



Government
of South Australia

Department for
Energy and Mining

SOUTH AUSTRALIA MINERAL RESOURCES REGULATION REPORT 2021–22

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Report Book 2023/00047

Contents

- INTRODUCTION 6
- MINERAL TENEMENTS..... 6
- MINERAL EXPLORATION11
- MINING ASSESSMENTS16
 - Mining assessment times..... 18
 - Assessment timeframes 19
- MINING COMPLIANCE21
 - Operating mines 21
 - Mining complaints 25
 - Mining incidents..... 26
 - Mining operations enforcement actions.....27
- OPAL MINING.....29
- MINE REHABILITATION AND CLOSURE.....32
 - Extractive areas rehabilitation fund (EARF)..... 33
- RESOURCE ROYALTIES34

Mineral resources regulation report

As custodians of the state's mineral resources, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) is committed to regulating efficiently, effectively and proactively, with a strong focus on protecting environment and communities, in line with our policies on regulation and compliance.

This updated *Mineral Resources Regulation Report* provides an overview of our regulatory activities under the *Mining Act 1971* and *Mining Regulations 2020* with updates from 1 July to 31 December 2022. The performance of companies operating in the sector is also reported.

Read the report

Introduction (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/introduction>) - Updated

Mineral tenements (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mineral-tenements>) - Includes updates to:

- Number of exploration, mineral tenements and claims, and private mines as at 31 December 2022 (https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mineral-tenements#total_licence_lease)

Mineral exploration (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mineral-exploration>) - Includes updates to:

- Average EPEPR assessment times shown by quarter (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mineral-exploration#epepr-assessment>)
- Average assessment times for exploration licence applications shown by quarter (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mineral-exploration#exploration-licence-applications>)
- Table 7: Compliance-related activities for exploration operations between 1 July and 31 December 2022 (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mineral-exploration#exploration-compliance>)

Mining assessments (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mining-assessments>)

Mining compliance (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mining-compliance>) - Includes updates to:

- Table 11: Summary of mineral tenements and operating mines (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mining-compliance#tenements-mines-summary>)
- Mining complaints registered with DEM 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2022 (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mining-compliance#complaints>)

- Categories of mining complaints in Q3-4 2022
(https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mining-compliance#complaints_categories)
- Categories of mining incidents in Q3-4 2022
(<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mining-compliance#incidents>)
- Table 14: Enforcement actions issued, outstanding or closed for mining operations December 2022 (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mining-compliance#enforcements>)

Opal mining (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/opal-mining>) - Includes updates to:

- Categories of opal field administrative tasks undertaken shown by regional office 1 July to 31 December 2022 (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/opal-mining#opal-fields-admin>)
- Compliance summary of first and second inspections for opal field activities 1 July to 31 December 2022 (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/opal-mining#opal-compliance>)

Mine rehabilitation and closure (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/mine-rehabilitation-and-closure>)


Resource royalties (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/regulating-mining-activity/Mineral-resources-regulation-report/resource-royalties>)

Report appendix

The Appendix volume provides specific information on the following:

- Appendix 1: Registered and endorsed instruments
- Appendix 2: Court actions
- Appendix 3: Mining native title registrations
- Appendix 4: Exploration and mining assessment definitions
- Appendix 5: EPEPR assessments
- Appendix 6: Mining assessment calculations
- Appendix 7: Mining assessments

The appendices can be downloaded in one volume:

-  Appendix volume: South Australia Mineral Resources Regulation Report 2021-22 July to June (PDF 360 KB)

Introduction

Welcome to the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) first quarterly mineral resources regulation update.

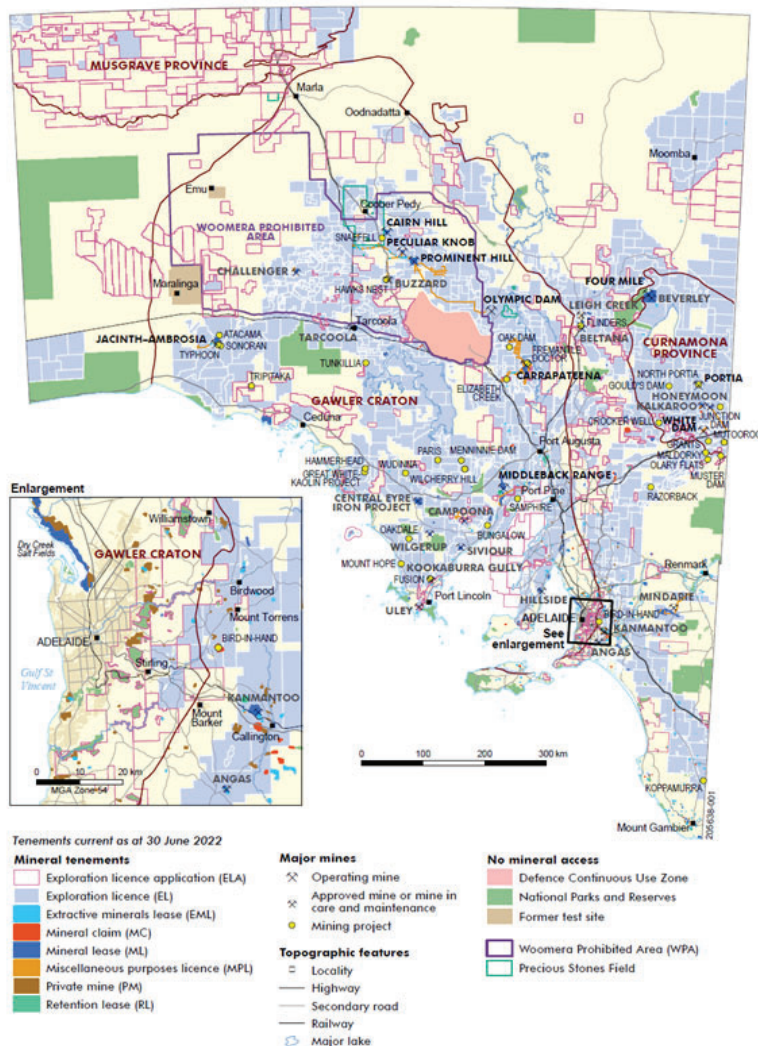
This report provides an update for the six months from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022. As part of our commitment to transparency, openness and timely access to data, DEM will be trialling six-monthly regulation report updates with the aim of moving to quarterly updates as our systems develop.

Mineral tenements

DEM's administration of mineral tenements in South Australia includes:

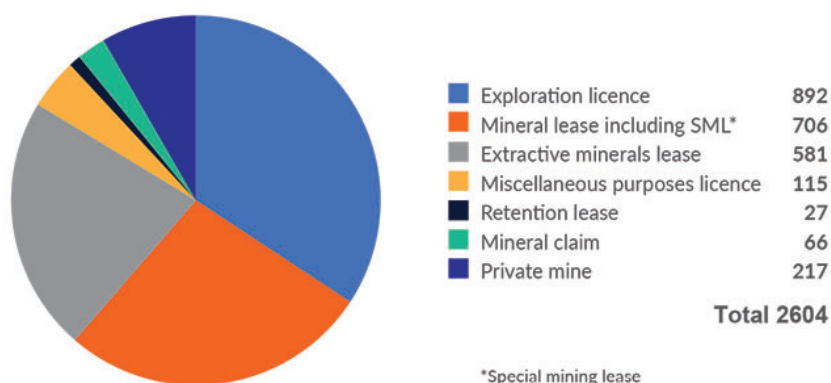
- maintaining the Mining Register
- mineral claims registration
- assessing applications for exploration licences, miscellaneous purposes licences, mining and retention leases
- registration of instruments including transfers, joint venture agreements, caveats, surrenders etc
- receipting fees, Crown rent and administering rent to landowners
- monitoring court matters
- management of private mines and native title mining agreement registrations.

