

# Environmental (mining) licences

## Q4 2026: 1 April – 30 June 2026

The Mining Division of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE) is responsible for assessment of applications submitted by Mining Operators under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act) for environmental (mining) licences to undertake exploration, extractive mineral operations and mining operations.

Prior to 1 July 2024, Mining Division received 104 applications for Authorisations and approval of Mining Management Plans (MMPs). The Division continues to assess these applications submitted under the now repealed *Mining Management Act 2001* (MM Act) in accordance with transitional arrangements at section 308 of the EP Act.

These quarterly reports address the requirement for transparency around performance against assessment timeframes specified under the EP Act and key performance indicators established for the assessment of submissions made under the MM Act.

Key performance indicators (KPI) are based on those specified in Budget Paper 3. Performance targets aim to reflect an effective balance between the administrative and operational aspects of regulating the mining industry subject to new a licensing framework and transitional arrangements under the EP Act.

## Environmental (mining) licences

KPI: 85% of applications assessed within statutory timeframes.

Note: Statutory timeframes for assessment of licence applications submitted under the EP Act are reported in business days.

### Licence applications submitted

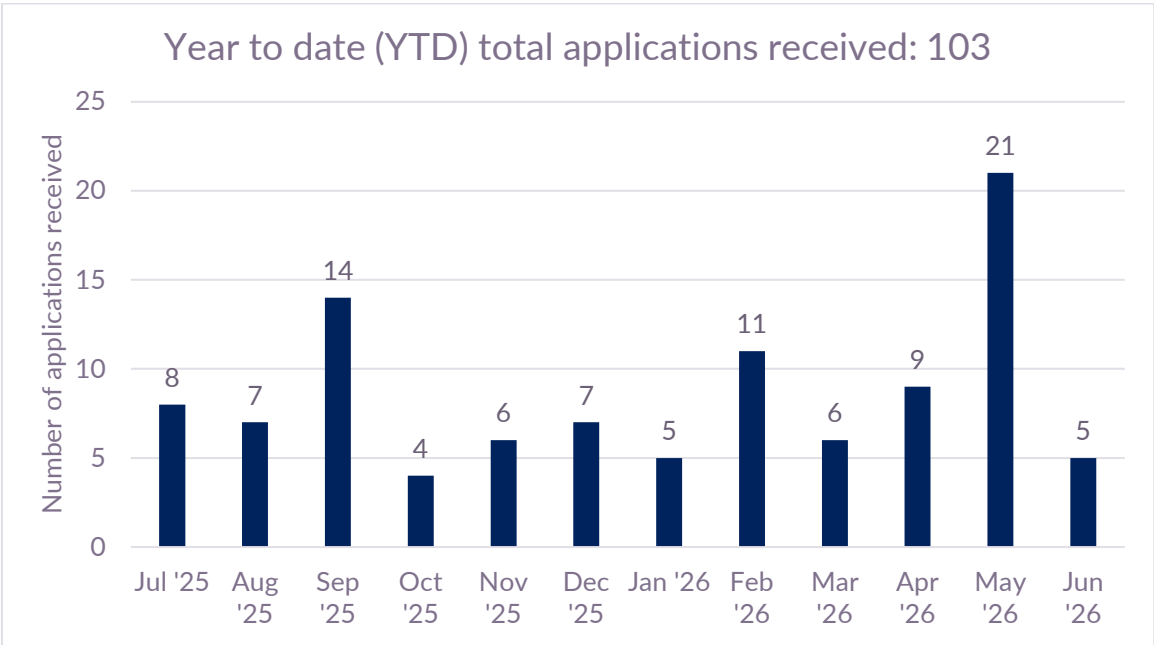


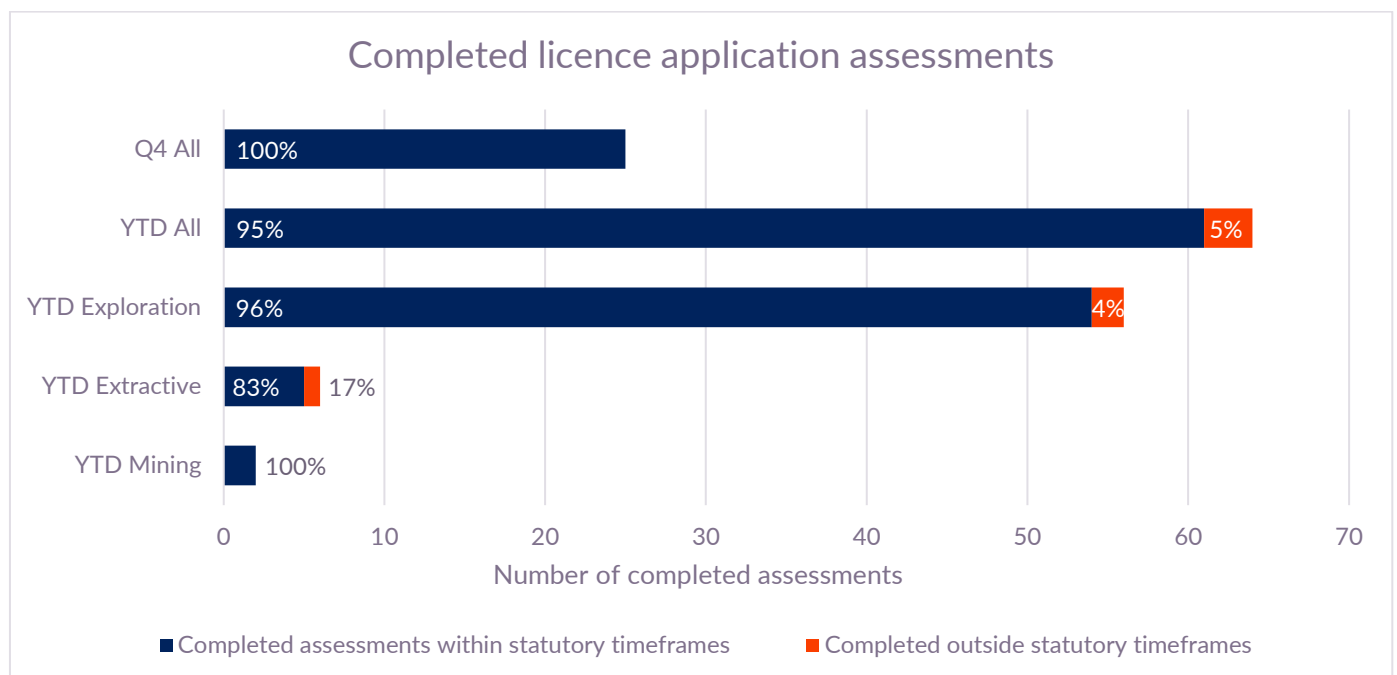
Figure 1: Number of applications for environmental (mining) licences received since 1 July 2025

Table 1: Details of applications received and outcome following screening during Q4 2025-2026

