Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board Dashboard Report – October 2022 to March 2023

Key Insights

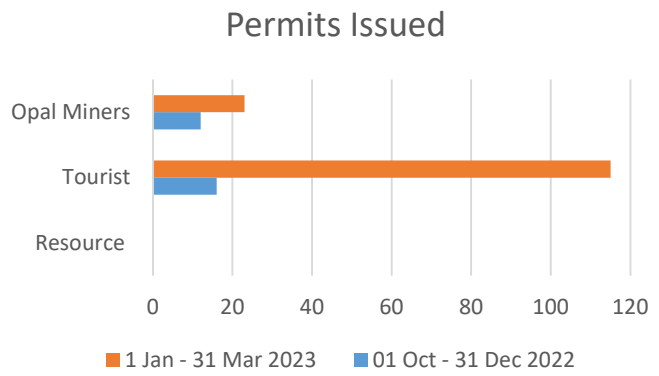
In Review: October 2022 to March 2023

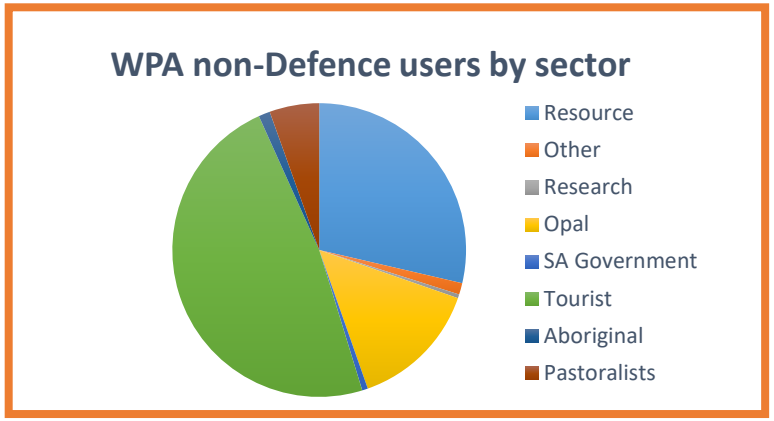
- ✓ 24 Exploration Licences granted, mostly for copper, gold, and rare earths.
- ✓ SA Gov.'s Gawler Phase 2 on-ground work commenced with heritage survey clearances and conduct of geophysics surveys, with close coordination with the Woomera Test Range. The Maralinga Tjarutja (MT) survey work was completed on 9 March 2023. The Geological Survey of SA is reviewing the data.
- ✓ Prominent Hill Wira shaft mine expansion is underway (capex $600 million) extending mine life to at least 2036 at 6 million tonnes per annum.
- ✓ Cairn Hill Iron Ore mine entered a care and maintenance phase.
- ✓ Peculiar Knob Iron Ore mine operations continuing with another 2.5 years mine life expected.
- ✓ Peak Iron's Buzzard Iron Ore mine project construction is underway and expected to be operational by Q2 2023. It is expected to produce 2Mtpa.
- ✓ Petratherm Ltd's drilling project confirmed the presence of a new, large, high-grade rare earth prospect (Artemis) in addition to its well-defined Meteor REE prospect.
- ✓ Marmota Ltd commenced its rare earths exploration program after analysis of historical drilling data and core library samples, identifying targets for drill testing.
- ✓ OZ Minerals accepted BHP's revised offer of $28.25 per share via a scheme of arrangement. This is a 13% increase on previously rejected offer.
- ✓ Opal production for the year ending 31 December 2022 was ~ $1.8 million.
- ✓ Air Force supported Defence trials with a combined duration of 128 trial days – a decrease from 154 trial days in the same period for the previous year.
- ✓ Air Force conducted training and remediation activities, Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) events and manned compliance patrols.

Royalties of approximately

$45m

received by SA Government in the 2022 Calendar Year





167

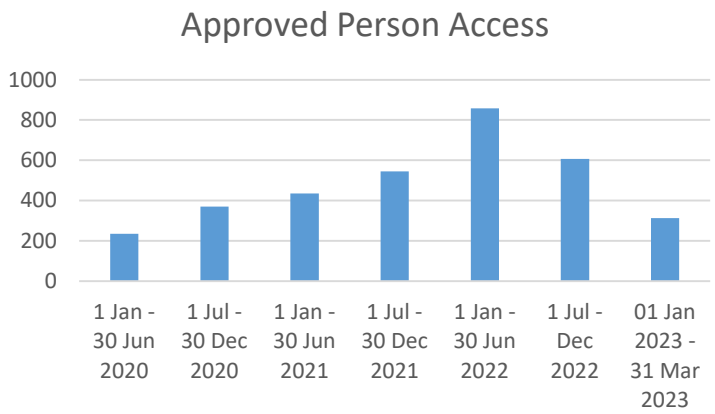
Active SA Government exploration licences as at 31 March 2023

Defence Trials

Planned – 128 days*

Actual – 128 days

*** Concurrent days**



Performance Indicators

- ✓ Defence processed **580 Approved Person applications.** This is a decrease from the last reporting period of 5.7%.
- ✓ **131 Tourist permits** were issued **covering 228 people**.
- ✓ Data collected during **Case Management** meetings indicated that 24 exploration permit holders were highly satisfied with Defence's communication when seeking support and access into the WPA.
  - ✓ The 24 exploration permit holders that participated in Case Management meetings reported that urgent requests for access under approved and escorted personnel were promptly addressed by Defence.
  - ✓ A number of exploration permit holders suggested streamlining WPA forms of access for easier management when engaging with contractors.
- ✓ Data collection **during Case Management** meetings indicated two research permit holders were highly satisfied with Defence communication and exclusion periods. Although there was a mixed response to WPA access, Defence was praised for processing short-notice access requests in a timely fashion.
- ✓ **35 permits** were issued under the streamlined Opal mining permit system.

Defence use of the WPA

- ✓ One **exclusion period** was revoked in this reporting period for Amber Zone 2.
- ✓ Exclusion periods for Amber Zones 1 and 2 for FY 2023-2024 have been promulgated.