

# Environmental mining licence framework |

## Guidance on application statutory timeframes

This factsheet outlines the statutory assessment and public exhibition periods for the various types of environmental mining licence applications under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act) and *Environment Protection Regulations 2020* (EP Regs). All timeframes are expressed in number of business days.

Operators should submit applications with sufficient time to allow for the statutory assessment period and applicable public exhibition period. The total time it will take for an application to be determined will include the assessment period plus the public exhibition period, plus any additional time taken by the operator to respond to any requests for information.

Applications will be assessed as quickly as possible. To assist process streamlining, operators should ensure their application contains all required information. Operators are encouraged to contact the department prior to submission, to discuss the application and clarify any questions.

All applications, decisions and licences will be published on the public register as soon as practicable, in accordance with section 284 of the EP Act.

### Application assessment

In accordance with section 124ZM of the EP Act, the Minister must make a decision to grant or refuse to grant a new environmental mining licence within the timeframes shown in **Table 1**. (Timeframes do not include any period of public exhibition – see **Table 2**.)

No. business days	Standard (S)	Modified (M)	Tailored (T)
Exploration (XP)	SXP 30	MXP 40	TXP 60
Extractive operations (XT)	SXT 30	MXT 50	TXT 80
Mining (MN)	SMN 40	MMN 80	TMN 120

There are no statutory assessment timeframes under the EP Act for applications to vary an existing licence.

### Public exhibition

In accordance with regulation 233T of the EP Regs, the Minister must publish an application for a new environmental mining licence and invite interested persons to, within the timeframes shown in **Table 2**, submit written comments to the Minister on whether the licence should be granted or refused.

Applications for a standard licence are not required to undergo public consultation because they comply with the applicable risk criteria and standard conditions declared by the Minister.

<i>No. business days</i>	Standard (S)	Modified (M)	Tailored (T)
Exploration (XP)	SXP Not required	MXP <b>15</b>	TXP <b>25</b>
Extractive operations (XT)	SXT Not required	MXT <b>15</b>	TXT <b>25</b>
Mining (MN)	SMN Not required	MMN <b>25</b>	TMN <b>30</b>

In accordance with section 124ZS of the EP Act, the Minister may vary a licence on the application of the operator; and must publicly exhibit the application only if the Minister considers that the proposed amendment constitutes a ‘substantial alteration’. In accordance with regulation 233W, the exhibition period must not be less than 20 business days and may be longer if deemed appropriate. Generally, exhibition of variation applications will be in accordance with the timeframes shown in **Table 3**.

A proposed amendment is likely to be substantial if it has the potential to adversely affect the risk profile of the approved activity. For further information refer to the applicable application form at [Apply for an environmental \(mining\) licence | NT.GOV.AU](#).

<i>No. business days</i>	Standard (S)	Modified (M)	Tailored (T)
Exploration (XP)	SXP Not required	MXP <b>20</b>	TXP <b>25</b>
Extractive operations (XT)	SXT Not required	MXT <b>20</b>	TXT <b>25</b>
Mining (MN)	SMN Not required	MMN <b>20</b>	TMN <b>25</b>

## Further information

Contact: Mining Division | [mineralinfo.dlpe@nt.gov.au](mailto:mineralinfo.dlpe@nt.gov.au) | (08) 8999 6528