Mining Lease Renewals	1	2	3	0	2
TOTAL	10	10	17	9	9
MINERALS					
Exploration Licence Applications	24	25	27	27	39
Assessment Lease Applications	1	1	0	0	0
Mining Lease Applications	2	3	5	1	2
TOTAL	27	29	32	28	41
Exploration Licence Renewals	52	37	41	34	53
Assessment Lease Renewals	0	0	0	0	1
Mining Lease Renewals	14	9	2	3	2
TOTAL	66	46	43	37	56
PETROLEUM					
Exploration Licence Applications	0	0	0	0	0
Assessment Lease Applications	0	0	0	0	0
Production Lease Applications	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
Exploration Licence Renewals	0	0	1	0	1
Assessment Lease Renewals	0	0	0	0	0
Production Lease Renewals	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	1	0	1
GRAND TOTAL	109	93	97	77	114

The number of applications received from 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2016 averaged approximately 98 per quarter. There were 114 applications received during this quarter, compared to 109 for the same time last year.

Appendix A: Exception management

The following exception management (Stop-the-Clock) protocols apply when circumstances beyond the control of DRE prevent the valid assessment of an application. On occasions where multiple circumstances give rise to multiple stop-the-clock triggers, these are dealt with in parallel rather than sequentially.

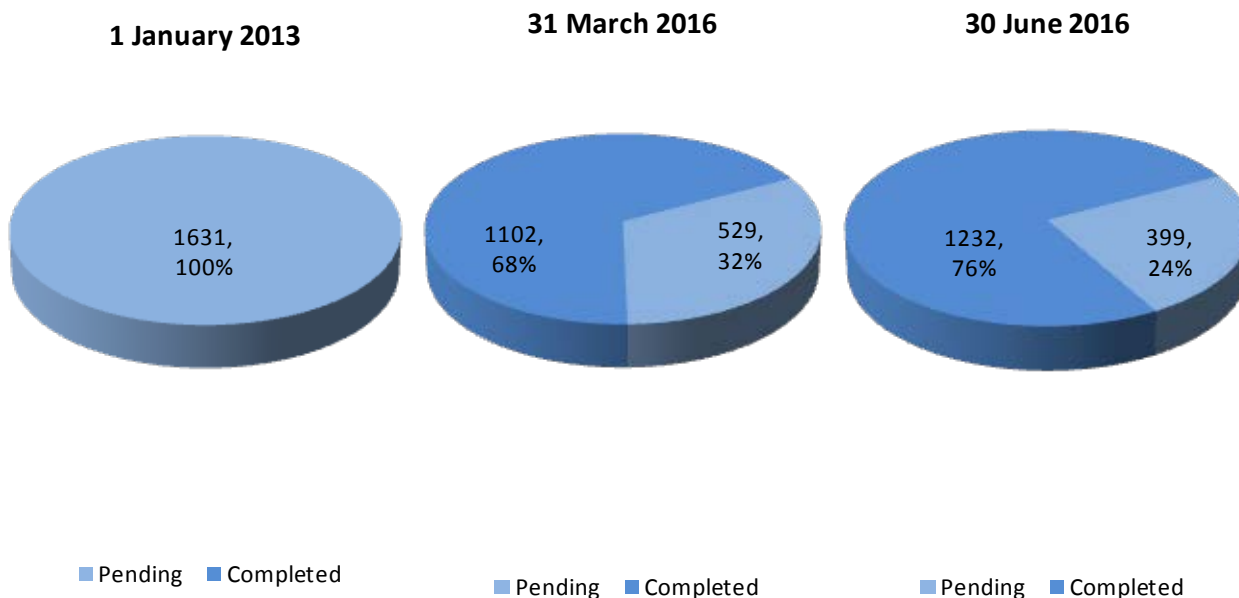
ALL APPLICATION TYPES			
Exception	Processing clock triggers		Applicable legislation/ notes
	Stop clock	Restart clock	
Applicant requests that application is put on hold.	Request received from applicant to stop processing.	Request received from applicant to restart processing.	N/A
Development consent required prior to <i>Mining Act 1992</i> approval.	Notification to applicant that processing cannot proceed without development consent.	Copy of relevant consent supplied to DRE.	Section 65 <i>Mining Act 1992</i> Clause 7(1) <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007</i>
EPBC Act referral decision or approval required of direct relevance to application or title.	Notification to applicant that processing cannot proceed until referral decision or approval is made.	Copy of referral decision or approval supplied to DRE.	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000</i>
Relevant litigation underway in relation to application or title.	Notification to applicant that litigation precludes further processing.	DRE notified that litigation has been resolved.	N/A
Significant unresolved issue with third party of direct relevance to application or title.	Notification to applicant that issue with third party precludes further processing.	DRE notified that issue with third party has been resolved.	N/A
Serious compliance issue of direct relevance to application or title.	Notification to applicant that compliance issue precludes further processing.	Compliance issue has been resolved.	To be dealt with in accordance with DRE compliance/enforcement policy and procedures
Deficiency in application which may otherwise result in application being refused.	Notification to applicant of deficiency.	Requested information supplied to DRE or applicant does not supply information within requested timeframe.	Administrative law principles relating to the exercise of discretionary powers and procedural fairness

GRANTS AND RENEWALS			
Exception	Processing clock triggers		Applicable legislation
	Stop clock	Restart clock	
Right to negotiate process.	Commencement of right to negotiate process at request of applicant.	Completion of right to negotiate process	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i>
Significant improvement determination (mining leases only).	Receipt of objection.	Determination of objection	Section 62(6A) <i>Mining Act 1992</i>
Agricultural land determination (mining leases only).	Receipt of objection.	Determination of objection	Section 179 <i>Mining Act 1992</i>
Survey outstanding (mining leases only).	Notification to applicant that survey required before processing can proceed further.	Satisfactory plan submitted to DRE and assessed.	Section 66 <i>Mining Act 1992</i>

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY APPROVALS – Category 2 SDN, Category 3 REF			
MINING APPROVALS - Mining Operations Plan (MOP), Subsidence Management Plan (SMP)			
Exception	Processing clock triggers		Applicable legislation
	Stop clock	Restart clock	
<i>Mining Act 1992</i> authorisation (title) required prior to activity approval.	Notification to applicant	Authorisation (title) granted	Sections 5 and 6 <i>Mining Act 1992</i>
EXPLORATION ACTIVITY APPROVALS – Category 3 REF			
Exception	Processing clock triggers		Applicable legislation
	Stop clock	Restart clock	
Consent required from the Minister for the Environment for exploration in State Conservation Areas.	Notification to applicant	Copy of consent supplied to DRE	Section 47J(7) <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>

Appendix B: Legacy work

Legacy work on hand (dealings received prior to January 2013)



Details by dealing type

Category	Description	Completed	Pending
DTA	Dead Title Action	417	268
REN	Renewal applications	534	92
Other	All other dealings	281	39
Totals:		1232	399

Legacy Work is an identified priority for the next Quarter. A dedicated project has been established to finalise these matters and will incorporate the use of a risk-based assessment process for Dead Title Actions. During the quarter, legacy dealings have been reduced by approximately 12%.

Appendix C: Titles application process

