Mining, Exploration and Geoscience Quarterly Performance Report

Quarter 1 2022

May 2022

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Executive summary

Quarterly Wrap-Up

Across Quarter 1 2022 Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) finalised 125 measured title actions whilst continuing to embed the revised suite of Service Delivery Standards (SDS), performance measures and reporting framework adopted in Q4 2021 into business operations.

Of these 125 matters, 66% were determined within target timeframes. This result includes retrospective application of end-to-end target dates for matters included in previous reporting (based on notice of proposed decision) and reflects efforts to finalise of a tranche of older complex matters that had already exceeded previous targets by a considerable margin.

70 matters finalised this quarter were lodged post-adoption of the revised SDS framework (October 2021). Of these 94% were determined within target timeframes.

The revised framework has now largely been implemented across MEG business operations. It is anticipated that overall performance against target determination timeframes will continue to improve towards pre-Q4 2021 baseline levels as strong performance against new applications is maintained, remaining complex matters are finalised and legislative reform agendas are delivered to increase efficiencies for decision making and clarity for stakeholders.

Overview

This report provides a summary of the performance for title assessments and application processing within the Department of Regional NSW's Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) division for Quarter 1 2022 (1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022).

MEG's performance is reported against the Service Delivery Standards ('target dates') which define target timeframes for the processing of applications under the *Mining Act 1992*. Service Delivery Standards and 'Target dates' are published by MEG at:

www.regional.nsw.gov.au/meg/industry-support/service-delivery-standards

Processing timeframes

Processing timeframes for title applications, renewals, transfers, part transfers and changes in control commence when a complete application, including payment of relevant application fees and all required supporting information, is received by MEG. If an application is deficient, the applicant is notified and given 10 business days to submit all required supporting information. Processing timeframes for Stage 1 ends when the applicant is notified of the proposed decision for the application. Processing timeframes for Stage 2 ends when the applicant is notified of the final decision for the application.

Exception management (stop-the-clock) principles apply when circumstances beyond the control of MEG's process prevent the valid assessment of an application. The exception management principles can be found at the link above.

Quarter 1 2022

Performance overview

The following chart (Table 1) details the performance of decisions as measured against the target dates for Quarter 1 2022. The 'target date' represents an end-to-end application process (application to final decision) that incorporates the title instrument being issued as the final step. Table 1 below shows how many applications for grant, renewal, transfer and part transfer were completed within the 'target date' within this quarter, by resource (mineral or coal), and by application type.

During this quarter:

- 47 exploration licences were granted
- 43 exploration licences were renewed
- 1 assessment lease was renewed
- 16 mining leases were renewed
- 17 transfers were registered
- 1 part transfer was registered

Of these, **66 per cent** met the target timeframe.

Historic performance trend

Figure 1 below shows the historic trend in the reported service delivery standard performance each quarter.

Figure 1 – Historic trend of service delivery standard performance (for all application types measured)

Table 1. Service performance for the quarter

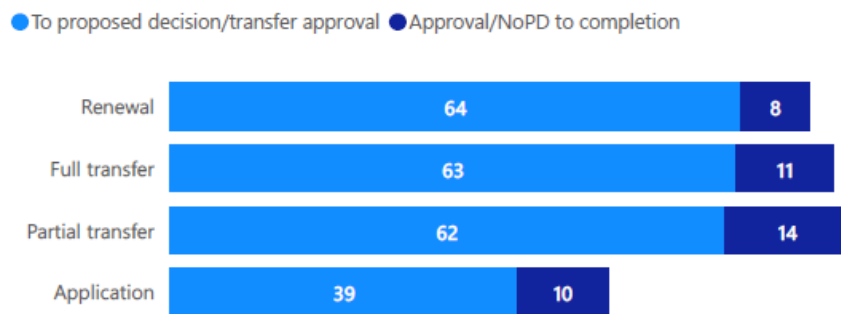**Service performance for Quarter 1 – 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022**

