

NSW Resources Quarterly Performance Report

Quarter 3 2025

October 2025

Published by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Title: NSW Resources Quarterly Performance Report

Subtitle: Quarter 3 2025

First published: October 2025

Department reference number: D25/129560

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Executive summary

Quarterly wrap-up

In Quarter 3 2025, NSW Resources completed 87% of measured title assessments actions within target timeframes, with 97 of 111 actions finalised within published targets. While this represents a slight drop from the previous quarter's performance, it remains above the 85% service delivery target and is consistent with longer-term trends. Several complex matters contributed to individual cases exceeding target timeframe, including applications requiring coordination across multiple titles and assessment pathways.

One ageing dealing was finalised during the quarter. Remaining ageing dealings are predominantly matters awaiting finalisation actions by applicants (such as obtaining development consent or pending Court or Tribunal decisions relevant to the application's assessment under the *Mining Act 1992* and *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*). NSW Resources continues to work with applicants and other relevant stakeholders to finalise these applications.

This quarter's report also includes performance data for assessable prospecting operations activity approvals and security deposit determinations. NSW Resources determined 94% of activity approval applications and completed 93% of security deposit assessments within target timeframes. NSW Resources is continuing its work to refine the representation of performance data for these actions against assessments and determinations made under the Act.

Overview

This report provides a summary of the performance for title assessments, application processing, activity approvals and security deposit assessments within the department for quarter 3 2025 (1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025).

NSW Resources' performance is reported against the Service Delivery Standards (target dates) which define target timeframes for the processing of applications under the Act. Service Delivery Standards and 'target dates' for applications for grant, renewal and transfer are published at: www.resources.nsw.gov.au/mining-and-exploration/service-delivery-standards

Service Delivery Standards and target dates for applications for assessable prospecting operations are published at: www.resources.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-04/exploration-guideline-application-and-assessment-process-for-exploration-activities.pdf

Processing timeframes

The processing timeframe for title applications, renewals, transfers and part transfers, and assessable prospecting operations commences when a complete application, including payment of relevant application fees and all required supporting information, is received by NSW Resources. If an application is incomplete, the applicant is notified and requested to submit all required supporting information within a specified timeframe. The processing timeframe ends when the applicant is notified of the final decision for the application.

The processing timeframe for a review of security deposit commences when a completed application is submitted that triggers a security deposit review (assessable prospecting operations, forward rehabilitation program etc). The processing timeframe ends when the applicant is notified of the determination of the required security deposit.

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

Quarter 3 2025

Performance overview

Titles Assessments

During this quarter:

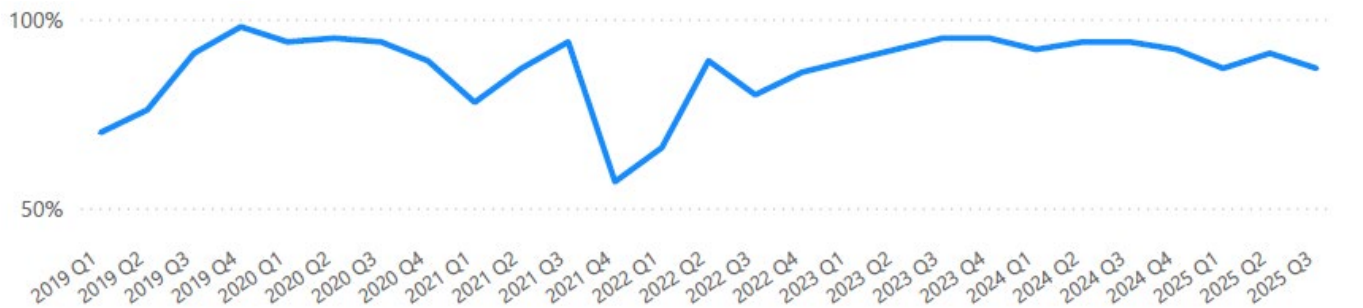
- 28 exploration licences were granted
- 63 exploration licences were renewed
- 5 mining leases were granted
- 7 mining leases were renewed
- 8 transfers were registered.

Of these, 87% met the target timeframe.

Historic performance trend

Figure 1 below shows the historic trend in the reported service delivery standards (SDS) performance each quarter. Quarter 4 2021 saw the implementation of new SDS. These SDS report on end-to-end performance, rather than to proposed decisions, as well as the inclusion of transfer and part transfer applications in the performance report.

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



Itemised service delivery performance

The following table (Table 1) details the performance of decisions as measured against the target dates for the quarter. 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.

