



# DEMIRS Approvals Performance Reporting (Mining and Petroleum) September Quarter 2024

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 were positive across resource tenure, petroleum well activities, radiation management plans and native vegetation clearing during the September 2024 quarter, despite continued high demand for approvals.

Programmes of work have experienced a significant performance increase, with the average DEMIRS processing time shortening to 12 days, against a target of 15 days. It is expected that into the future performance will increase with the implementation of the eligible mining activity framework and Resources Online digital platform.

Petroleum environmental plans and native vegetation clearing permits experienced challenges during the quarter due to continued high number of applications coupled with various resourcing constraints. Resourcing is now approaching normal levels and performance is expected to recover in future reporting periods.

Overall DEMIRS recognises the factors that are impacting assessment and approval timeframes and is subsequently pursuing a number of reforms which will directly and indirectly ease pressure on the approval process and improve processing timeframes for industry.

For a detailed analysis of assessment processes and timeframes relating to mining applications in 2023–24, please refer to the [Assessment Timeframes for Mining Environmental Applications Analysis](#) report.

**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 July to September 2024 quarters include:

- petroleum tenure performance was between 88 and 97 per cent;
- programmes of work increased from 24 to 65 per cent; and
- petroleum environmental plans decreased from 49 to 33 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.

To further explain the above, refer to the Exploration Licence section (page 4). The average total timeline to finalise an Exploration Licence application is 340 business days (approx. 17 months). This consists of DEMIRS processing time (38 days), proponent time (38 days) and other agencies (246 days). There were 18 days of parallel processing. Ninety five 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).

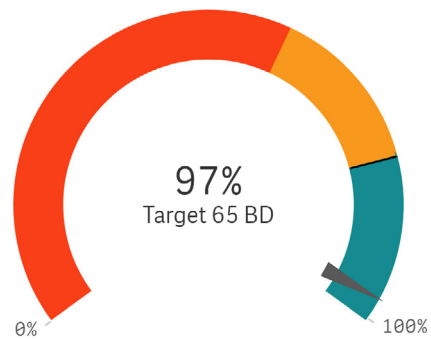
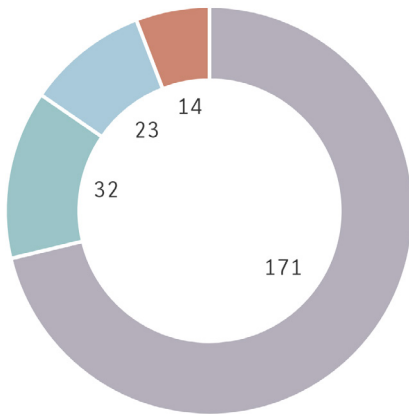
This report provides detailed information about the number of received, finalised and open applications.

# Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

## Prospecting Licence

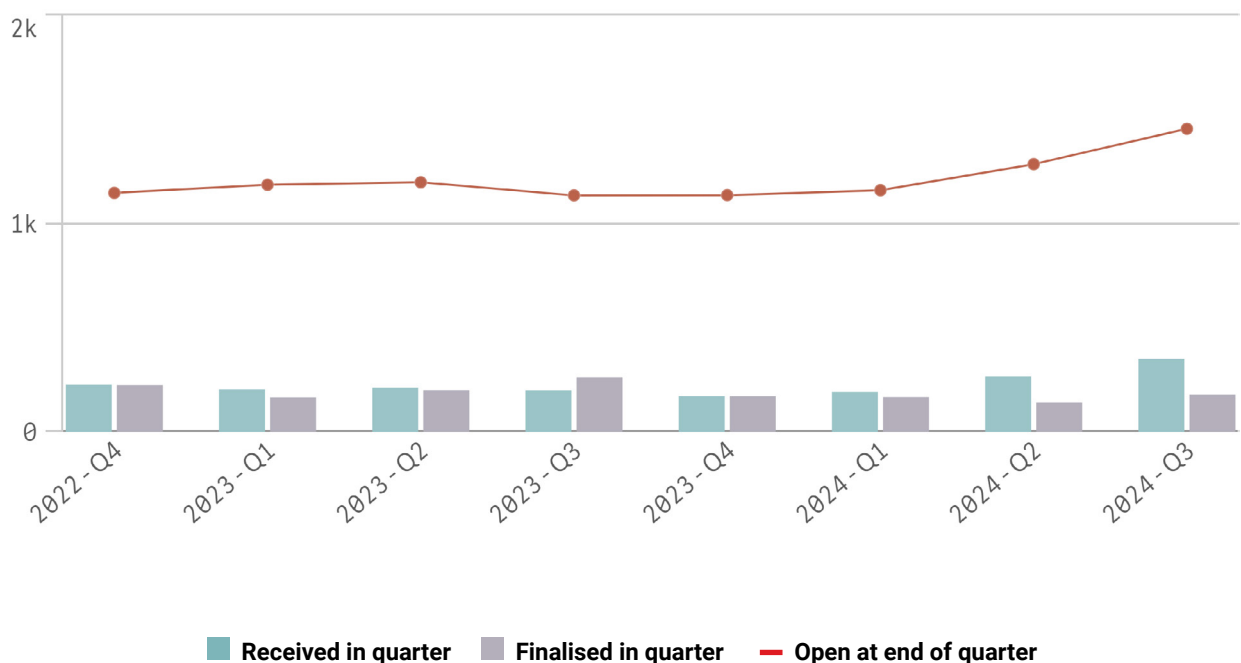
Average **240** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS Licensing  
 ■ Proponent  
 ■ Other Agencies  
■ Parallel Processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