Application type	Total Matters	Met Target Date	Missed Target Date	Service Performance %
MINERAL				
Exploration licence applications	45	38	7	84%
Exploration licence renewals	39	30	9	77%
Assessment lease applications	0	0	0	N/A
Assessment lease renewals	1	1	0	100%
Mining lease applications	0	0	0	N/A
Mining lease renewals	13	5	8	38%
COAL				
Exploration licence applications	2	0	2	0.00%
Exploration licence renewals	4	1	3	25.00%
Assessment lease applications	0	0	0	N/A
Assessment lease renewals	0	0	0	N/A
Mining lease applications	0	0	0	N/A
Mining lease renewals	3	2	1	66.67%
OTHER				
Transfers	17	6	11	35%
Part Transfers	1	0	1	0%
Total	**125**	**83**	**42**	**66%**

Average processing time by stage

Figures 2, 3 and 4 below display the average number of days taken to process the applications determined in the quarter, broken down by application category and application stage (from submission to notice of proposed decision, customer acceptance to final notice etc).
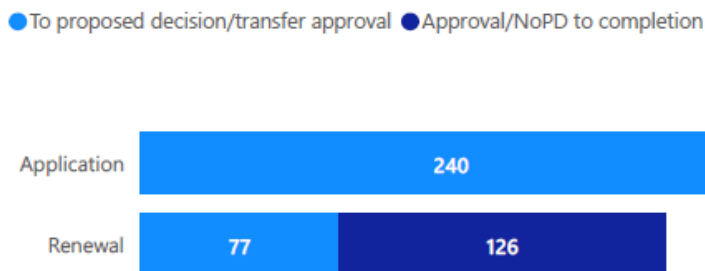
Mineral exploration licences

Figure 2 – Average processing days for mineral exploration titles by application stage
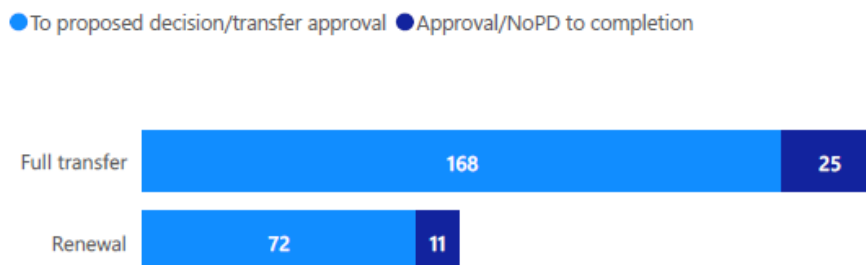

Coal exploration licences

Figure 3 – Average processing days for coal exploration titles by application stage

Mineral mining leases

Figure 4 – Average processing days for mineral mining titles by application stage

Coal mining leases

Figure 5 – Average processing days for coal mining titles by application stage
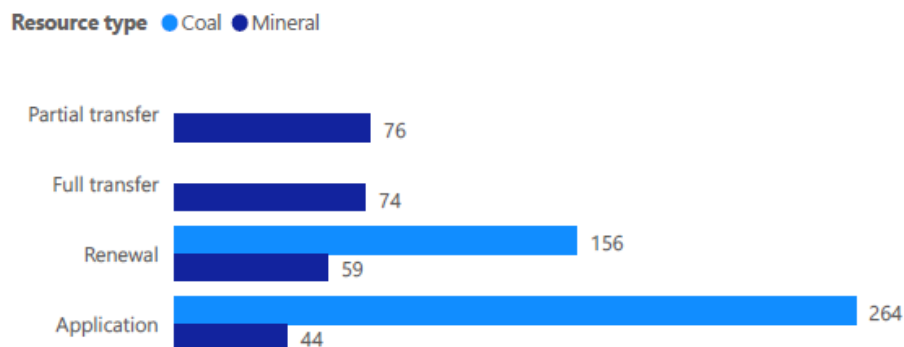