Mineral tenements and major mines as at 30 June 2022



(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/plans/sarig1/image/DDD/205638-001>)

UPDATED: Total exploration, mineral tenements, claims and private mines 31 December 2022



Number of tenements and private mines (by year)

SML = Special mining lease

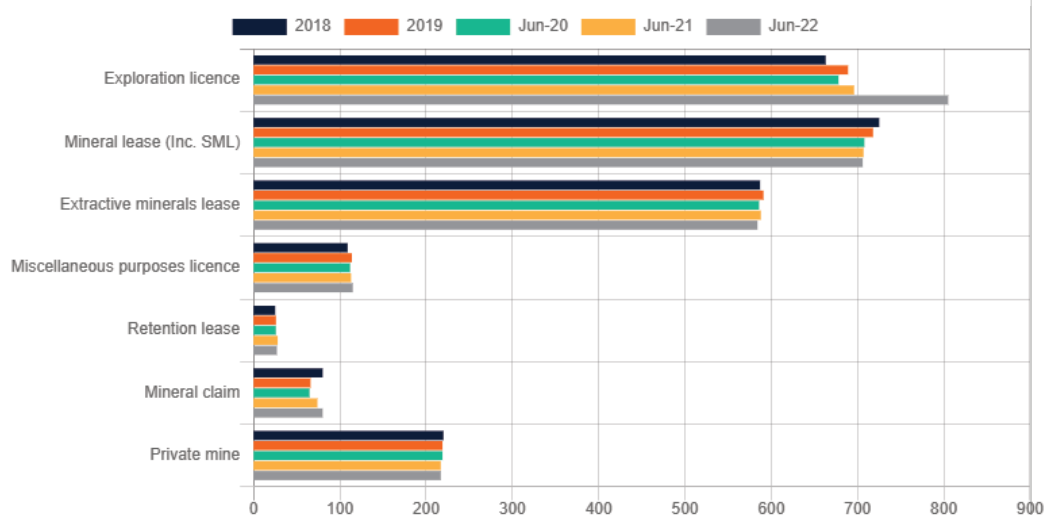


Table version of Number of tenements and private mines (by year) chart

Table 1: Receipt statistics for mineral tenement applications FY2021–22

Application	Received	Granted or registered	Total area granted (ha)	Withdrawn	Refused or invalid	Outstanding*
Exploration						
Exploration licence	159	189	8,712,900	12	0	215
Mining						
Mineral claim	19	36	2,855	2	0	4
Miscellaneous purposes licence	1	2	90	0	0	2
Mineral lease	12	2	1,937	1	3	18
Extractive minerals lease	8	4	145	0	0	15
Retention lease	1	0	0	0	0	3
Total mining	41	44	5027.25	3	3	42
Total (exploration and mining)	200	233	8,717,927.25	15	3	257

**Outstanding mineral tenement applications are those in progress as at 30/06/2022*

Table 2: Tenement transactions processed and endorsed FY2021–22

Application type	Exploration	Mining				Total exploration and mining
		Mineral leases	Extractive mineral leases	Other lease types	Total mining	
Transfer instruments	43	3	10	0	13	56
Renewal	4	29	62	35	126	130
Renewal over reduced area*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrender	6	0	4	1	5	11
Partial surrender	5	2	0	0	2	7
Private mine revocations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	58	34	76	36	146	204

**Applies to exploration licences only*

Table 3: Public notices published FY2021–22

Application type	Number of applications advertised	Number of public notices*
Exploration licence	52	30
Mining lease	6	25
Extractive minerals lease	5	3
Retention lease	1	5
Miscellaneous purposes licence	0	0

**Multiple notices are made per application*

Public consultation and transparency are key elements of DEM's regulatory principles. DEM seeks community feedback on mining applications, including the grant of tenure and changes to operations where there is a significant change to environmental impacts. This consultation provides an opportunity for the community to understand and submit comments on the proposed operations. Public notices are published on DEM's website, in the *Government Gazette* and local newspapers. Affected landowners, the local council and other stakeholders are informed of mining applications that may impact them, or in which they may have an interest.

Invoices raised across mineral tenements for rent and fees for financial years 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022

FY2021-22 invoice value \$19.6 million

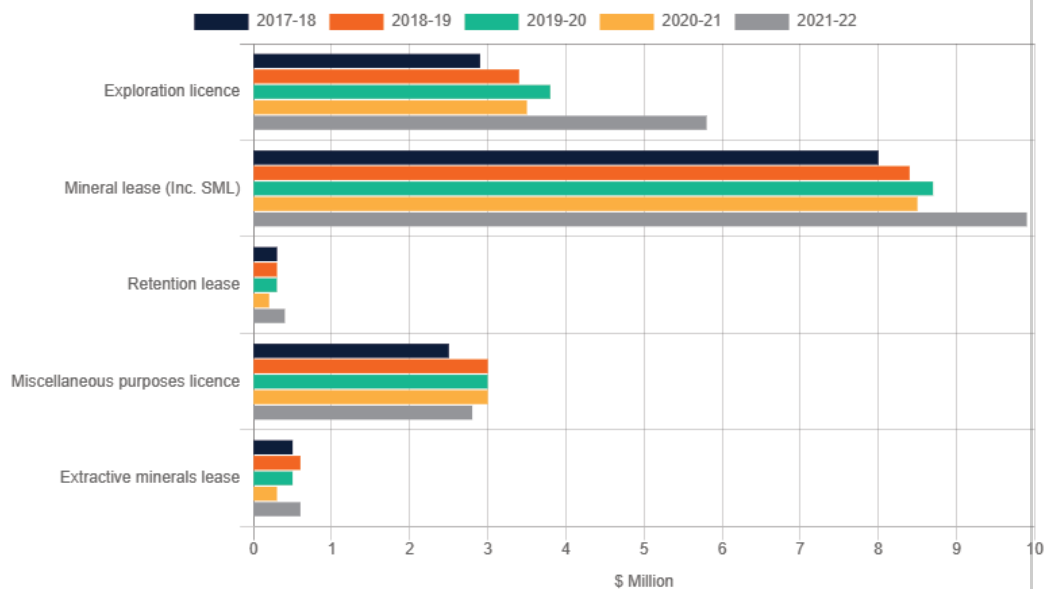



Table version of Invoices raised across mineral tenements for rent and fees for financial years 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022 chart

Instruments registered on the Mining Register

DEM is committed to creating a transparent, accountable system for the regulation of mineral resources in South Australia. In 2021-22, 704 instruments – transactions that impact the status of a tenement – were registered on the Mining Register against mineral tenements in South Australia.

A full list of all instruments can be found in *Appendix 1: Registered and endorsed instruments*.

-  Appendix volume: South Australia Mineral Resources Regulation Report 2021-22 July to June (PDF 360 KB)

Mining Register searches


There were 2,719 online Mining Register searches looking for tenement information. This became a free service from 1 January 2021 with the introduction of the new Mining Act.

- Search the Mining Register (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/exploration/tenement-information/mining-register>)

Court actions

- One court action was instigated at the Warden's Court in 2021–22.
- One court action was instigated at the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Court in 2021–22.

Further details on court actions can be found in *Appendix 2: Court actions*:

-  Appendix volume: South Australia Mineral Resources Regulation Report 2021-22 July to June (PDF 360 KB)

Annual rent and fees

Under the Mining Act, where land is held in freehold title, DEM must distribute 95% of Crown rent paid for a mining lease, retention lease or miscellaneous purposes licence granted over the freehold land to the landowners. In 2021–22, \$2.3 million was dispersed to 296 freehold owners.

Mineral exploration

Mineral exploration has shown significant growth in 2021–22. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that June 2022 figures were 21% higher than for the same period in 2021, while there was a substantial 34% increase across the financial year.

DEM's core functions include:

- assessing new exploration applications, which provide a right to explore
- assessing exploration programs for environment protection and rehabilitation (EPEPRs), which provide a framework for efficiently and effectively managing exploration activities
- regulation and compliance of exploration activity.

Table 4: Exploration licence statistics FY2021–22

Type	Number	Area (km ²)
Applications received	158	108,398
Licences granted	183	100,854
Licence relinquishments (full and partial)	44	10,331
Licences current*	805	334,539
Percentage of state	33%	-
Total licensees*	199	-
Applications current*	223	152,888
Total applicants*	86	-

** Figures as at 30 June 2022*

Table 5: Exploration licence assessment times FY2021–22

Assessment type	Number completed	Target timeframe (days)	Median timeframe (days)	Percentage that achieved timeframe (%)	Number within target
Exploration licence application	189	90 (3 months)	239	9	16
Exploration Release Area panel	2	60 (2 months)	48	100	2
Total	191				

The implementation of the amended Act and regulations in January 2021 has seen significant changes to the administration of mineral exploration across South Australia. The legislative changes reflect the most substantial changes to the regulatory framework in the past two decades and have necessitated significant internal process changes which have led to delays in the administration and processing of exploration licence transactions.

Table 6: Exploration PEPR (EPEPR) assessment times FY2021–22

Note: Timeframes are in business days; assessment timeframes are calculated based on the area with the longest target timeframe

Prescribed EPEPR by land type	Number completed*	Target timeframe (days)	Average timeframe (days)	Percentage that achieved timeframe (%)
Freehold/pastoral/perpetual lease area	46	25	28	85
Prescribed wells and/or water resource area	19	35	23	89
Protected area under the River Murray Act	2	35	22	100
Jointly proclaimed national park or conservation park	3	85	87	67
Regional reserve	2	50	40	100
Geological Monument	2	35	78	50
Planning and Design Code Zone - Conservation	2	40	19	100
Vegetation heritage agreement	3	40	30	100
Total	79			

**Some applications may contain multiple area types*

UPDATED: Average EPEPR assessment times shown by quarter

Reporting excludes ELs that are currently pending due to complex land access issues dependent on legislated third party access.

