Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board Dashboard Report – April to September 2024

Key Insights

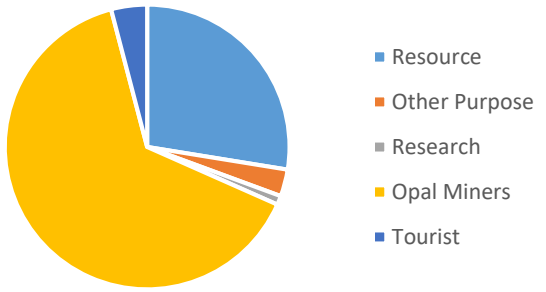
- ✓ On 16 August 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister announced an independent review into the settings of the WPA led by Ms Rebecca Skinner PSM.
- ✓ Project planning continued for site maintenance works to clean up general waste (i.e. scrap metal) at Emu Field. Works are expected to occur between March and October 2025.
- ✓ Defence SA welcomed Mr Ian Spencer as the new Executive Director of Defence and Industry. Ian replaces Mr Reg Carruthers as the Defence SA representative on the WPA Advisory Board Working Group.
- ✓ Mr Reg Carruthers began the role of Director ATTE (Advanced Test & Training Environment) for Air Force.
- ✓ Ms Elizabeth O'Brien commenced as Director WPACO.
- ✓ Air Force supported Defence trials with a combined duration of 439 trial days – more than both the two previous reporting periods combined.
- ✓ BHP has conducted extensive consultations with SA Government agencies regarding its Olympic Dam Smelter Refinery Expansion Project which will process copper mined at Prominent Hill.
- ✓ The Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 (HRE Act) took effect on 11 July 2024, establishing the nation's first coordinated legislative framework for the hydrogen and renewable energy industries. The HRE Act will apply to the extensive pastoral areas within the WPA.

Royalties of

$19,659,512

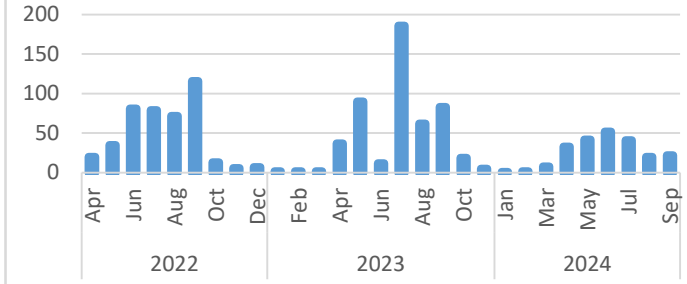
received by SA Government from companies in the WPA January to June 2024

Current permits at 30 Sept 2024

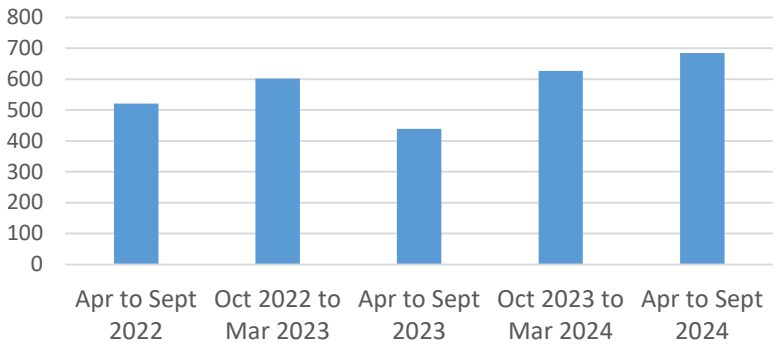


164 Active SA Government exploration licences as at 30/10/2024

Tourist access by year / month



Approved Person Applications



Defence trials

439 Concurrent Days

Performance Indicators

- ✓ **685 Approved Person** applications processed.
  - ✓ This is the highest number since the Pandemic.
- ✓ **179 tourist permits issued covering 316 individuals**
- ✓ **34 Minister's Permissions** processed.
- ✓ **8 Opal mining permits** issued.
- ✓ **204 W007 Access Requests** processed.
- ✓ **1 Resource Exploration permit** granted.

Defence use of the WPA

- ✓ No **exclusion periods** were revoked this reporting period.
- ✓ Testing and evaluation included Trial Kareela (MQ-28A Ghost Bat), Desert Lion (Hypersonic development), Red-5 (Nulka Missile Decoy) and Trial Wanderer (Uncrewed Aerial Systems).
- ✓ Air Force conducted personnel training to maintain competency and currency in the operation of Woomera Test Range systems to support Operational Test and Evaluation events.
- ✓ Air Force (supporting Raytheon Australia) completed site acceptance testing of the new Long Range Telemetry and Flight Terminations Systems.
- ✓ Compliance patrols and education programs were conducted by the Woomera based Compliance Monitoring Team to ensure permit holders were compliant.
  - ✓ No significant issues identified.
  - ✓ Joint patrols are planned with the indigenous Oak Valley Ranger groups in the New Year.