Table 1: Service performance for the quarter

Application type	Total matters	Met target date	Missed target date	Service Performance %
Mineral				
Exploration licence applications	28	25	3	89%
Exploration licence renewals	56	52	4	93%
Assessment lease applications	0	0	0	N/A
Assessment lease renewals	0	0	0	N/A
Mining lease applications	2	1	1	50%
Mining lease renewals	1	0	1	0%
Coal				
Exploration licence applications	0	0	0	N/A
Exploration licence renewals	7	7	0	100.00%
Assessment lease applications	0	0	0	N/A
Assessment lease renewals	0	0	0	N/A
Mining lease applications	3	1	2	33.33%
Mining lease renewals	6	5	1	83.33%
Other				
Transfers	7	6	1	86%
Part transfers	1	0	1	0%
Total	111	97	14	87%

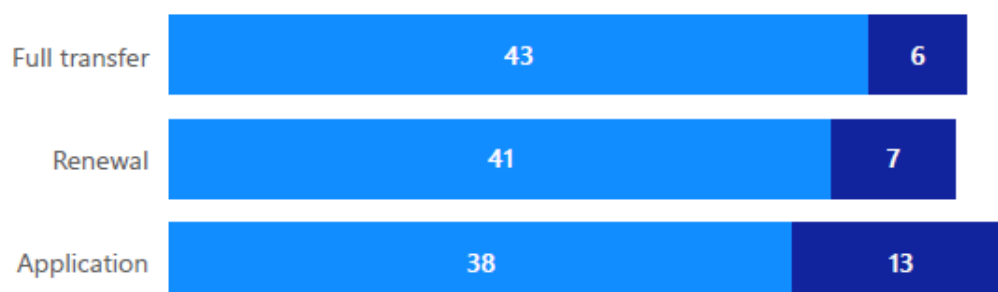
Average processing time by stage

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

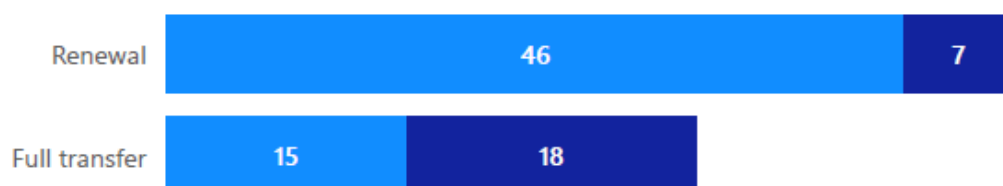
● To proposed decision/transfer approval ● Approval/NoPD to completion



Coal exploration licences

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

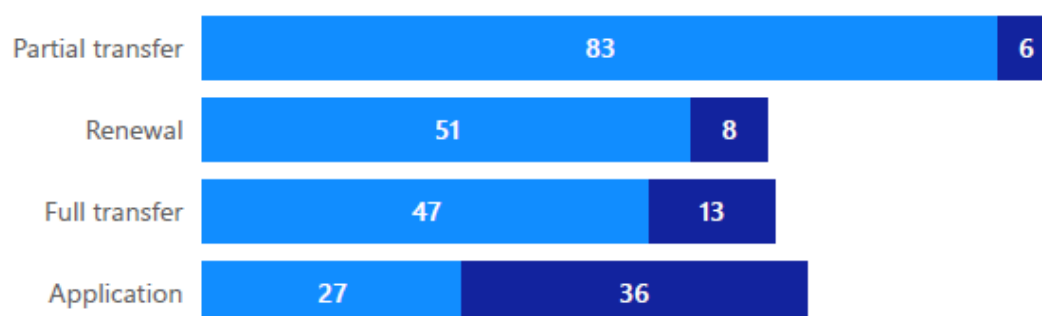
● To proposed decision/transfer approval ● Approval/NoPD to completion