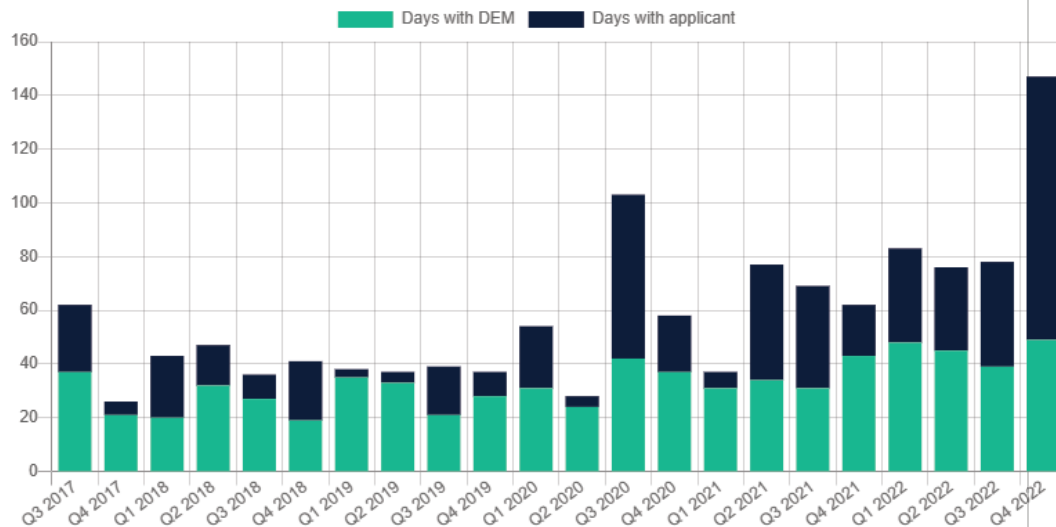


Table version of UPDATED: Average EPEPR assessment times shown by quarter chart

UPDATED: Average assessment times for exploration licence applications shown by quarter

Target days with DEM is 90 days or less. Timeframes exclude ELs in Aboriginal lands.

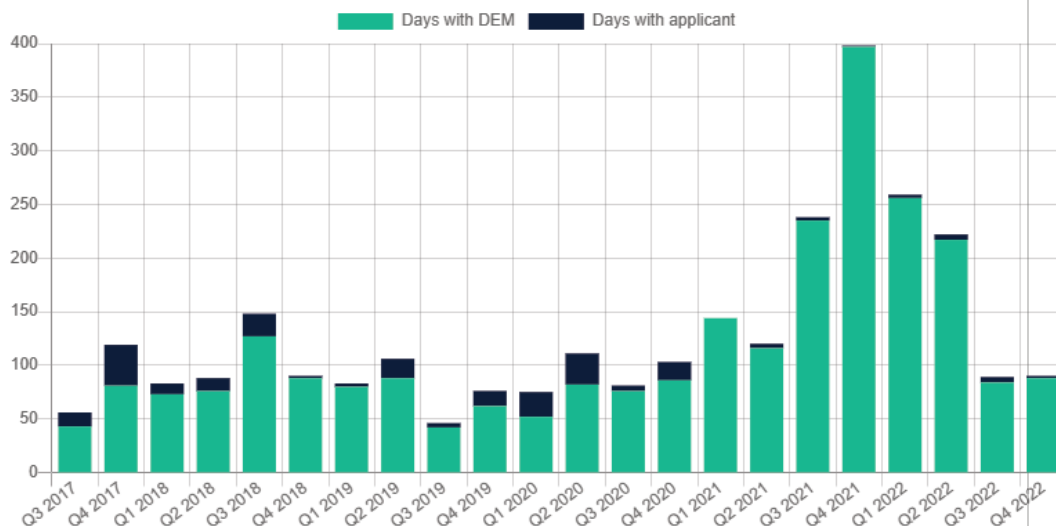


Table version of UPDATED: Average assessment times for exploration licence applications shown by quarter chart

The second half of 2022 saw a continued downward trend in exploration licence application processing times observed in the above graph.

Exploration licence, EPEPR and reporting assessments conducted FY2017-18 to FY2021-22

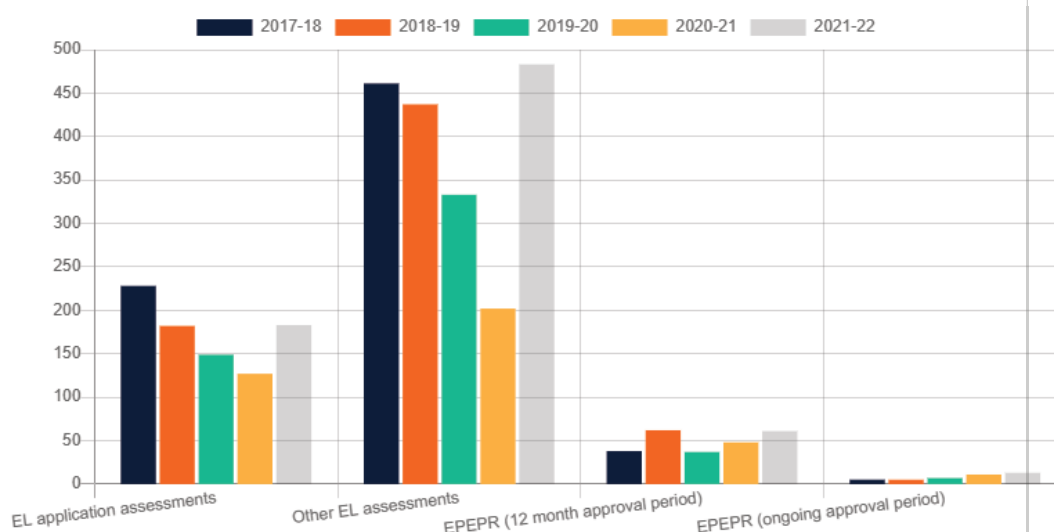


Table version of Exploration licence, EPEPR and reporting assessments conducted FY2017-18 to FY2021-22 chart

The second half of 2022 saw a continued downward trend in exploration licence application processing times observed in the above graph.

UPDATED Table 7: Compliance-related activities for exploration operations between 1 July and 31 December 2022

Compliance activity	Number
Site inspection	9
Reported incident	2
Registered complaint	1
Notice of non-compliance issued	6
Formal direction issued	0
Unauthorised mining/exploration investigations	1
Compliance report received	42
Compliance report assessed	49

Table 8: Exploration reports reviewed during FY2021–22

Exploration reporting	Number reviewed
Exploration licence annual exploration reports	691
Exploration licence annual technical reports	310
Joint annual technical reports*	59
Surrenders of exploration licences	52
Partial surrenders of exploration licences	27
Total	1,080
<i>*Reports cover multiple exploration licences</i>	

Table 9: Application refusals, penalties and enforcement actions issued for exploration licences FY2021–22

UPDATE: There were no application refusals, penalties and enforcement actions issued for exploration licences between 1 July and 31 December 2022.

Compliance instrument	Tenement holder	Tenement number*	Noncompliance	Outcome
Application refusal	Kingsbuff Minerals Pty Ltd	ELA 2018/00098 / EL 5301	Unresolved compliance directions and poor compliance history	Subsequent licence application refused
Compliance instrument	Tenement holder	Tenement number*	Noncompliance	Outcome
Application refusal	Kaneko Pty Ltd	EL 5894	Unresolved compliance directions and poor compliance history	Renewal application refused
Application refusal	Kaneko Pty Ltd	EL 5895	Unresolved compliance directions and poor compliance history	Renewal application refused
Application refusal	Goldus Pty Ltd	EL 5896	Unresolved compliance directions and poor compliance history	Renewal application refused

Open-file release of company exploration reports and associated data

It is a requirement of the Mining Act that exploration companies provide the exploration data generated on an exploration licence to DEM on surrender or partial surrender of the tenement. The data is made publicly available via the South Australian Resources Information Gateway (SARIG) to provide a central resource for the sector.

In 2021, 66 surrender datasets and 24 partial surrender datasets were collected, uploaded to the DEM database and publicly released via SARIG:

- South Australian Resources Information Gateway (SARIG)

Sunset data release program

In accordance with the Mining Act and Mining Regulations, data and information generated through authorised exploration activity is required to be reported to DEM. This information is held by DEM for five years before it is publicly released. During FY2021–22 there were 142 sunset data releases comprising 86 exploration licences uploaded to DEM databases for public access.

Mining assessments

Under the Mining Act, DEM takes the lead role in coordinating the state government assessment processes for all new and ongoing mining operations, using a risk and outcomes-based approach.