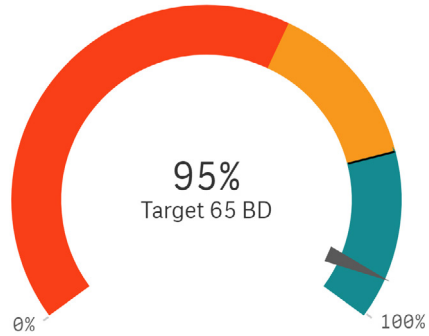
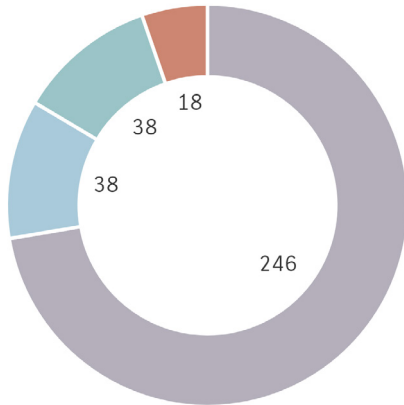


# Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

## Exploration Licence

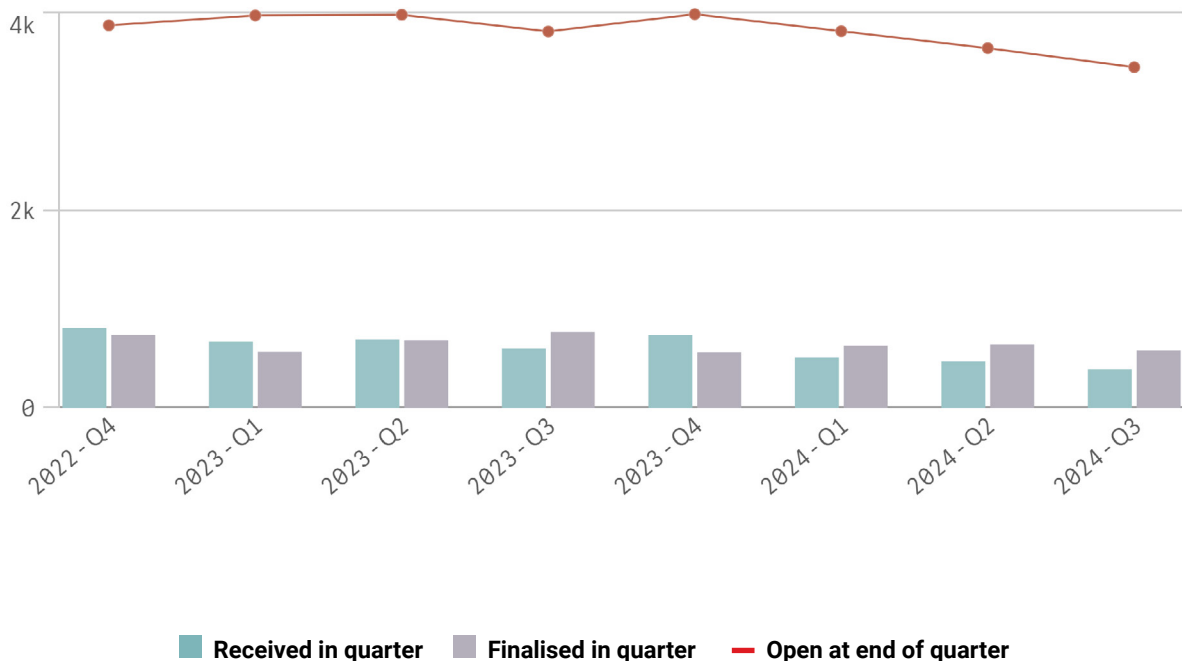
Average **340** days total

**% Finalised within target timeline**



■ DEMIRS Licensing 
 ■ Proponent 
 ■ Other Agencies  
■ Parallel Processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

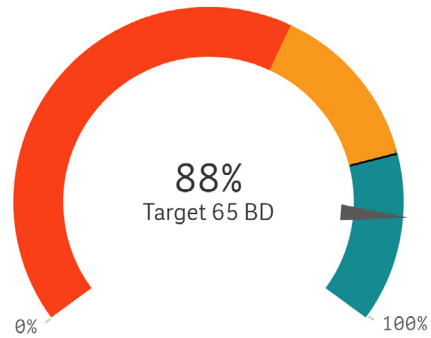
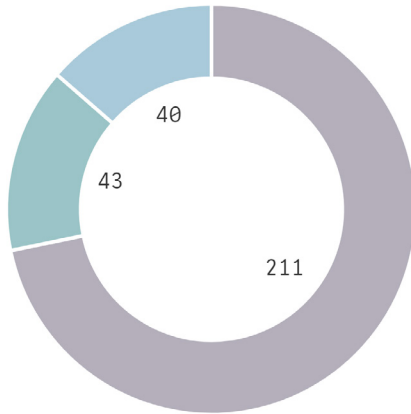


# Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

## Mining Lease

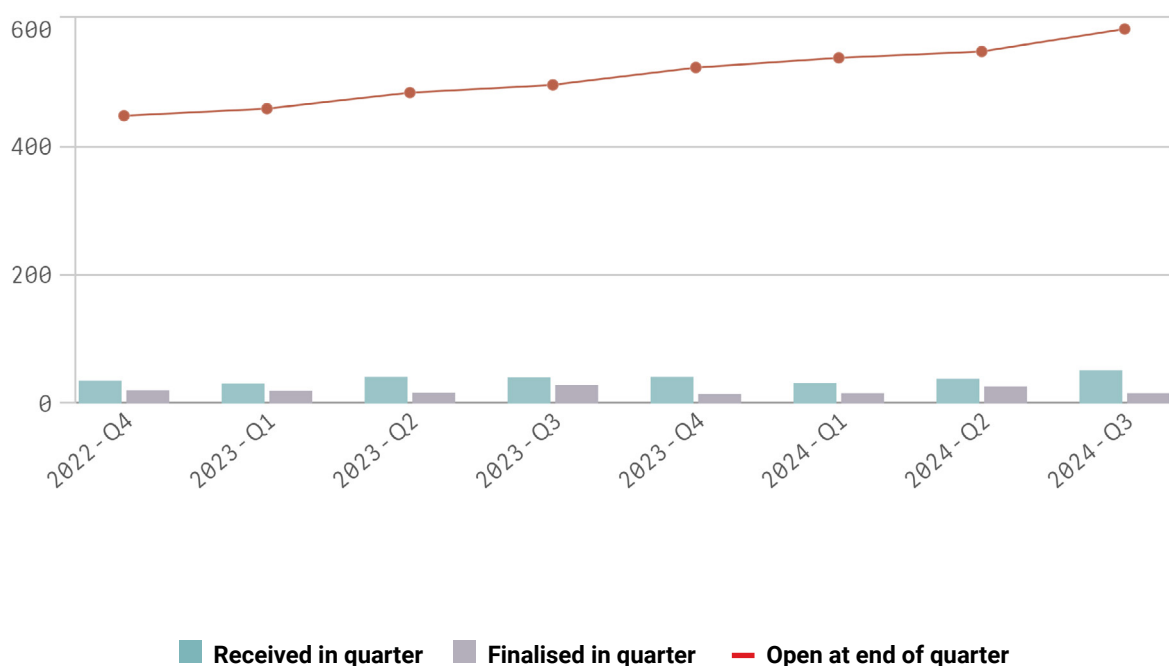
Average **294** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent ■ Other Agencies

### Trends for received, finalised and open

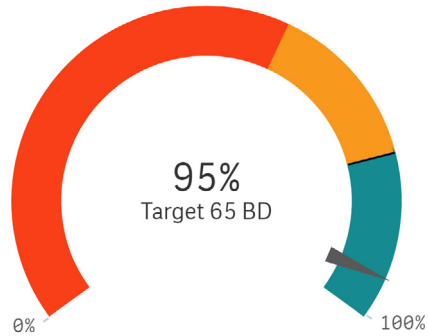
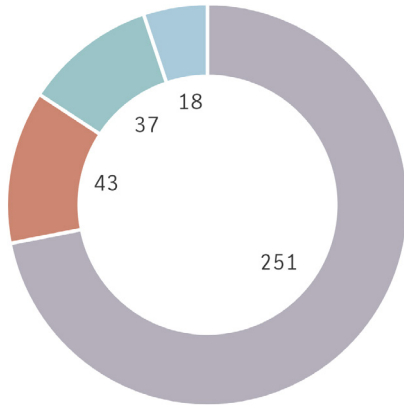


# Mining Act 1978 – Mineral tenure applications

## Miscellaneous Licence and other tenure

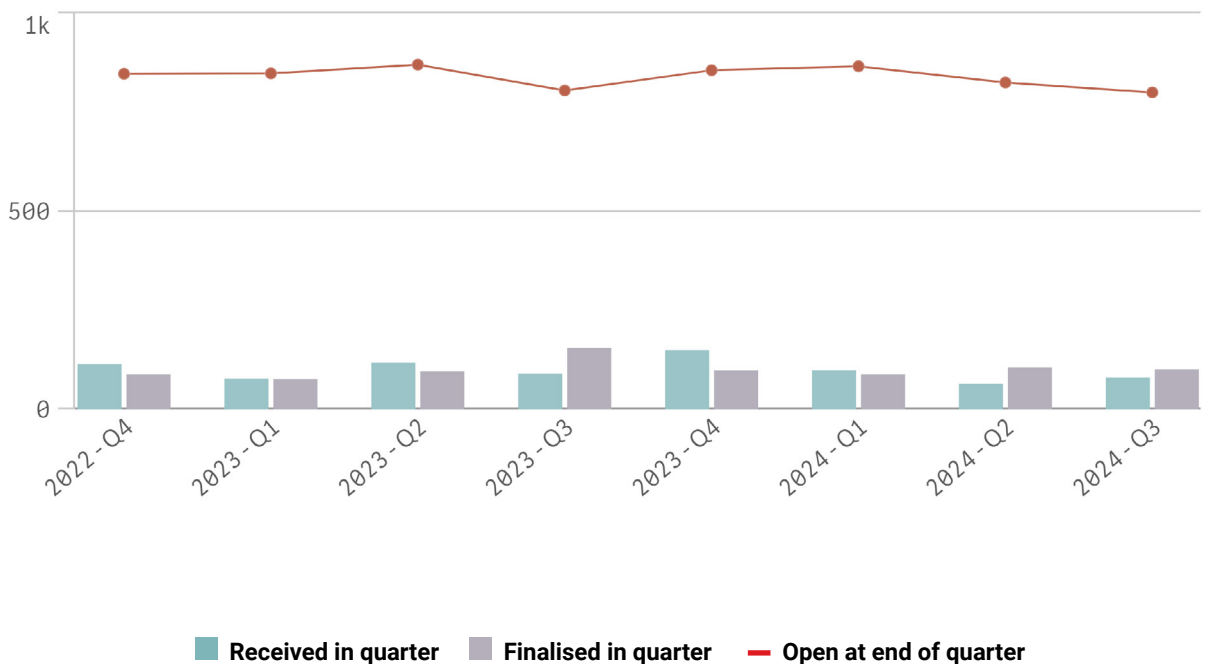
Average **349** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS   
 ■ Proponent   
 ■ Other Agencies  
■ Parallel Processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

