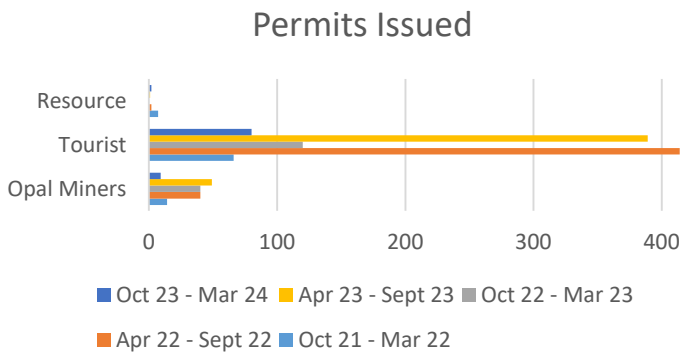
Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board Dashboard Report – October 2023 to March 2024

In Review: October 2023 to March 2024

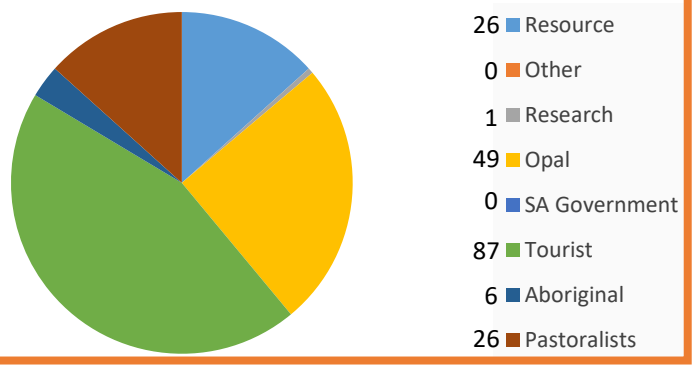
- ✓ 1 Exploration Licence granted for copper.
- ✓ South Australia Government's (SAG) Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Bill passed both Houses of Parliament in November 2023. The Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 (SA) (HRE Act) is the nation's first legislative framework to provide a coordinated approach to the hydrogen and renewable energy industries. Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) developed the regulations to operationalise the Act, which went out for public consultation in March and April 2024. The HRE Act will apply to the large pastoral areas located in the WPA.
- ✓ DEM hosted the 3rd SA Aboriginal Renewable Energy Forum (SAAREF) in Port Augusta on 14 - 15 March 2024. More than 70 people attended, with 63 representatives from First Nations organisations, including members of the WPA First Nations groups. The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss:
  - ✓ The operation of the HRE Act, in relation to release areas, tendering, licensing and agreement making and environmental management; and
  - ✓ The draft regulations and increase knowledge on the HRE Act processes to underpin informed participation and consent.
- ✓ In Feb, SAG reached an agreement with the private sector (BHP, Origin Energy, Amp Energy and Fortescue Energy) to contribute to the expected pre-Final Investment Decision (FID) costs of approximately $200 - $230 million to fund further studies, planning and negotiations to inform a FID on the Northern Water Supply project.
- ✓ BHP's Copper South Australia is progressing with the ongoing integration of OZ Minerals' Prominent Hill, Carrapateena, and Olympic Dam operations. BHP established an integrated copper province by combining Prominent Hill and Carrapateena mines with its existing Olympic Dam mine, smelter and refinery, and Oak Dam exploration prospect.

Royalties of approximately ~ $19.3m received by SA Govt in Jul-Dec 2023.

>$450m since WPA Rule



WPA Non-Defence Users

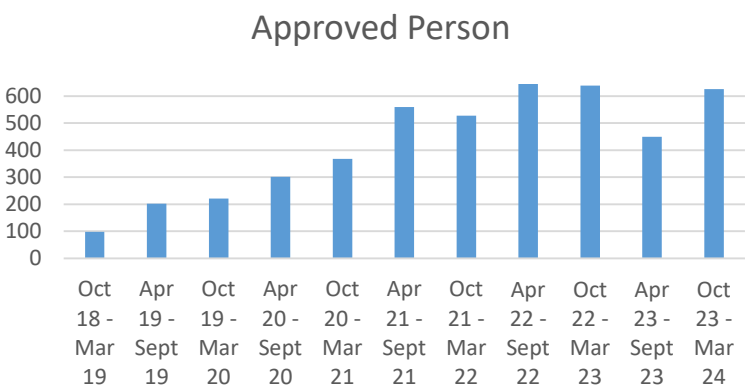


168 Active SA Government exploration licences as at 30 March 2024

Defence Trial Days

Trial days - 257*

* concurrent



Performance Indicators

- ✓ **626 Approved Person applications processed.**
  - ✓ Increase of 41% from the last reporting period.
    - ✓ 6 permit holders had an increase between the last reporting period and this one.
- ✓ **50 Tourist permits** issued, **covering 87 people.**
  - ✓ Decrease of over 87% in permits and people from the last reporting period.
  - ✓ Have not seen numbers this low since Oct 21 – Mar 22. However the Oct - Mar period each year has lower tourism numbers.
- ✓ **9 permits** issued under the streamlined Opal mining permit system.
- ✓ 47 Minister's Permissions processed.
  - ✓ 6.8% increase from the last reporting period.
- ✓ Case Management engagement with Resource and Research permit holders was completed.
  - ✓ Average satisfaction rating was 4.14 out of 5.

Defence use of the WPA

- ✓ One Amber Zone 2 **exclusion period** of 28 days was revoked in this reporting period.
- ✓ Air Force conducted training of personnel to maintain competency and currency in the operation of Woomera Range systems to support Operational Test and Evaluation events. Compliance patrols were conducted by the Woomera based Compliance Monitoring Team to ensure permit holders were compliant with no significant issues identified. During these patrols the team met with various stakeholders across the WPA as part of the engagement program. Further joint patrols are planned with the indigenous ranger groups.