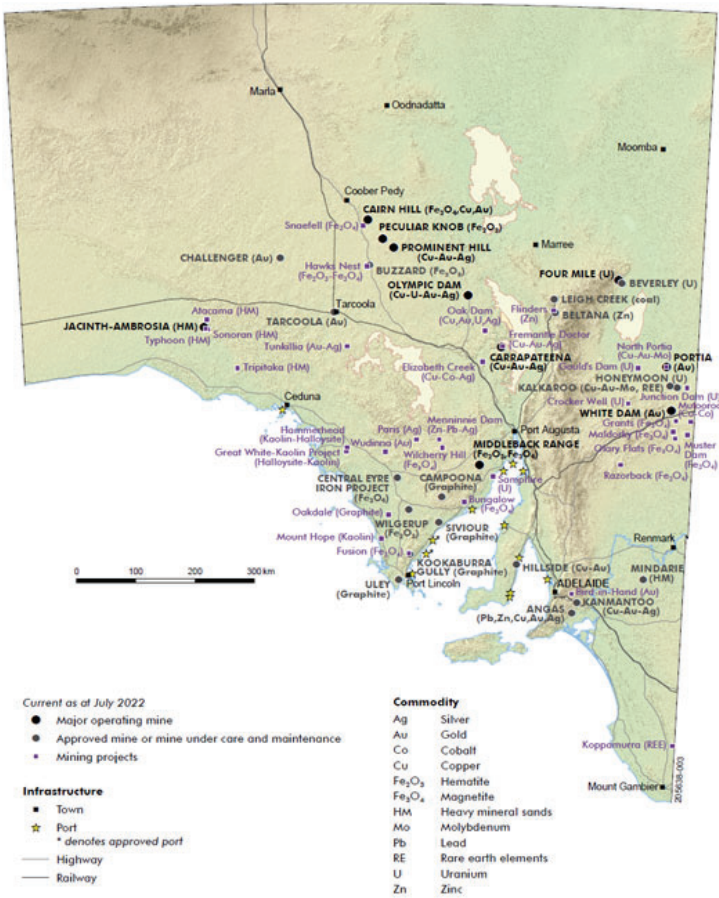
DEM's core assessment functions include the assessment of mining lease proposals which, if approved, provide a right to mine, and subsequent operational programs, which allows on ground works to commence. Operational programs are defined as a program for environment protection and rehabilitation (PEPR) for mining leases or a mine operation plan (MOP) for private mines.

The Mining Act also requires industry to undertake stakeholder engagement when preparing applications for mining tenements and operational programs.

A summary of all programs approved in the last 12 months is available on the DEM website:

- Approved programs (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/approved-programs>)

Major operating mines, approved mines, mining projects and mines under care and maintenance as at 1 July 2022

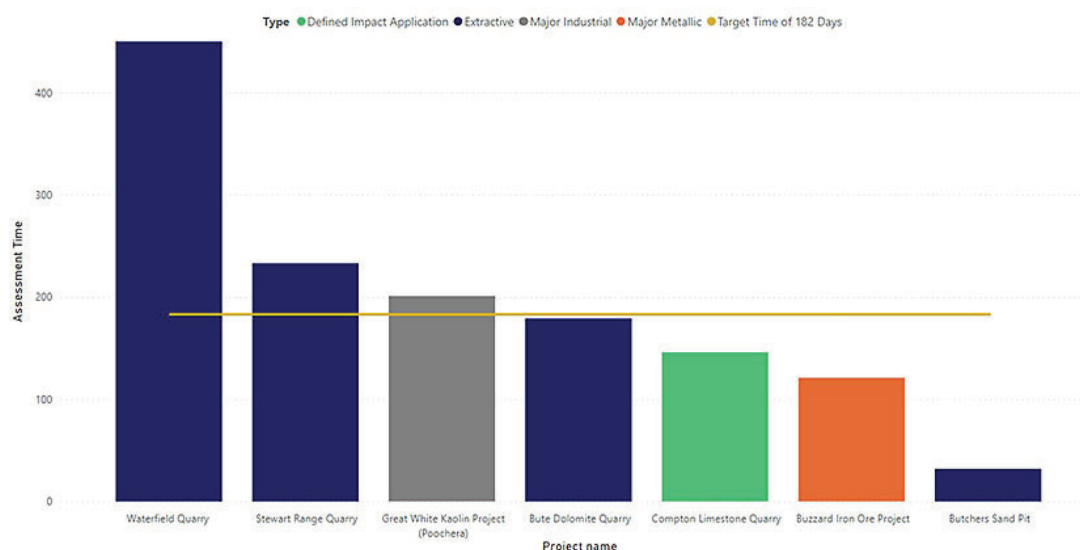


(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/plans/sarig1/image/DDD/205638-003>)

Mining assessment times

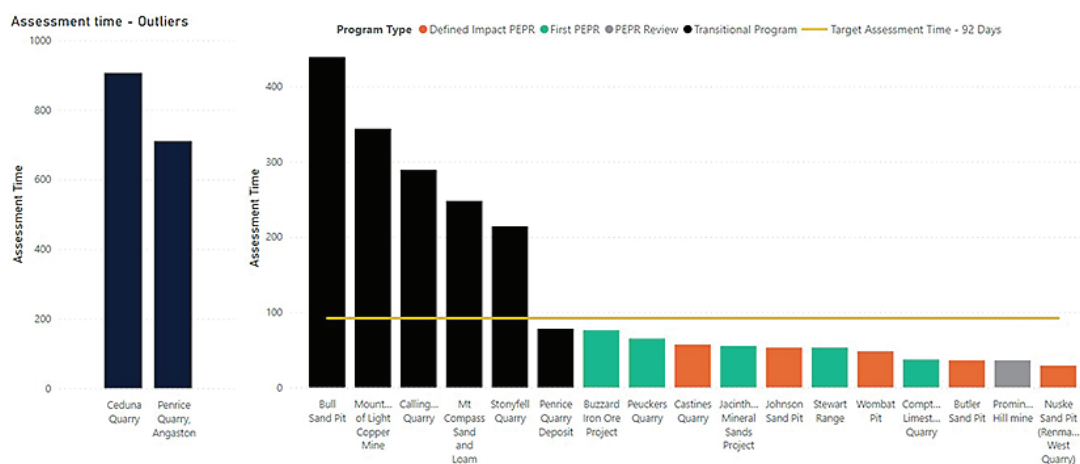
DEM has targets for mining assessment times that align with the national 'Mining approvals scorecard' for reporting assessment timeframes.

Approved mineral lease applications (MLAs) by type of application and timeframe FY2021–22



Note: The Waterfield Quarry assessment time of 450 days was due to multiple requests for further information, and an administrative oversight that resulted in a notice of the application having to be published at a late stage in the Government Gazette.

Program assessments (PEPRs and MOPs) by type of PEPR and target timeframe FY2021–22




Note: Transitional programs refer to update of an old program to a contemporary program. Transition from an older program requires an environment impact assessment to develop outcomes and measurement criteria for a contemporary PEPR or MOP. As the data shows, these types of assessment typically take longer due to the complexity associated with assessing potential impacts on an already developed mine or quarry, a process which is completed during the mining lease application stage for modern mining approvals.

Ceduna Quarry and Penrice Quarry Angaston were excluded from the chart as outliers. The extended Penrice Quarry assessment timeframe was due to complexities working through water licencing arrangements and to allow for engagement with community on the mine closure plan. The Ceduna assessment was associated with resourcing priorities as the site was inactive.

Further information on mining assessments

For more details see *Appendix 6: Mining assessment calculations* and *Appendix 7: Mining assessments*:

-  Appendix volume: South Australia Mineral Resources Regulation Report 2021-22 July to June (PDF 360 KB)

Assessment timeframes

During the reporting period, the majority of mining assessments were completed within target timeframes.

DEM is committed to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its assessment program and, during the year, the department published a suite of guidance material, completed lean reviews of its key regulatory processes and finalised the business case for a new digital mining and exploration regulation system (MERS) and industry portal. These improvements are expected to generate significant efficiency gains across DEM's regulatory functions from 2023.

- DEM's regulatory guidelines (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/forms-legislation-and-guidance/regulatory-guidelines>)

Table 10: Mining assessment times FY2021–22

Assessment type		Median of assessment time*
Application	Defined impact application	146
	Extractive	206
	Major industrial	201
	Major metallic	121
Program	Transitional program	248
	First PEPR	55
	Defined impact PEPR	51
	PEPR review	36
	Change in operations	6

* The median of assessment time is considered more representative of a typical assessment timeframe than the average of assessment time, as it is not skewed by long assessment times such as transitional program assessments.