| Activity Type/<br>Licence Type | Accepted  | Rejected | Withdrawn | Q3 Total | YTD Total  |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| <b>Exploration</b>             |           |          |           |          |            |
| • Standard                     | 17        | 3        | 1         | 21       | 57         |
| • Modified                     | 7         | 1        |           | 8        | 25         |
| • Tailored                     | 1         | -        | -         | 1        | 2          |
| <i>All exploration</i>         | 25        | 4        | 1         | 30       | 84         |
| <b>Extractive</b>              |           |          |           |          |            |
| • Standard                     | -         | -        | -         | -        | 2          |
| • Modified                     | -         | -        | -         | -        | 3          |
| • Tailored                     | -         | -        | -         | -        | 5          |
| <i>All extractive</i>          | -         | -        | -         | -        | 10         |
| <b>Mining</b>                  |           |          |           |          |            |
| • Standard                     | -         | -        | -         | -        | -          |
| • Modified                     | -         | -        | -         | -        | -          |
| • Tailored                     | 2         | 2        | 1         | 5        | 4          |
| <i>All mining</i>              | 2         | 2        | 1         | 5        | 9          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>27</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>2</b>  |          | <b>103</b> |

## Licence application assessment timeframes

During Q4 2025-2026, 100% (25 out of 25) of licence application assessments were completed within the statutory timeframe. (Refer to the explanatory notes below for details specific to each mining activity and licence type.)