Mineral mining leases

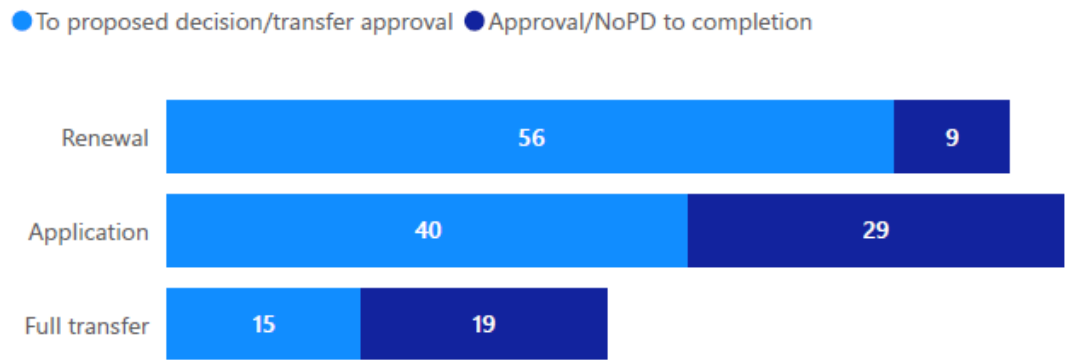
Figure 4: Average processing days for mineral mining titles by application stage

● To proposed decision/transfer approval ● Approval/NoPD to completion



Coal mining leases

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

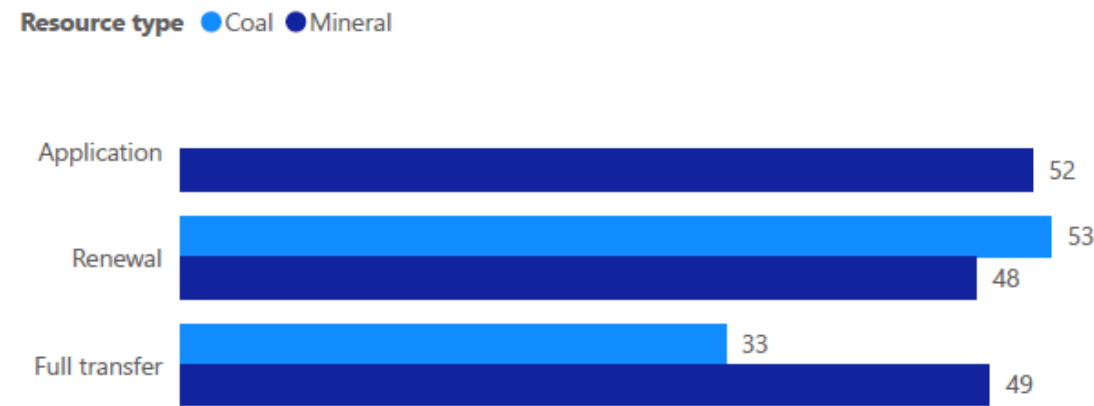


Average end-to-end processing time by resource

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).

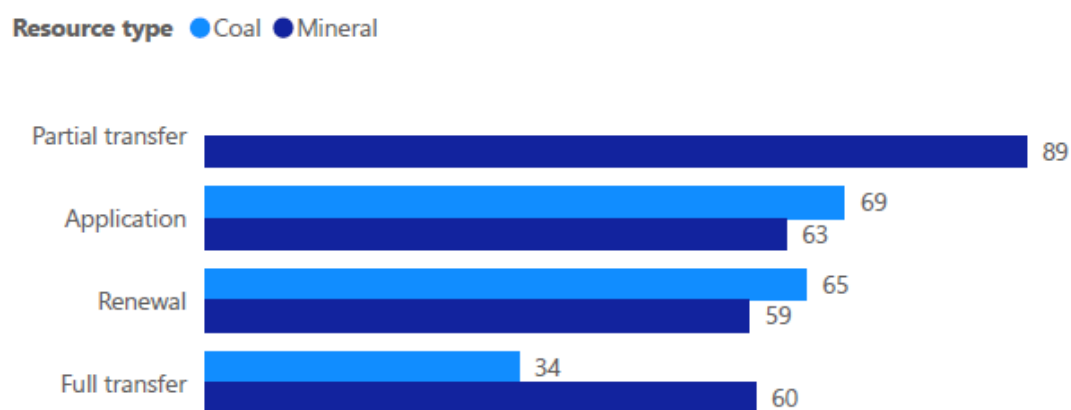
Exploration licences

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



Mining leases

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



Current pending applications

Figures 8 and 9 below detail the number of pending applications for grant, renewal, transfer and part transfer under assessment with NSW Resources at the end of the quarter. 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 the ageing dealings project (applications received prior to 1 January 2020).