Mining assessments completed 2018 to 30 June 2022

31 assessments were completed in FY2021-22

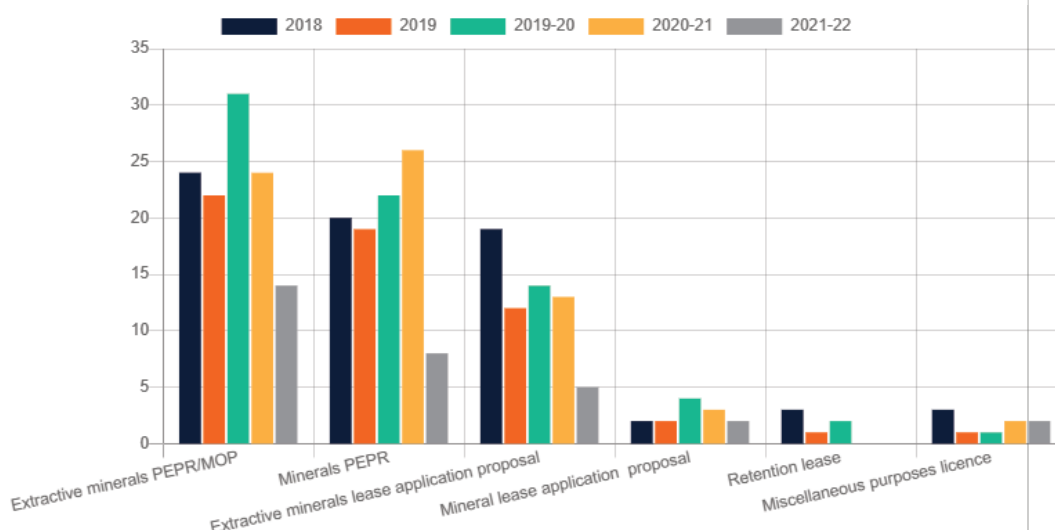


Table version of Mining assessments completed 2018 to 30 June 2022 chart

Total number of mining assessments completed in 2021-22 decreased compared to the last 4 years. This was due to fewer applications and programs received by DEM as a result of a general downturn in economic activity. Assessments were also impacted by COVID restrictions and resource constraints.

Olympic Dam mine

The Olympic Dam mine operates under the *Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982* and the Olympic Dam and Stuart Shelf Indenture (the Indenture), which is a schedule to the Act.

All Olympic Dam referrals and approvals are coordinated by DEM, for all other state, federal and other stakeholders.

Key Olympic Dam referrals and approvals - 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

- Tailing Storage Facility 6 Feeder Line C (commission and operate) – July 2021
- 3.5 Mtpa Electric Limestone Crusher (construct) – August 2021
- Evaporation Pond 4/Evaporation Pond 6 Booster Pump (commission and operate) - August 2021
- Tailings Storage Facility 6 Feeder Line D (commission and operate) - September 2021
- Evaporation Pond 6 Cell B and C (commission and operate) – November 2021
- Bismuth and Antimony Removal System (construction) – December 2021
- 2021 Environmental Protection and Management Program (operational plan) – January 2022

Development application referrals, strategic referrals and other inquiries

Seven development applications and two strategic assessments were referred by local government councils for assessment by DEM during 2021–22. Three of the development application referrals were statutory referrals under Schedule 8 of the Development Regulations 2008. Five referrals requesting Crown sponsorship were also received, assessed and responded to, and two planning enquiries were received.

Native vegetation clearance and reporting

The Native Vegetation Council authorised a total of 604.903 ha of native vegetation clearance across six mining operations under delegation to DEM in 2021–22. There were no approved offset arrangements in 2021–22.

Significant environmental benefit associated with the authorised clearance will be made by payment into the Native Vegetation Fund or via approved offset agreements. This fund is managed by the Department for Environment and Water, which disburses funds as grants for on-ground biodiversity conservation.

Further information can be found on the Department for Environment and Water [website](#).

Mining compliance

Operating mines

Tenement holders are responsible for monitoring their own compliance and demonstrating compliance to their stakeholders through public reporting and engagement. DEM staff conduct compliance activities to provide assurance to the government, industry, community and other stakeholders that companies are being regularly monitored and are adhering to all relevant obligations. All major mines and other mining operations in South Australia are subject to regular scheduled and ad hoc site inspections.

The changes to the Mining Act in January 2021 introduced new requirements for all extractive and industrial mining operations in South Australia to submit an annual compliance report. These compliance reports, which are publicly available, provide a summary of the tenement holder's compliance with its obligations.

In 2021–22 DEM officers conducted 338 inspections and attended 13 community meetings.

Details on mining compliance can be found in the Mining compliance section of the DEM website:

- Mining compliance in South Australia (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/mining-compliance>)

UPDATED Table 11: Summary of mineral tenements and operating mines - 31 December 2022

Note: These figures exclude opal mining tenements which are summarised separately.

Tenement/Mine	Number
Mineral lease	706
Extractive minerals lease	581
Miscellaneous purposes licence	115
Retention lease	27
Total mining leases	1,429
Mineral claim	66
Private mine	217
Total mining operations	539
Total producing operations*	397

*Defined as those mines for which a royalty return has been submitted to DEM in the past 3 years.

UPDATED: Number of inspections FY2017-18 to 31 December 2022

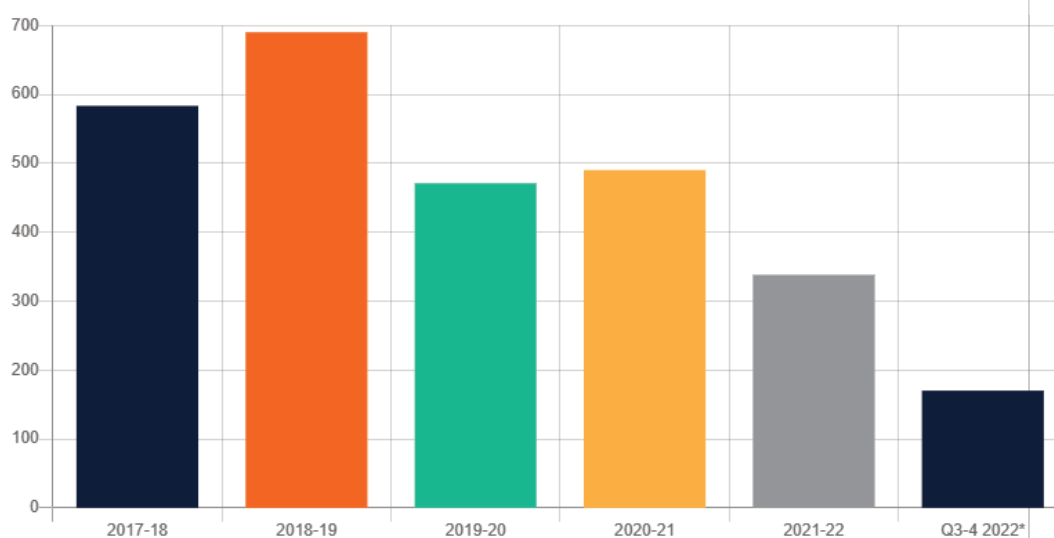


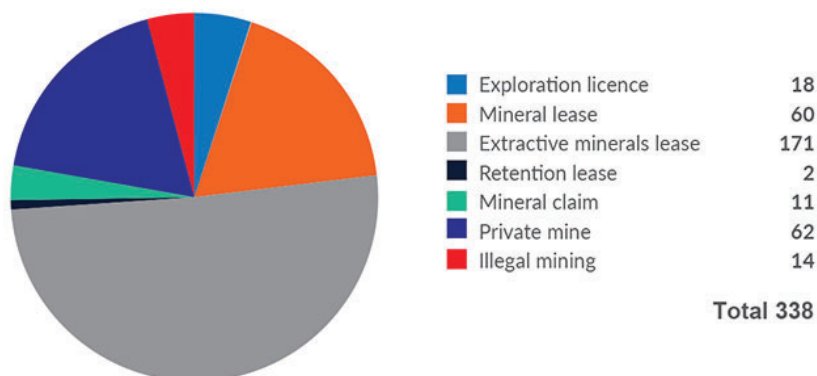
Table version of UPDATED: Number of inspections FY2017-18 to 31 December 2022 chart

* 1 July to 31 December 2022 (half year) only

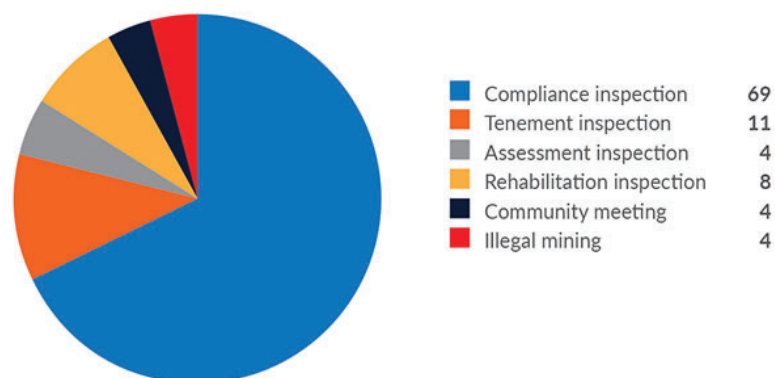
Since 2019 the number of inspections has been impacted by COVID-19 related travel restrictions and associated resourcing constraints.

Between 1 July to 31 December 2022 DEM officers conducted 170 site inspections, including 5 community meetings and 6 illegal mining inspections. With this monthly rate, it is expected that DEM officers should conduct approximately 340 inspections in 2022–23, a number similar to that in 2021–22.