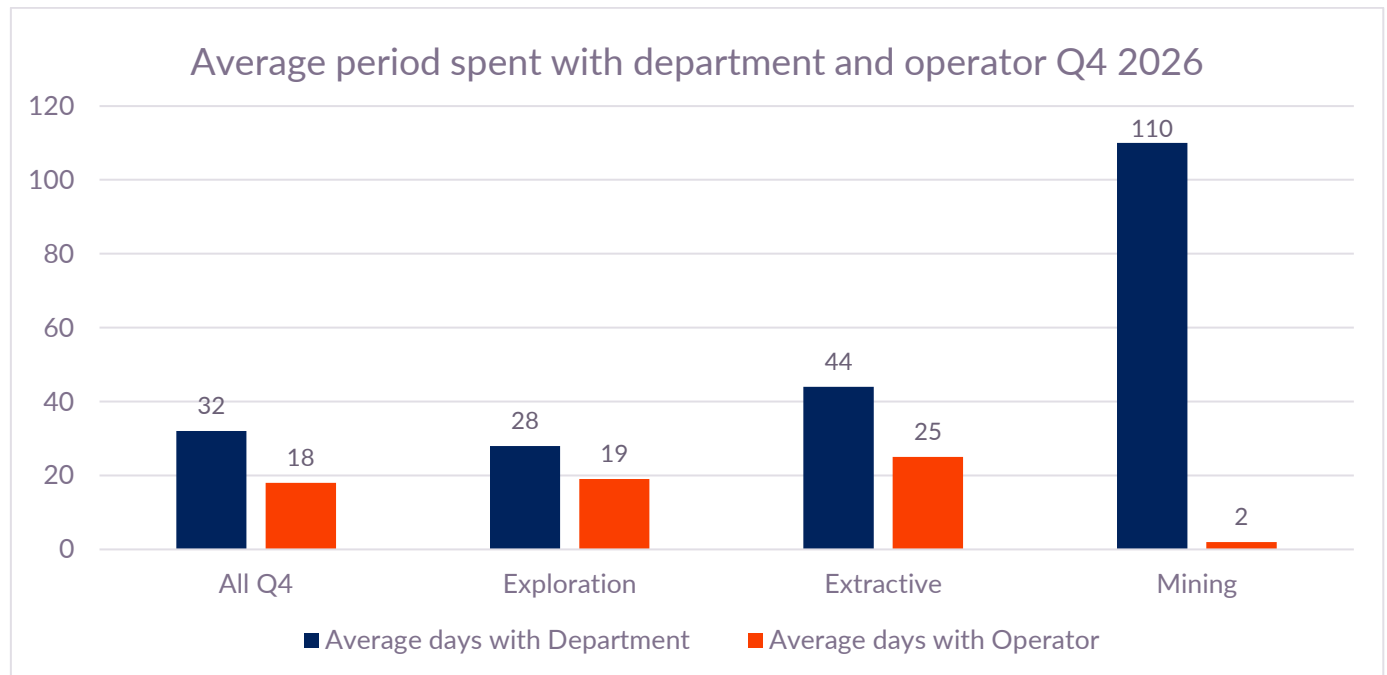
Reported numbers for assessment timeframes associated with licence applications are determined based on the decision date falling within the reporting period.

Assessment time is calculated (in business days) from the date an application is accepted for assessment to the date on which a decision is made.



**Figure 2: Assessment completion by activity type**

During Q4 2025-2026, on average licence applications were with the department for 32 business days. For the same period, mining operators took an average of 18 business days to respond to requests for additional information.



**Figure 3: Average time taken by the department to assess licence applications and mining operators to respond to requests for additional information**

## Mining management plans (MMPs)

KPI: 85% of all completed MMP assessments finalised within 90 calendar days.

In accordance with the transitional arrangements under the EP Act, assessment of documents submitted under the MM Act must be completed before 30 June 2026.

### MMPs submitted

As at 1 July 2024, the Mining Division had received for 120 documents for assessment under the transitional arrangements, including 104 MMPs.

### MMP assessment timeframes

Reported numbers are determined based on the decision date falling within the reporting period. Assessment time is calculated from date of submission to the date of decision in calendar days.

During Q4 2025, the department completed assessment of three MMPs and two MMP applications were withdrawn by the applicant. Assessment of 89 of the 104 MMPs is now completed. The remaining 15 applications are voided in accordance with section 308(4) of the EP Act.

The status of the 104 MMPs at the end of Q4 2025-2026 is presented in Figure 4.

None of the MMP assessments were completed within 90 calendar days (Figure 5).