Figure 8: Current pending applications by type and resource

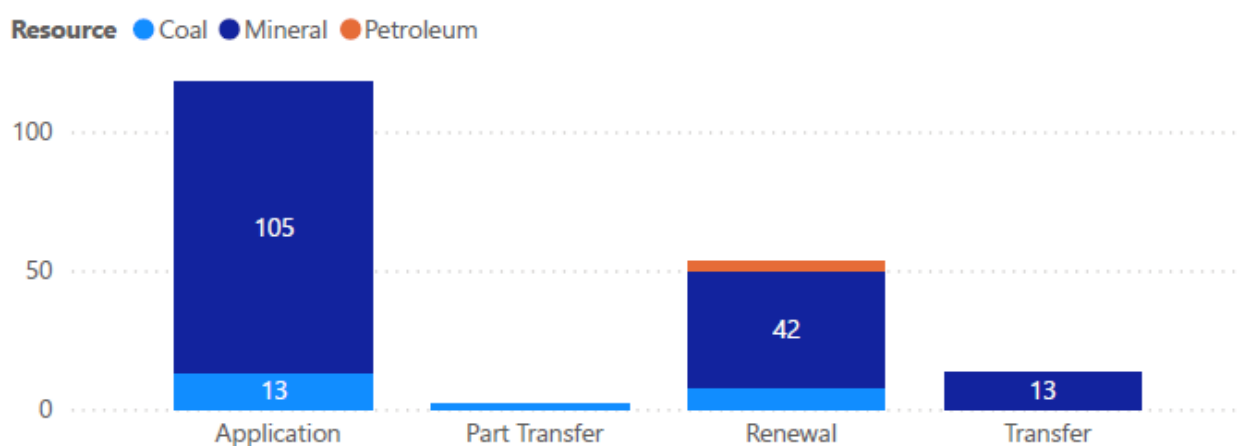
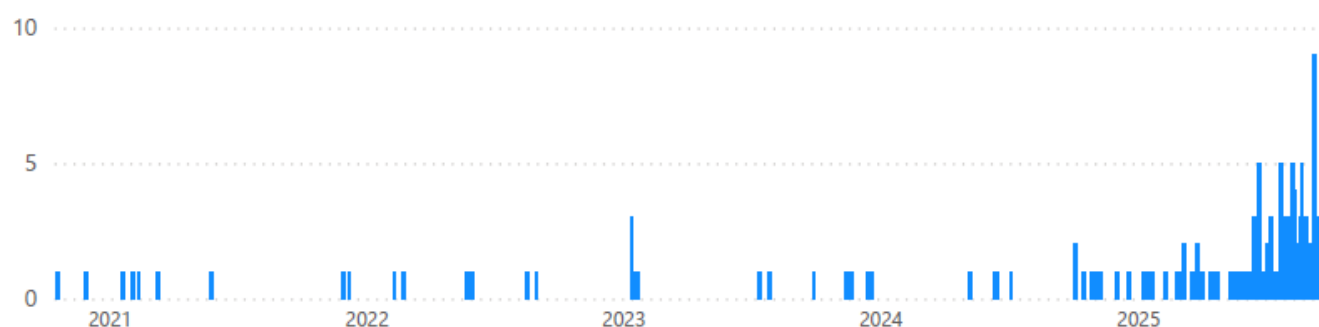


Figure 9 - Remaining pending applications by received date



Stop-the-clock status

Figure 10 below details the number of applications that currently have their processing clock stopped and identifies the reason for the stoppage.