Number of inspections by tenement type FY2021–22

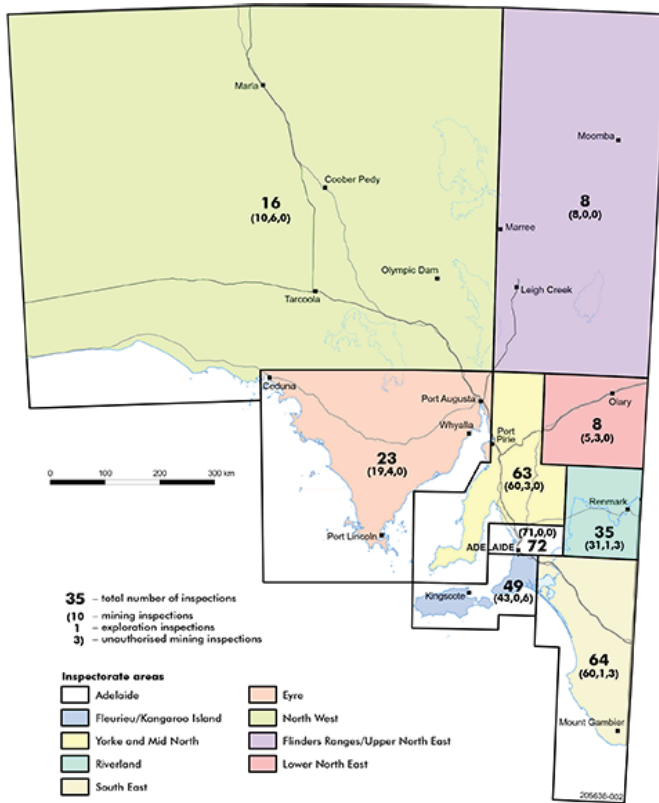


Percentage of inspections by purpose FY2021–22



Note: Compliance inspections include routine inspections as well as site meetings, responding to complaints and incidents, and ad hoc inspections. Tenement inspections include renewals, surrender and transfer inspections. Assessment inspections include new mineral applications and mining programs.

DEM mining and exploration inspections by region FY2021-22



(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/plans/sarig1/image/DDD/205638-002>)

Table 12: Status of ongoing community consultative committees - 30 June 2022

Mining operation	Community committee	Meeting frequency
Angus Mine	Strathalbyn Community Consultative Committee	Quarterly
Golden Grove Extractives Industry Zone	Golden Grove Community Group	Quarterly
Kanmantoo Mine	Kanmantoo-Callington Community Consultative Committee	Quarterly
Linwood Quarry	Linwood Residents Joint Working Group	As required
Penrice Mine (Angaston Quarry)	Penrice Community Consultative Committee	6 monthly

Table 13: Compliance-related activities for mining operations FY2021–22

Activity	Number of activities carried out
Site inspections (mining only)	320
Reported incidents	25
Reportable uranium/radiation incidents	3
Registered complaints	59
Formal letter issued	67
Formal direction/order issued	3
Unauthorised mining investigations	13
Compliance report received	108
Community meetings attended	13
Program notifications assessed	29

Mining complaints

The most common mining complaints received between 1 July to 31 December 2022 were:

- Noise – 8
- Water quality 4
- Other – 3

Blasting and dust complaints are typically received from mining operations located adjacent to residential areas. These operations are expected to continuously focus on minimising external impacts, with many adopting real-time technologies to monitor blasting and dust events, trigger and response plans and transparent reporting systems.

Many of these operations also have well-established community engagement programs to ensure local communities are informed of developments and regulatory performance.

UPDATED: Mining complaints registered with DEM 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2022

81 complaints were registered from July 2021 to December 2022

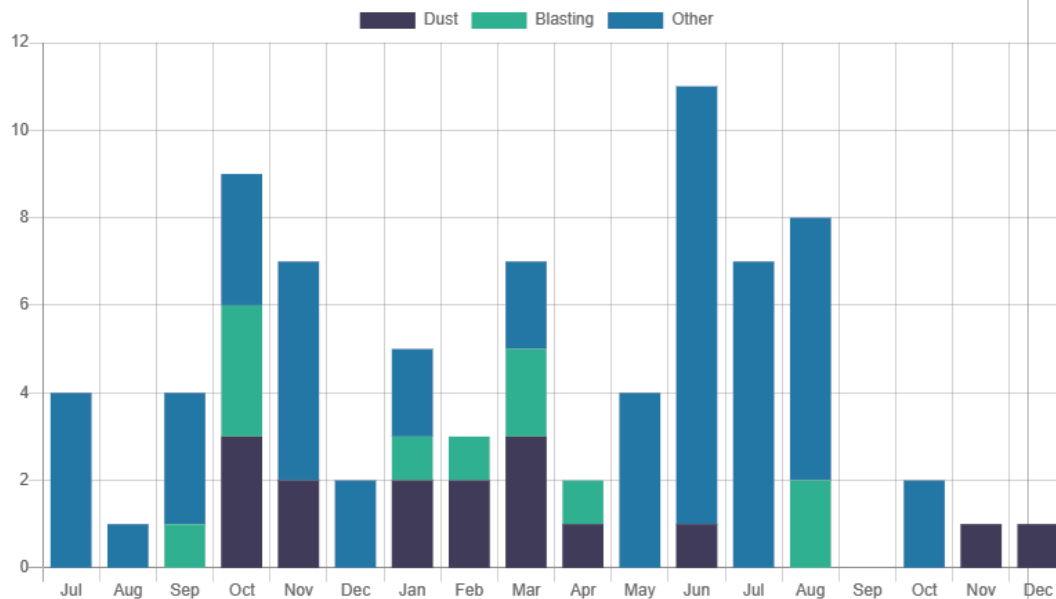
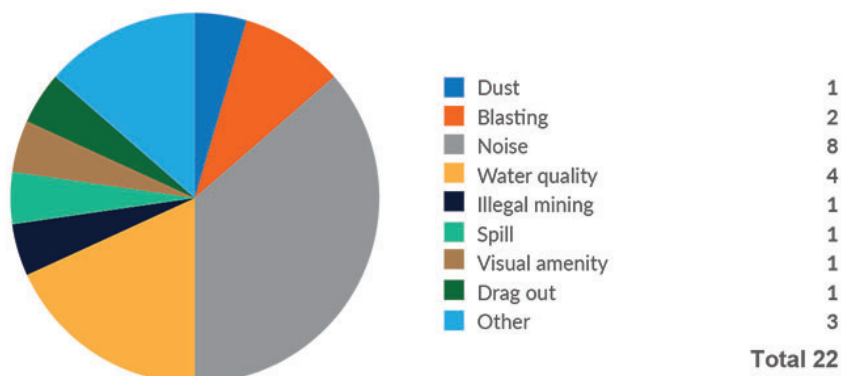


Table version of UPDATED: Mining complaints registered with DEM 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2022 chart

UPDATED: Categories of mining complaints in Q3–4 2022



Mining incidents

The most common incident types recorded between 1 July to 31 December 2022 were (10 in total):

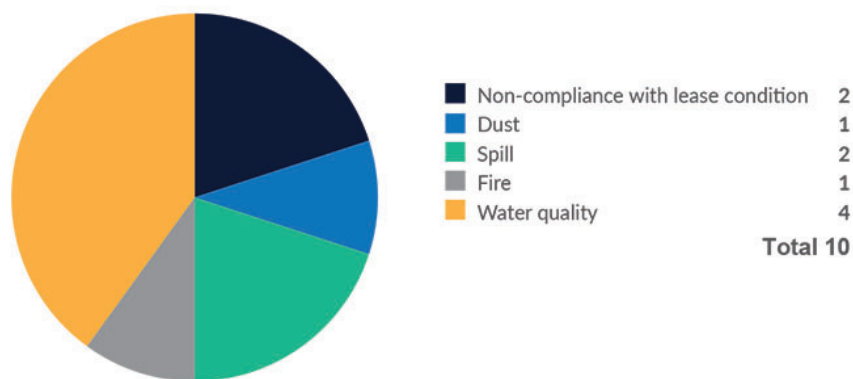
- Water quality – 4
- Spills – 2
- Non-compliance with lease/licence condition – 2

All reportable incidents under the Mining Act must be reported to DEM. 24 incidents were reported on mining tenements. Four of these were uranium or radiation-related incidents.

More information about the types of incidents that must be reported, and how and when can be found on the Incident reporting page of the DEM website:

- Incident reporting (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/mining-compliance/incident-reporting>)

UPDATED: Categories of mining incidents Q3–4 2022



Mining operations enforcement actions

UPDATED Table 14: Enforcement actions issued, outstanding or closed for mining operations December 2022

Note: Includes outstanding directions issued prior to 30 June 2021 that were completed or remained outstanding at 30 June 2022.