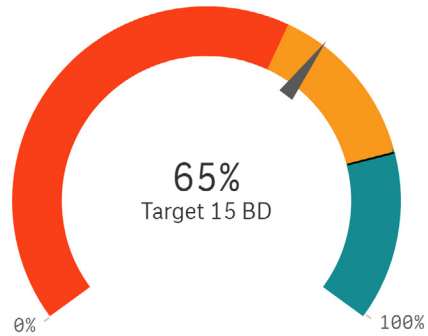
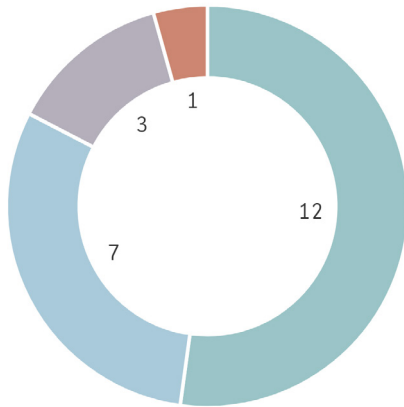


# Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

## Programme of Work

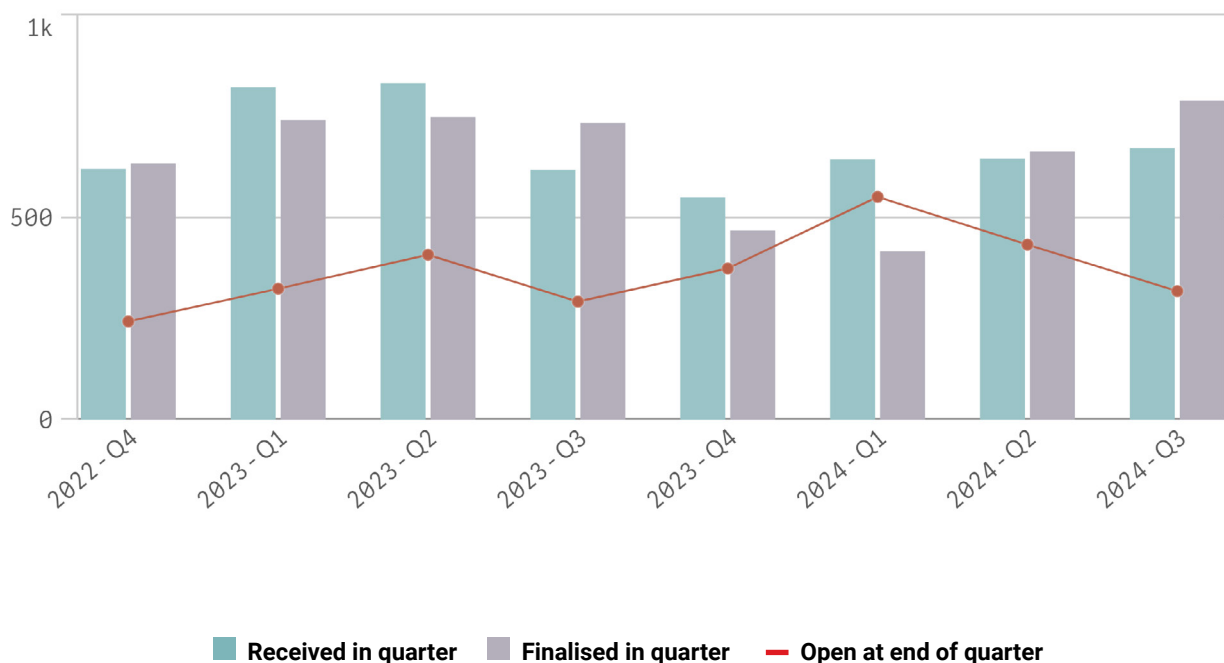
Average **23** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



- DEMIRS
- Proponent
- Other Agencies
- Parallel Processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open

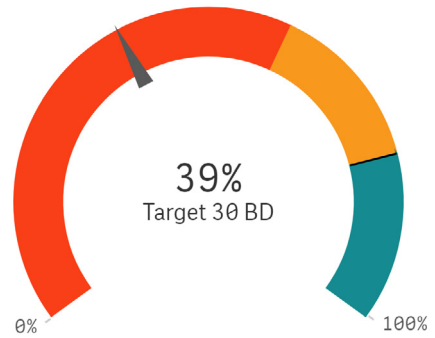
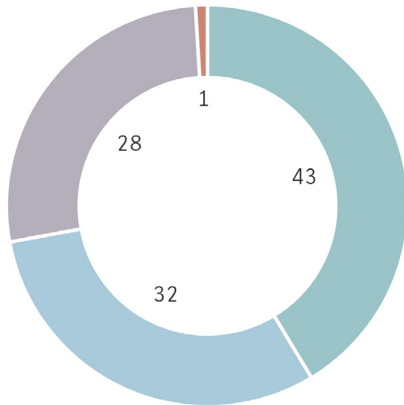