Figure 10: Current clock stoppages by category and application type

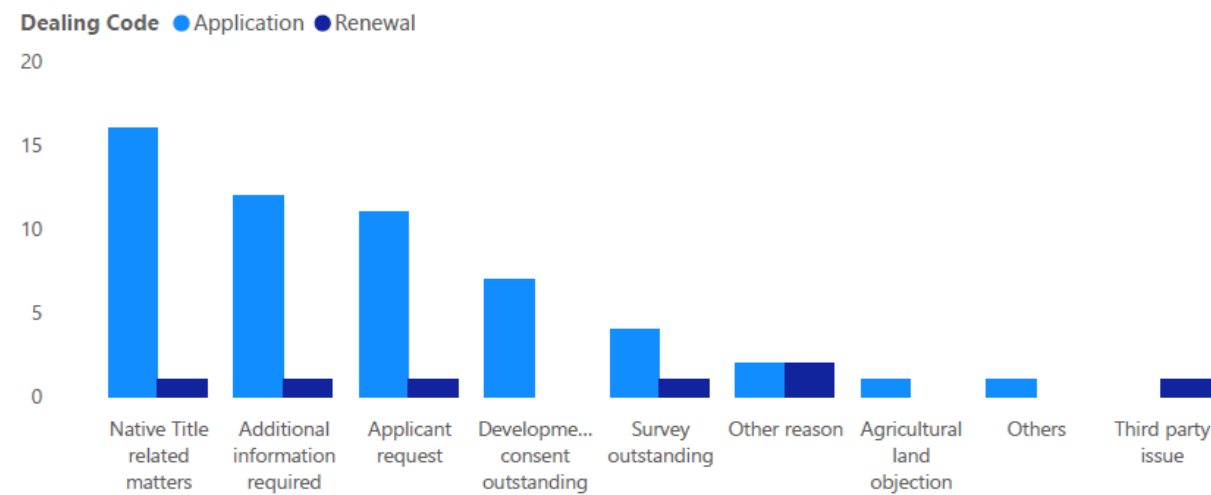
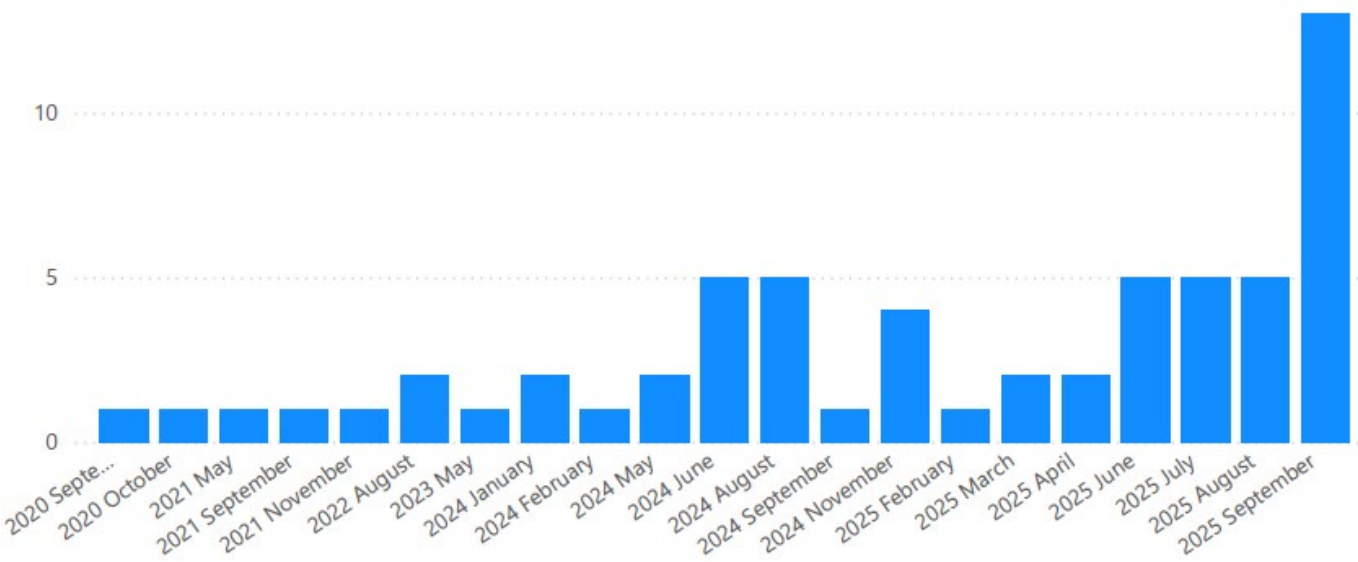


Figure 11: Current clock stoppages by stoppage date



Assessable Prospecting Operations

In Quarter 3 2025:

- 56 applications for activity approvals for assessable prospecting operations were determined, of which 32 were non-complying exploration activities (NCEAs)¹ and 24 complying exploration activities (CEAs).
- 94% were determined within target timeframes of 10 business days for (CEAs), and 30 business days for NCEAs.

Determination timeframes are exclusive of application ‘stop-the-clock’ principles including recommencement following amendments made by applicants and responses to requests for further information.

Security deposit determinations

In Quarter 3 2025:

- 126² assessments of security deposit amounts were made against section 261BC of the Act.
- Of the 126 assessments determined under the Act, 71 were against prospecting titles (exploration licences and assessment leases) with 55 assessments made against mining leases.
- 93% were determined within 30 business days where associated rehabilitation cost estimate information was submitted by the relevant titleholder after 1 July 2024³.

¹ APO performance against 10 / 30 business days for CEA / NCEA will only represent determinations against applications made after 1 April 2024.

² Includes all assessments where outcome was approved or refused.

³ Future reporting of performance against 30 business day targets in quarterly SDS reports will only represent assessments determined against RCE information furnished after 1 July 2024.