Compliance instrument	Date issued	Tenement holder/operator	Noncompliance	Outcome
Compliance direction	14/11/2017	Mark Hardy	Unauthorised native vegetation clearance, operating outside of the tenement boundary and operating outside of the scope of the PEPR	Ongoing rectification
Compliance direction	30/01/2019	Gawler Craton Resources Pty Ltd	Unauthorised mining (re-issued)	Ongoing rectification
Compliance direction	30/01/2019	Ian Filsell, Mark Filsell	Unauthorised mining (re-issued)	Closed

Compliance instrument	Date issued	Tenement holder/operator	Noncompliance	Outcome
Environmental direction	24/12/2020	Buckland Dry Creek Pty Ltd	Remove brine and stop new brine entering Section 2 ponds, Dry Creek Salt Field	Ongoing
Environmental direction	1/12/2020	John Hillam	Unauthorised mining/ illegal clearance/ environmental harm	Ongoing rectification
Compliance direction	28/07/2020	Goldus Pty Ltd	Unauthorised mining	Ongoing rectification
Environmental direction	30/09/2020	Holcim Pty Ltd	Excessive drag out (formal letter followed by environmental direction issued 5/11/2021)	Closed
Rehabilitation direction	31/08/2021	Kerry Bowley	Outstanding matter to rehabilitation direction issued 25 May 2020	Closed
Show cause letter	8/11/2021	William Sloan	Failure to pay royalties	Closed
Show cause letters (3 letters)	7/03/2022	William Sloan	Failure to pay royalties	Closed
Compliance order	30/03/2022	Southern Contracting Group Pty Ltd	Dust exceedances and non-reporting of exceedances	Ongoing rectification
Compliance order	20/05/2022	Hanson Construction Materials	Failure with water treatment	Ongoing rectification
Rehabilitation direction	26/10/2022	Bartsch Motorsport	Failure to rehabilitate	Closed
Suspension of tenement	14/12/2022	Trenel Pty Ltd	Failure to pay royalties	Closed
Compliance direction	14/02/2023	Harb Quarries	Failure to review PEPR	Ongoing rectification

Opal mining

Opal mining in South Australia is administered by DEM in accordance with the Opal Mining Act. The Opal Fields Program is based in Coober Pedy, with regional services provided to Andamooka and Mintabie. DEM administers the Mintabie Town Lease and has delegations under the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981* and Mintabie Township Lease Agreement.

UPDATED: Categories of opal field administrative tasks undertaken shown by regional office 1 July to 31 December 2022

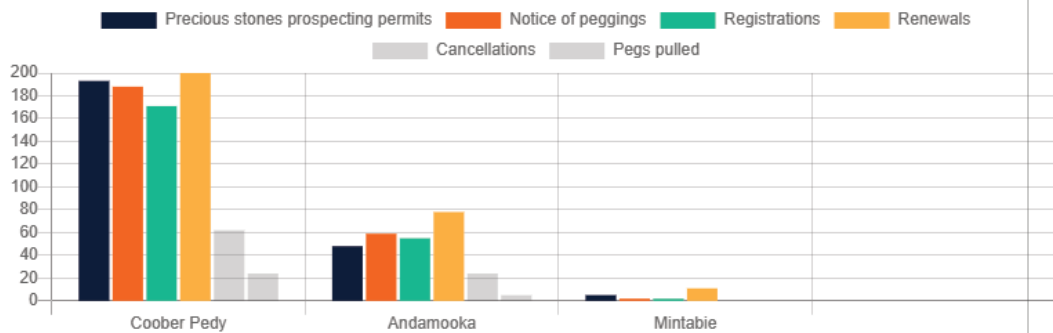


Table version of UPDATED: Categories of opal field administrative tasks undertaken shown by regional office 1 July to 31 December 2022 chart

Table 15: Opal mining revenue raised FY2021–22

Coober Pedy	\$187,187
Andamooka	\$52,721
Mintabie	\$2,928
Total revenue	\$242,836

Court actions

Escalated matters of noncompliance under the Opal Mining Act are managed by the Opal Mining Registrar who initiates Warden's Court actions.

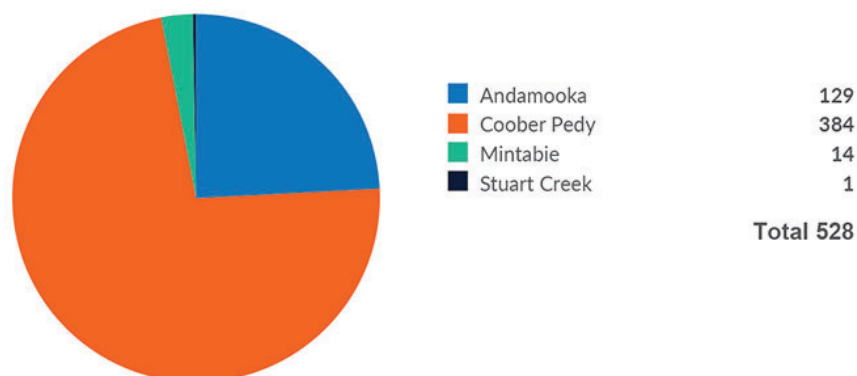
This includes regular phone conferences and by sittings of the Warden's Court in Coober Pedy and Andamooka twice a year. Opal miners can also initiate their own actions in the Warden's Court. These matters usually relate to suspension of working conditions, amalgamation of tenements or partnership disputes.

In 2021–22 DEM raised 28 court actions. Of these actions, 16 matters were dismissed, and 12 claims forfeited. DEM also attended 28 court hearings.

Opal fields compliance

DEM conducts compliance activities to provide assurance to the government, opal miners and community stakeholders that opal mining activities are complying with the appropriate Acts and regulations. Noncompliance identified through surveillance, complaints, incidents and alleged breaches was investigated for 1,198 claims (first and second inspections).

Opal claims location as at 30 June 2022



Opal administrative activities 2017 to 2021

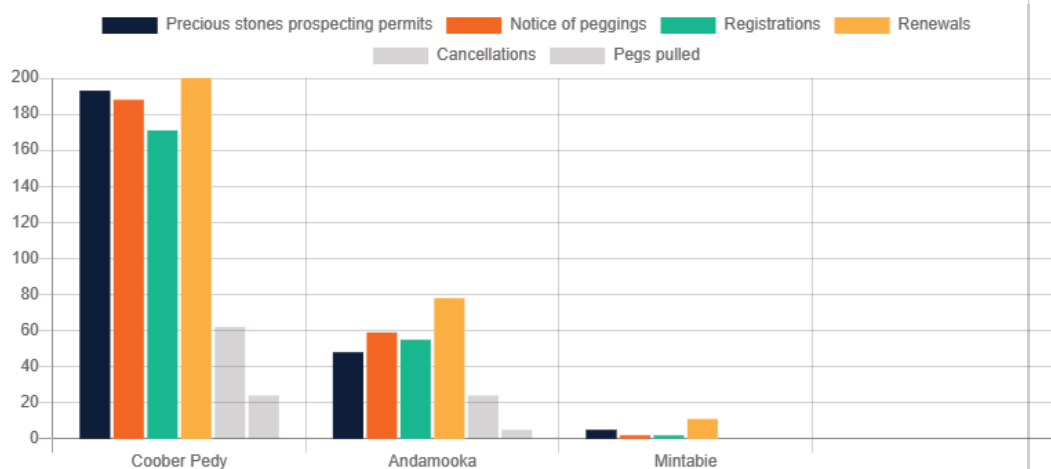
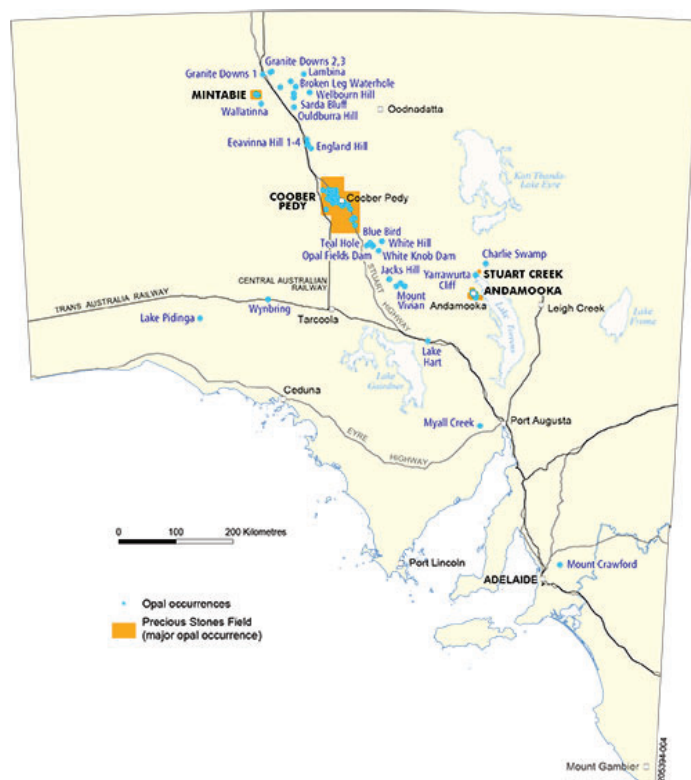


Table version of Opal administrative activities 2017 to 2021 chart

UPDATED Table 16: Compliance summary of first and second inspections for opal field activities 1 July to 31 December 2022

Inspections	Cooper Pedy	Mintabie	Lambina	Andamooka	Total
First inspection compliant	237	0	0	111	348
First inspection noncompliant	63	0	0	17	80
Second inspection compliant	45	0	0	11	56
Second inspection noncompliant	3	0	0	2	5
Total	348	0	0	141	489

Opal occurrences in South Australia as at 30 June 2022



(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/plans/sarig1/image/DDD/205394-004>)

Mine rehabilitation and closure

Rehabilitation liability and bonds

While the South Australian mining industry is an important economic contributor, mining activities impact the land and create a rehabilitation liability. Under the Mining Act, the holder of a mining tenement is responsible for rehabilitating the land disturbed by mining operations. DEM is responsible for ensuring financial liabilities from non-rehabilitated mining activities do not become the state's responsibility.