# Mining Act 1978 – Environmental applications

## Mining Proposal

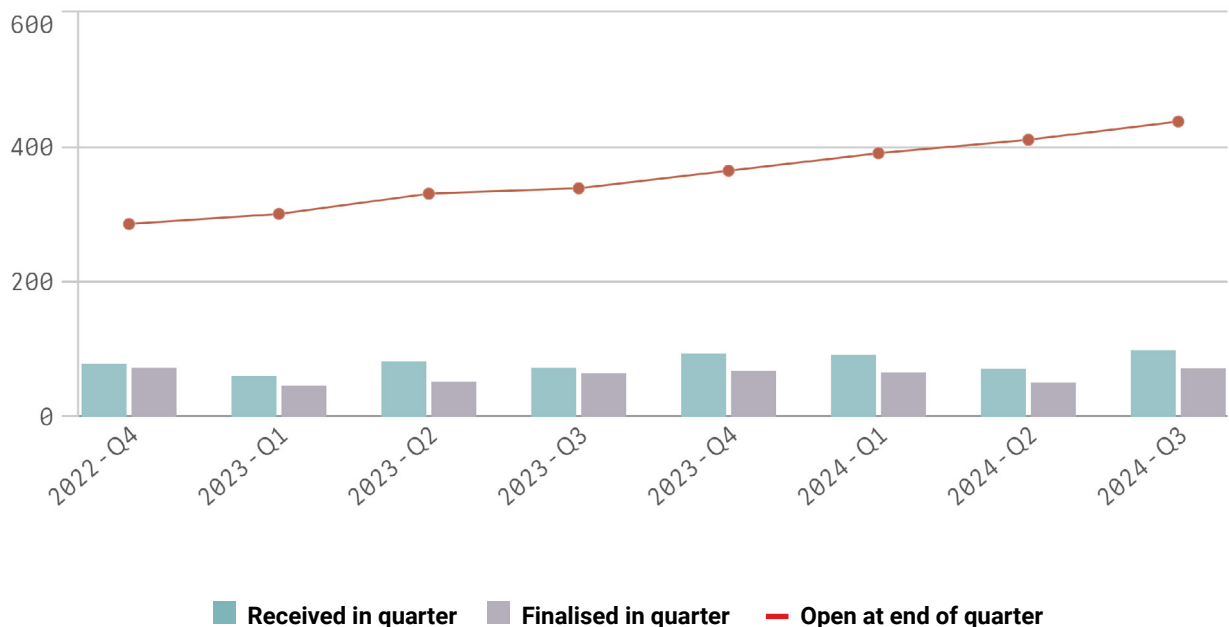
Average **104** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



- DEMIRS
- Proponent
- Other Agencies
- Parallel Processing

### Trends for received, finalised and open



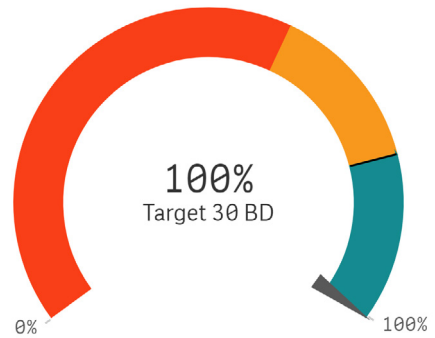
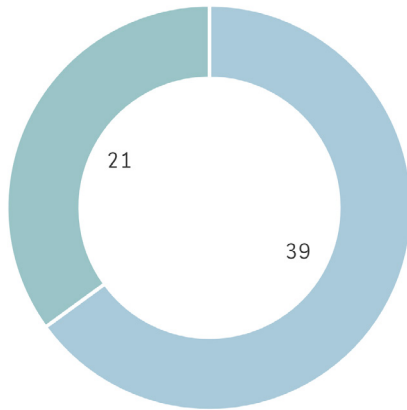


# Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022

## Radiation Management Plans

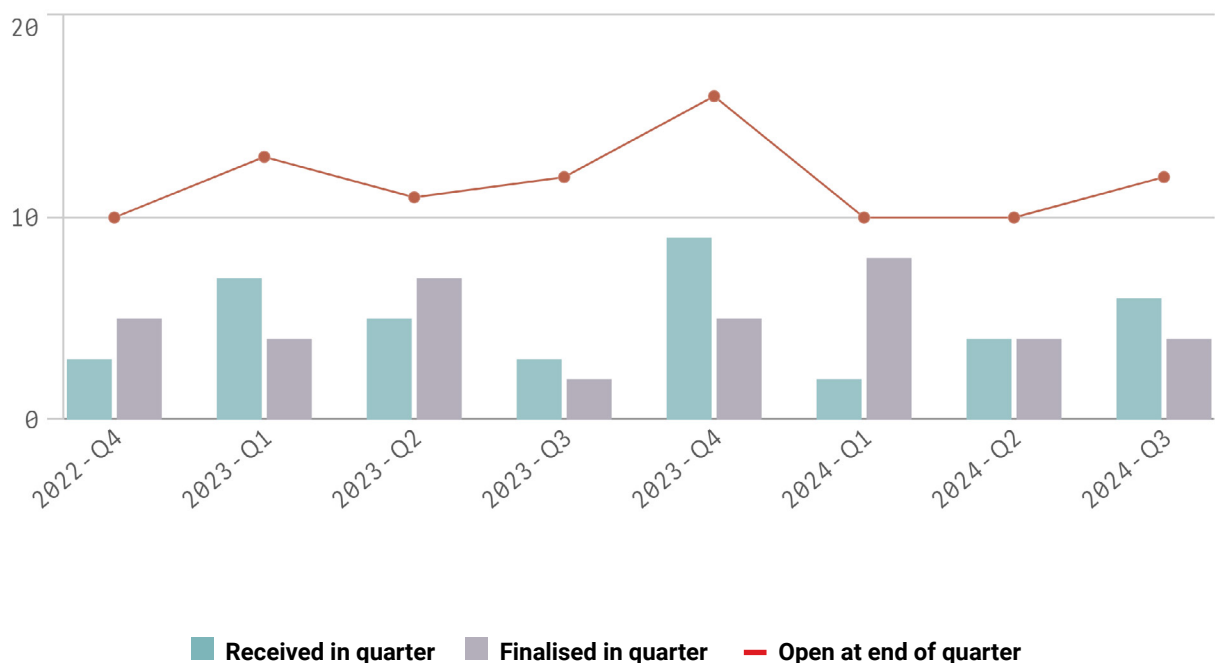
Average **60** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent

### Trends for received, finalised and open

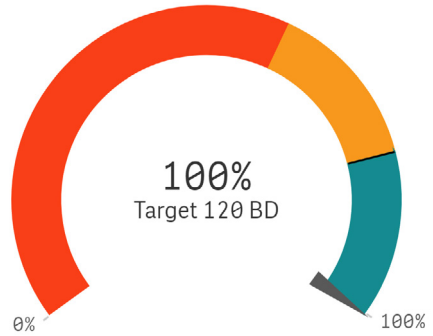
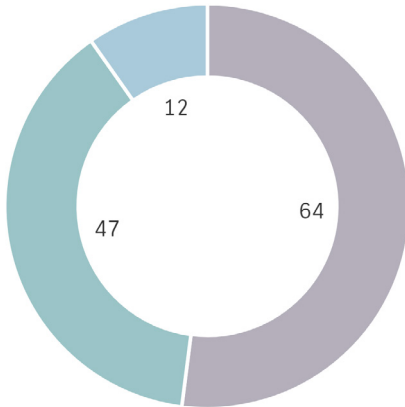


# WA Petroleum Legislation

## Petroleum Tenure

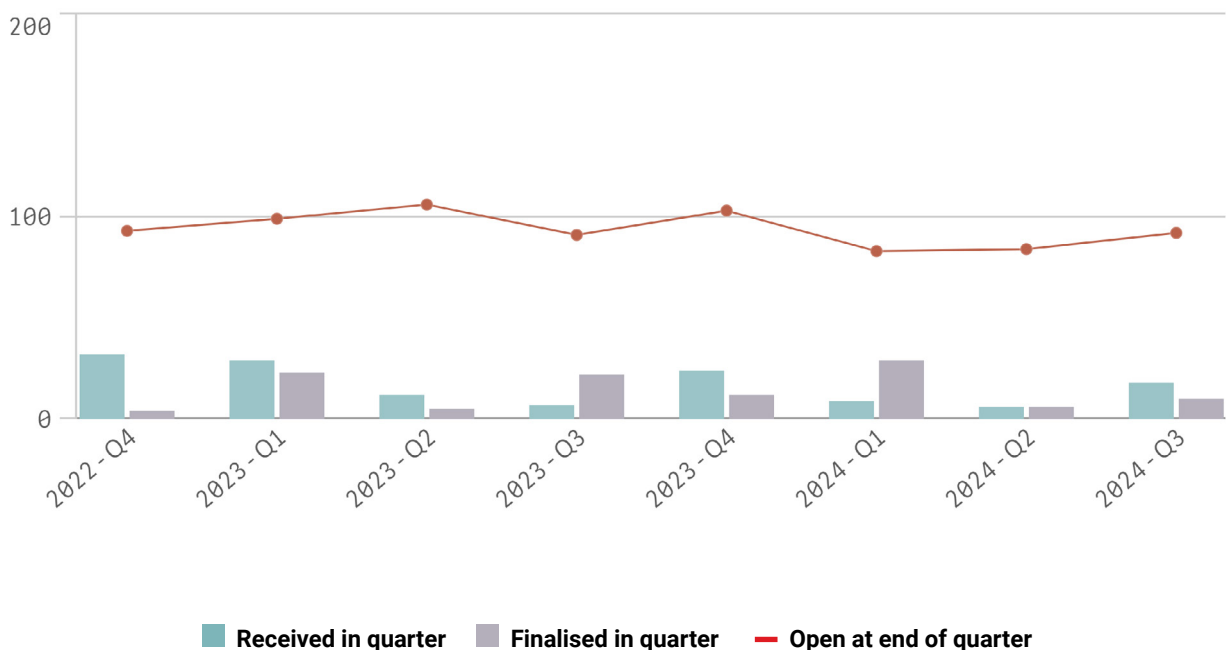
Average **123** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent ■ Other Agencies

### Trends for received, finalised and open

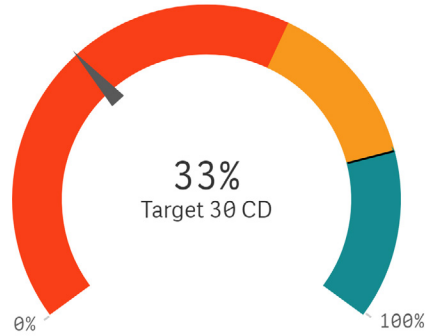
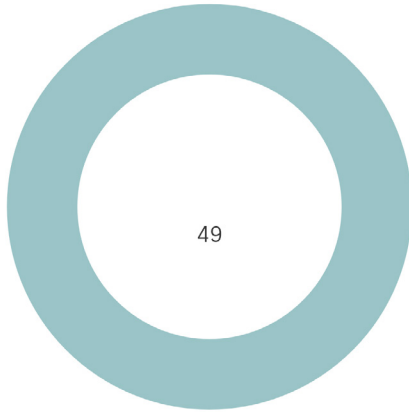