**Table 2: Projects for which MMPs were approved and deemed licences granted or varied in accordance with transitional arrangements (s308 of EP Act) during Q4 2025-2026**

| Activity Type | New Projects    |           | Existing Projects |           | Quarterly Total All | YTD All   |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
|               | Quarterly Total | YTD Total | Quarterly Total   | YTD Total |                     |           |
| Exploration   | -               | -         | -                 | 2         | -                   | 2         |
| Extractive    | -               | 2         | -                 | 1         | -                   | 3         |
| Mining        | 1               | 2         | 2                 | 7         | 3                   | 9         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>1</b>        | <b>4</b>  | <b>2</b>          | <b>10</b> | <b>3</b>            | <b>14</b> |

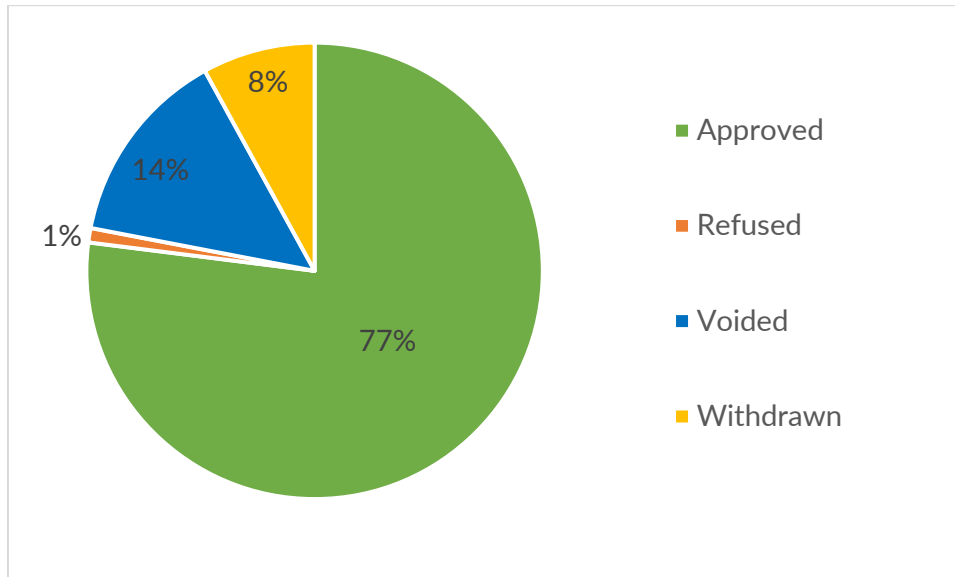


Figure 4: Status as at 30 June 2026 of Mining Management Plans submitted for approval prior to 1 July 2024

