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## Halving PoW Timeframes will cut costs

The WA Government's announcement to halve the time it takes for a mineral exploration company to receive a programme of work (PoW) from 30 to 15 days is a substantial cut in red tape and costs for mineral exploration companies.

"Doubling the speed of PoW assessments will make WA even more attractive to investment," said Warren Pearce, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

"In 2019, DMIRS received 2,646 PoW applications. If assuming these timeframes, today's announcement would have meant going from 79,380 processing days to 39,690 days in 2019— that's huge."

The Mining Act 1978 requires that a Programme of Work (PoW) is lodged in the prescribed manner and approved by the Minister (or a prescribed official) prior to an explorer or prospector conducting any ground disturbing activities with mechanised equipment. Activities must be then rehabilitated within six months of completion of ground disturbance or following an approved extension.

According to DMIRS figures, in the September Quarter 2019, 97% of Program of Works were processed in 30 days.

"AMEC has been advocating for this commitment, and today's announcement follows on from industry and government workshops in 2019 that specifically looked at ways of improving timeframes for programmes of work assessments."

"Importantly, this is an achievable target and demonstrates the Government's commitment to improving efficiency in the approvals system and reducing time and costs for explorers."

"Today's announcement underlines why the Fraser Institute Survey announced overnight that WA currently ranks as the most attractive place on earth for mining and mineral exploration companies to invest," said Mr Pearce.

### Links here:

<https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Programmes-of-Work-5966.aspx>

[https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Investors/Approvals\\_Performance\\_Report-third\\_Quarter.pdf](https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Investors/Approvals_Performance_Report-third_Quarter.pdf)