The amount to be provided by the tenement holder is determined by DEM as the value of 100% of the estimated rehabilitation liability. The rehabilitation liability estimate is the maximum third-party cost of undertaking the rehabilitation strategies covered by the approved PEPR and include costs for project management, inflation, normal project variation, and contingency provision for risk associated with the strategies and uncertainty in the cost estimates.

Table 17: Summary of bond type and amount held by DEM for mineral tenements - 30 June 2022

Bond type	Exploration (\$m)	Mining (\$m)
Bank guarantee	1.3	252.78
Currency	2	24.74
Other – deed poll	0	9.18
Total	3.3	286.7

Total bonds (\$million) held as at 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2022

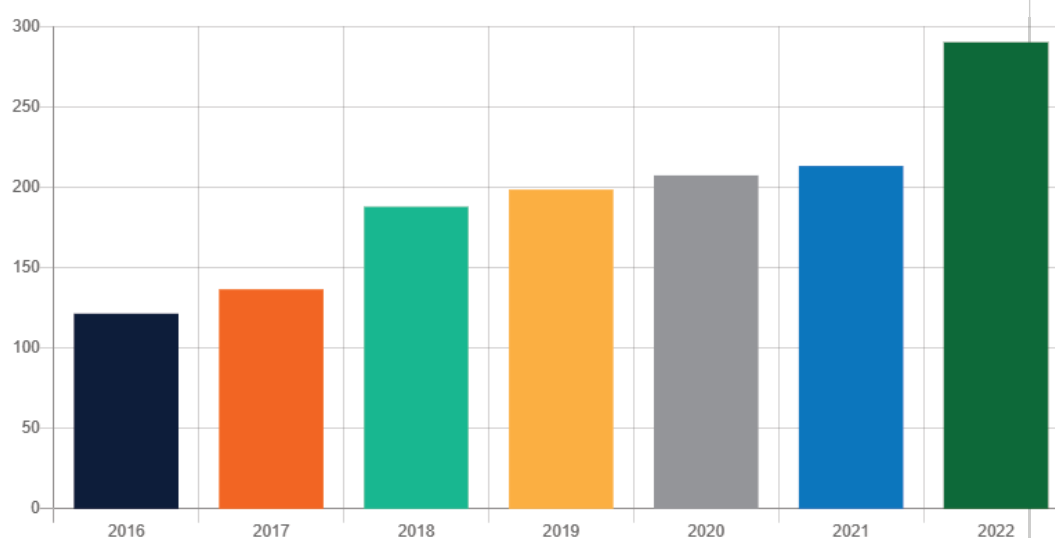


Table version of Total bonds (\$million) held as at 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2022 chart

Extractive areas rehabilitation fund (EARF)

The EARF was established in 1971 to fund the rehabilitation of extractive mining operations and has supported more than 1,000 projects since its inception. The EARF is funded by the government's reallocation of royalty monies.

In the event an operator faces financial disruption through insolvency, administration, liquidation or bankruptcy, the EARF provides a royalty-financed scheme that protects the state. The EARF protects against operators who cannot meet their rehabilitation obligations due to voluntary administration or liquidation.

The EARF's benefit to industry is that extractive operations generally do not require a rehabilitation bond.

EARF provides funding to support regulatory officers who work on extractive minerals leases and extractive operations. The EARF is regularly reviewed by government to ensure adequate reserves are held to assure potential rehabilitation liabilities may be funded if required by government.

The closing balance of the EARF at 30 June 2022 was \$33,849,363.

More information about the EARF can be found on the Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund web page (<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/quarries/extractive-areas-rehabilitation-fund-earf>)

Table 18: Projects approved for funding from EARF FY2021–22

Project	Applicant	Approved	Value(\$)
Maslin Beach Sand Quarry - EMLs 2569 and 2570	DEM	20/06/2022	75,000

Table 19: Status of EARF-funded projects - 30 June 2022

Active projects	Original approval	Original value (\$)	Project completed	Residual value 30 June 2022 (\$)
PM 140	14/06/2016	339,081.00	not yet completed	339,081.00
MPL 56	27/10/2019	63,250.00	not yet completed	40,450.00
PM 285	24/07/2019	11,550.00	21/7/2021	0.00
PM 253	16/12/2020	22,231.00	not yet completed	22,231.00
EML 5261	20/03/2021	30,541.00	26/02/2022	0.00
			Total	401,762.00

Resource royalties

DEM administers policy, collection and reporting of all royalties sourced from South Australian producers for both mineral and petroleum resources.

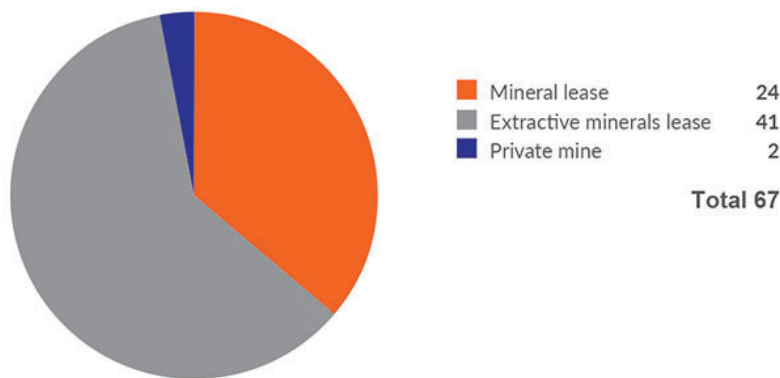
In 2021–22 the royalty audit compliance program:

- audited 98% of mineral royalty revenue
- subjected 67 mineral producers to a comprehensive audit
- recovered \$311,000 in mining royalty revenue.

Reported mineral production 2021–22:

- focused on large high-risk mineral producers involving more complex audits.
- used drone surveys to better assess extractive mineral production volumes recovered through mining operations.

Royalty audits completed FY2021–22



Royalty audits FY2017–18 to FY2021–22

DEM carried out 67 mining royalty audits in FY2021–22.

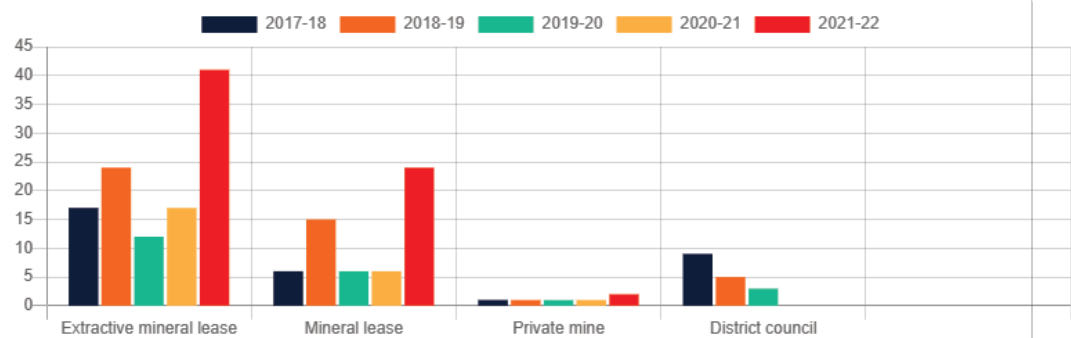


Table version of Royalty audits FY2017–18 to FY2021–22 chart

Mineral production contribution to mining royalties

Mineral production contributed \$240 million to mining royalties in 2021–22.

Acknowledgement of Country

As guests here on Kurna land, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) acknowledges everything this department does impacts on Aboriginal country, the sea, the sky, its people, and the spiritual and cultural connections which have existed since the first sunrise.

Our responsibility is to share our collective knowledge, recognise a difficult history, respect the relationships made over time, and create a stronger future.

We are ready to walk, learn and work together.

Further information

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Government
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Department for
Energy and Mining