Average end-to-end processing time by resource

Figures 6 and 7 below display the average number of days taken processing the applications determined in the quarter, broken down by application category and resource type (coal, mineral and petroleum).
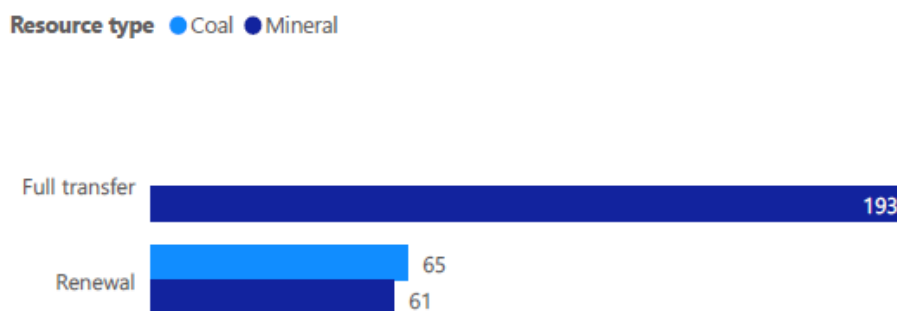
Exploration licences

Figure 6 – Average processing days for exploration titles by resource type

Mining leases

Figure 7 - Average processing days for mining titles by resource type

Remaining pending applications

Figures 8 and 9 below detail the number of pending applications for grant, renewal, transfer and part transfer still under assessment with MEG. Figure 8 itemises the applications by type and resource, and figure 9 details when these applications were received. Please note that these pending applications do not include applications which form part of MEGs ageing dealings project (applications received prior to 1 January 2020). These are reported on separately.

Figure 8 – Remaining pending applications by type and resource

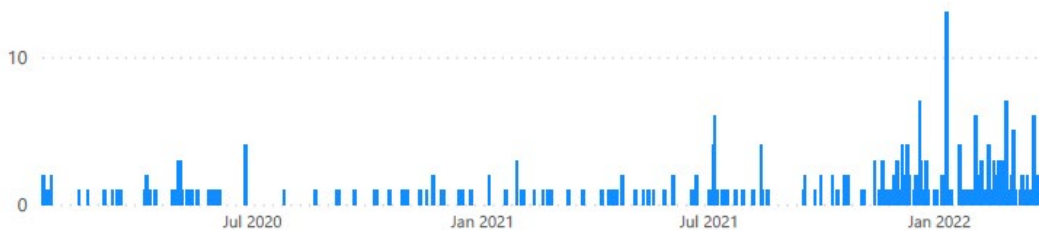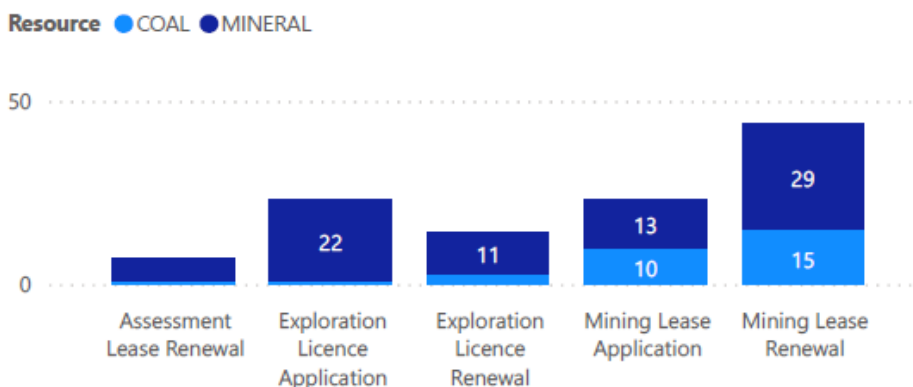**Figure 9 – Remaining pending applications by received date**

Figure 10 below identifies how many pending applications currently have their processing clock stopped under the exception management principles. This is itemised by application type and resource type.

Figure 10 – Pending applications on 'stop-the-clock'