# WA Petroleum Legislation

## Petroleum Environment Plans

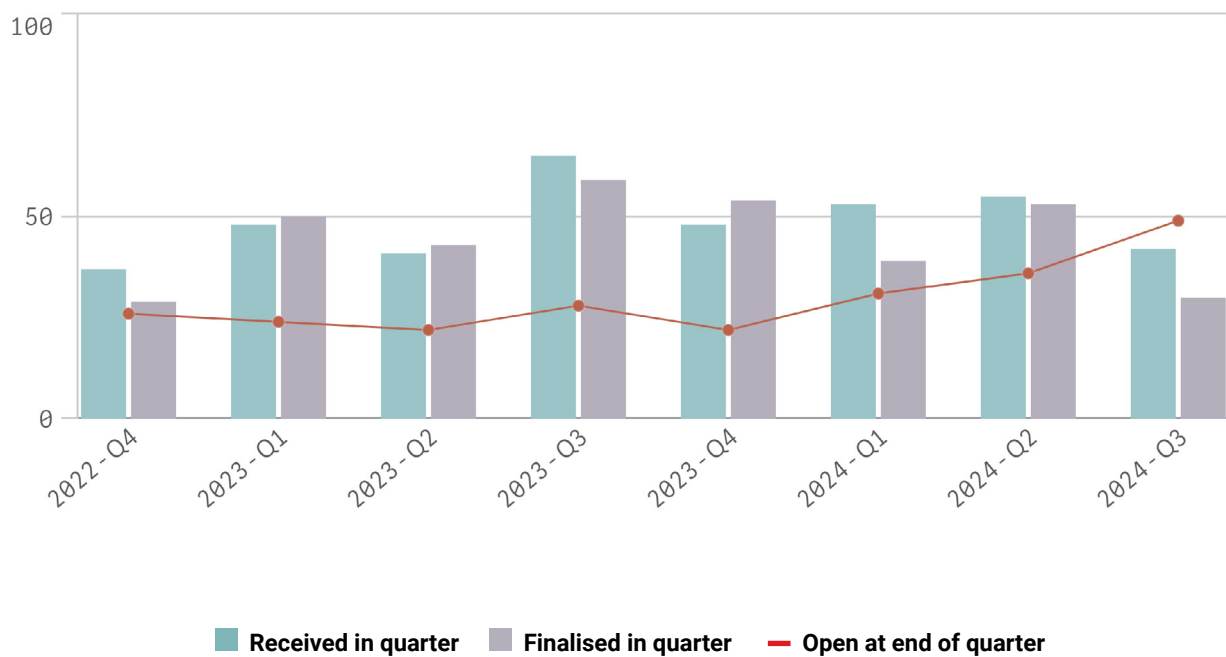
Average **49** days total

**% Finalised within target timeline**



■ DEMIRS

Trends for received, finalised and open

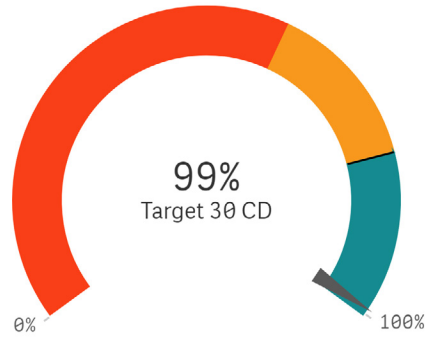
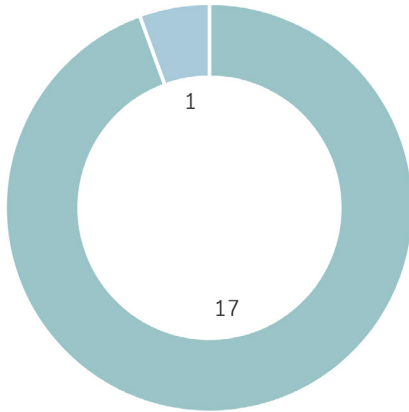