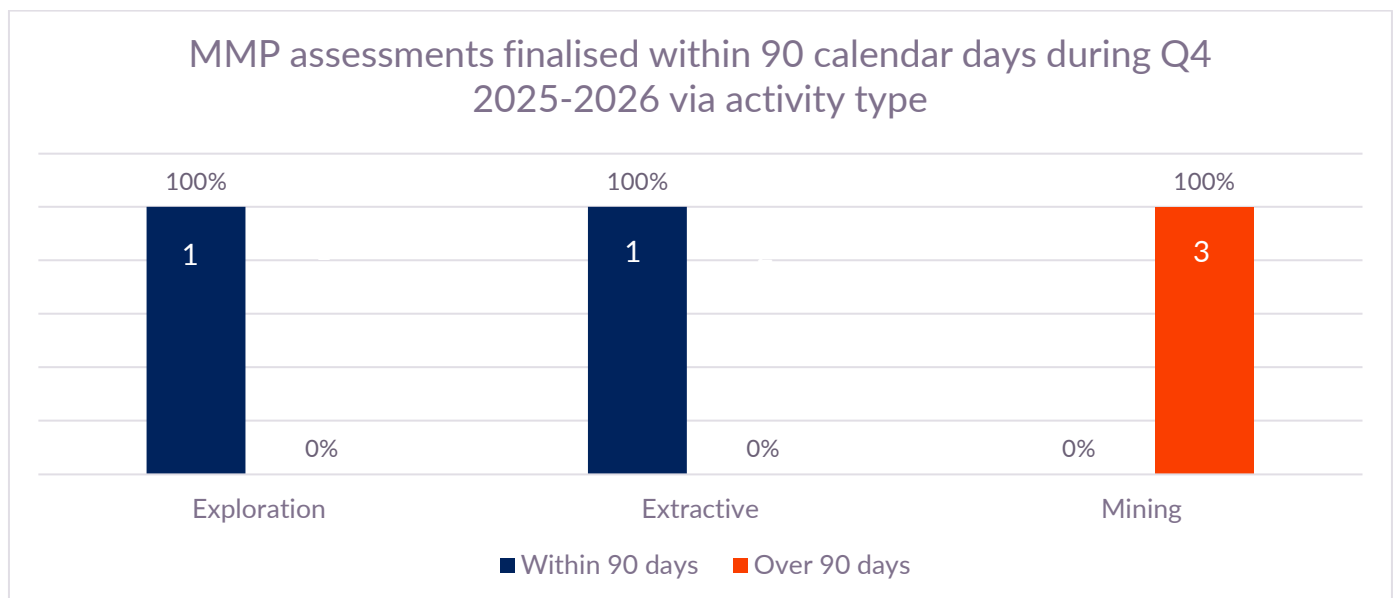
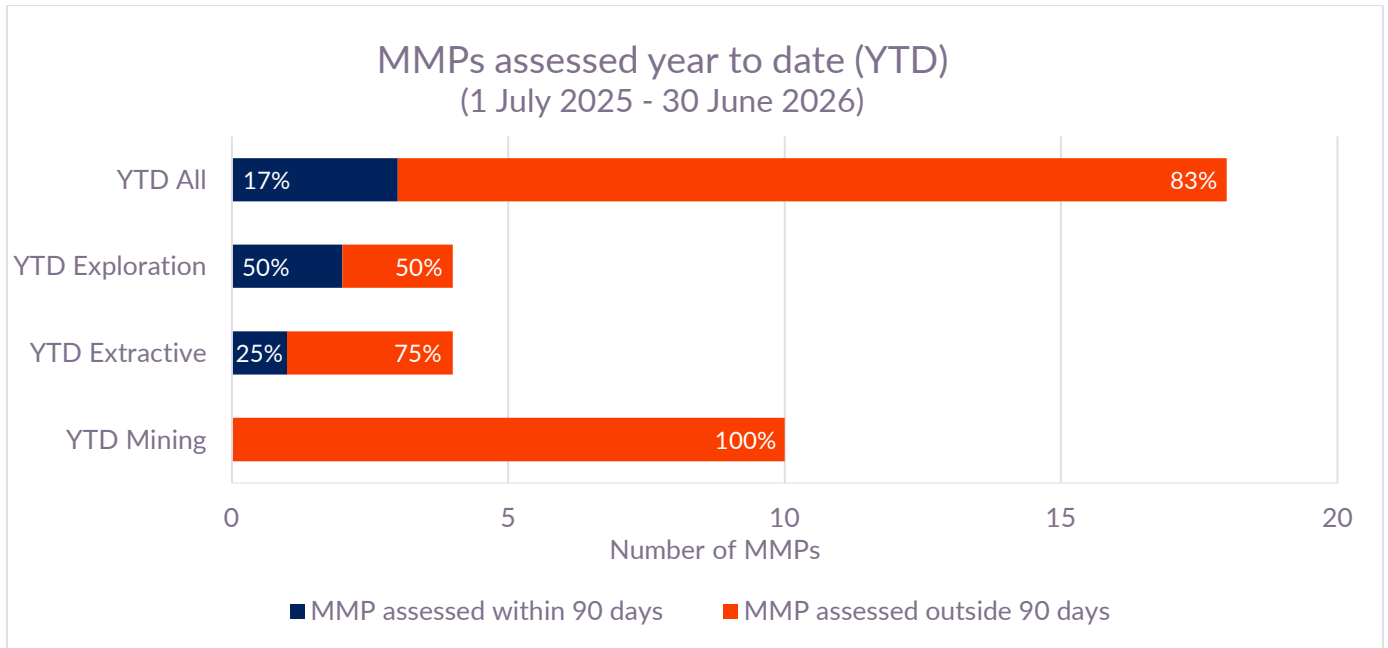


Figure 5: Percentage of MMP assessments finalised within 90 calendar days during Q4 2025-2026



**Figure 6: Percentage of MMP assessments finalised within 90 calendar days since 1 July 2025**

## Explanatory notes

### Environmental mining licences

Decision making timeframes for environmental (mining) licences differ based on the type of activity (exploration, extractive or mining) and the type of licence (standard, modified, tailored).

**Table 3: Statutory assessment timeframes**

| Licence Type/<br>Activity Type | Standard         | Modified         | Tailored          |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Exploration                    | 30 business days | 40 business days | 60 business days  |
| Extractive                     | 30 business days | 50 business days | 80 business days  |
| Mining                         | 40 business days | 80 business days | 120 business days |

Applications for modified and tailored licences are also subject to defined public exhibition periods.

**Table 4: Statutory public exhibition periods**

| Licence Type/<br>Activity Type | Standard | Modified         | Tailored         |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Exploration                    | Nil      | 15 business days | 25 business days |
| Extractive                     | Nil      | 15 business days | 25 business days |
| Mining                         | Nil      | 25 business days | 30 business days |