# WA Petroleum Legislation

## Well Activities

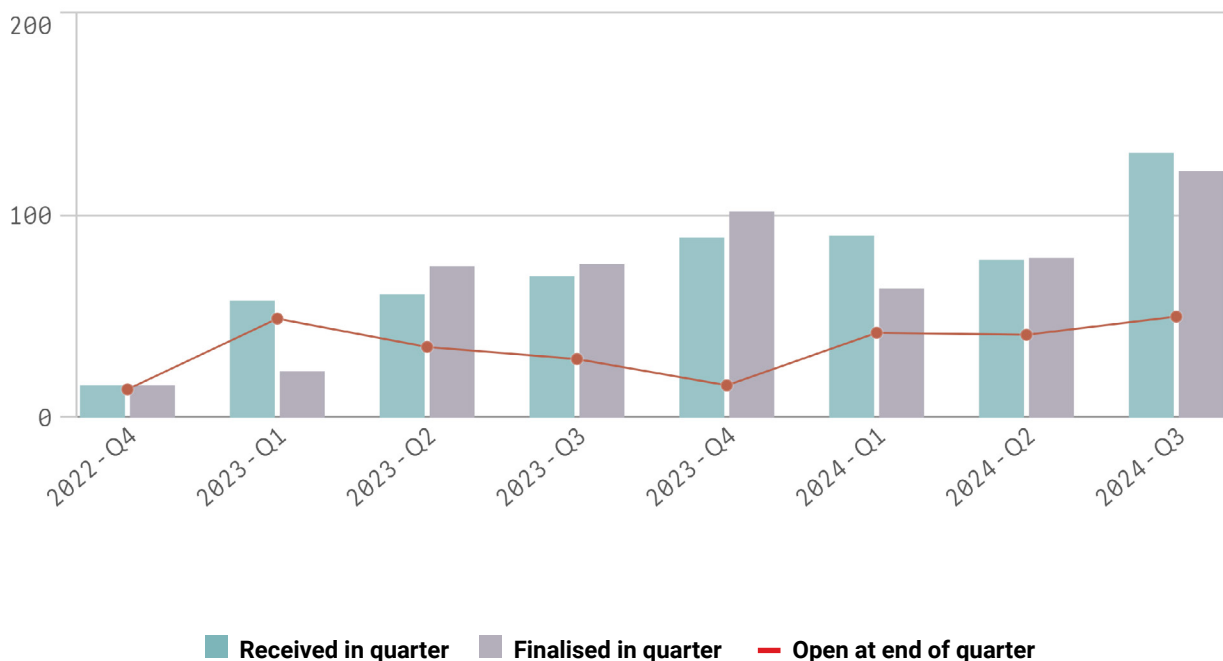
Average **18** days total

% Finalised within target timeline



■ DEMIRS ■ Proponent

### Trends for received, finalised and open

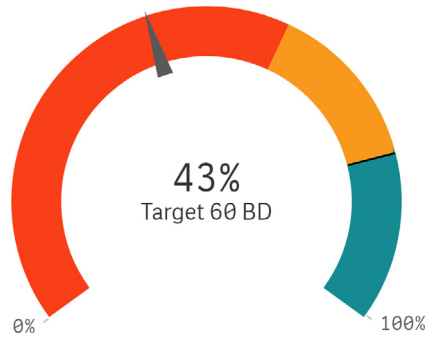
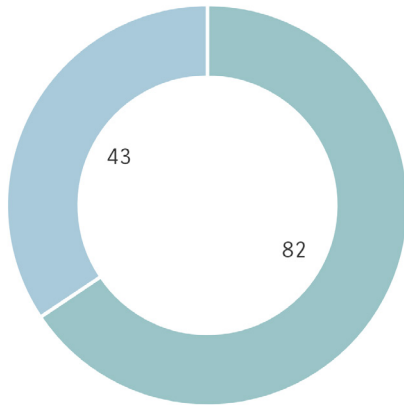


# WA Environmental Protection Act 1986 –

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

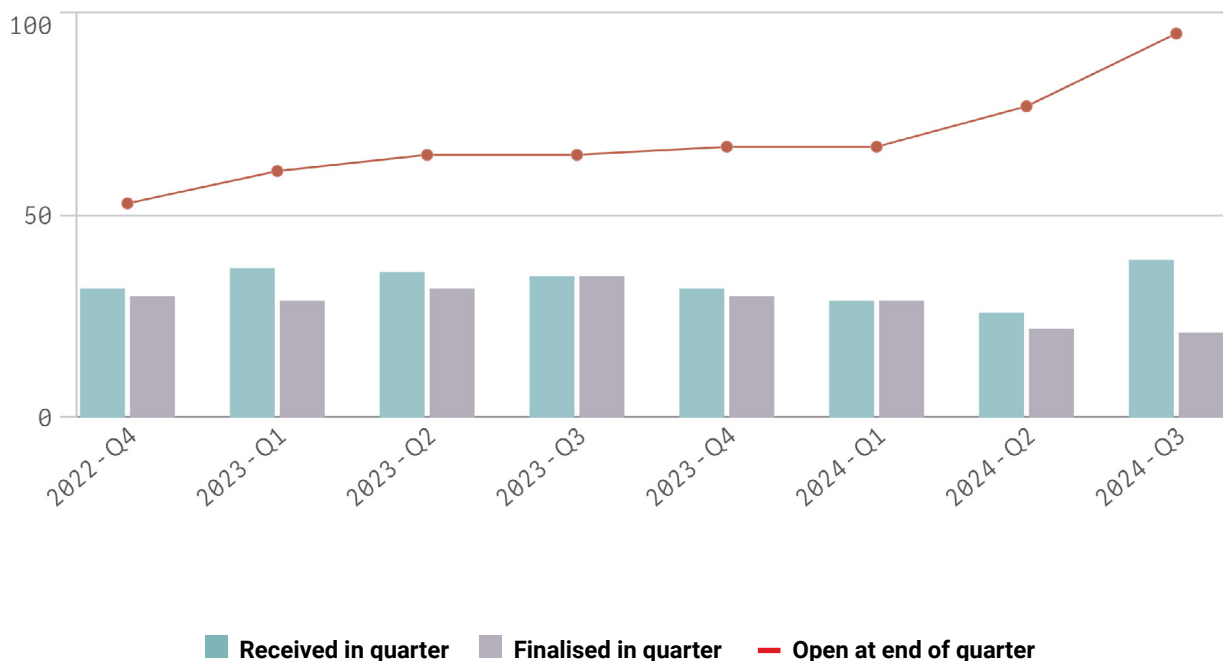
Average **125** days total

**% 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).