Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board Dashboard Report – April 2025 to September 2025

Key Insights

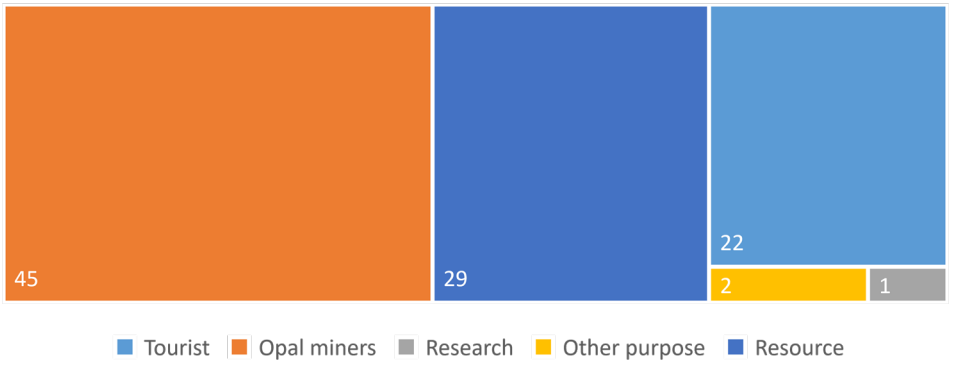
- Project planning continues for site maintenance works to clean-up general waste (e.g., scrap metal) at Emu Field within the WPA. DISR anticipates sourcing a contractor for the remediation works by October 2025. The remediation works are expected to commence in mid-2026.
- In May and June 2025, Petratherm announced drilling results via the ASX, confirming a pure high-value titanium mineral assemblage at the Rosewood Prospect. This represents a significant step forward for the Muckanippie Titanium Project.
- On 30 June 2025, Barton Gold updated the Mineral Resources Estimate for its Challenger Gold Project via the ASX. With a refined focus on high-grade zones and historical tailings, the estimate is now substantially increased.
- Applications for a Mining Lease and Miscellaneous Purposes Licence lodged by Central Iron Pty Ltd for the Hawks Nest magnetite project were open for public consultation from 16 July 2025 to 22 August 2025, with no public submissions received.
- Executive management responsibilities for the Woomera Range Capability transferred from Air Commodore Leanne Lee to Air Commodore Angus Porter, under the newly established Ranges and Missions Assurance Directorate.
- Director responsibilities for the new Directorate transferred from Group Captain Brett Risstrom to Mr Kurt Jorgensen.

Royalties of **$14.7m** received by SA Government from companies in the WPA

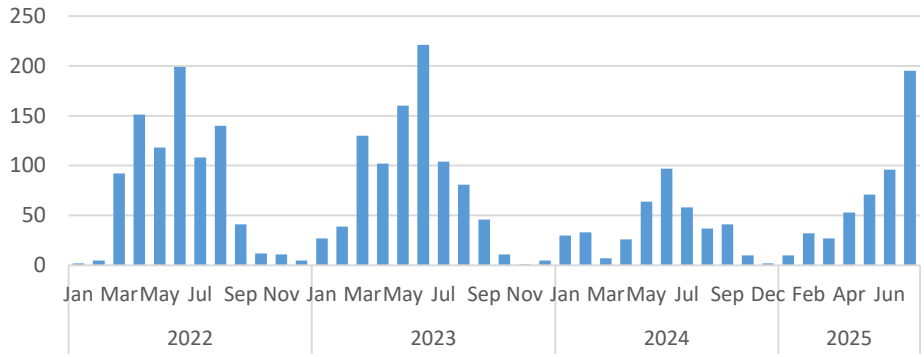
01 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

171 Active SA Government **exploration licences** and **100** **mineral production** tenements as at 30 September 2025

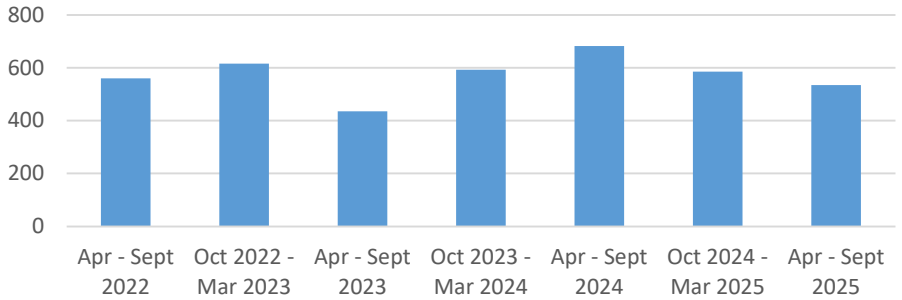
Current permit holder as at 30 September 2025



Tourist access by year / month



Approved person applications



386* Defence trial days

01 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

*achieved through the concurrent conduct of trials

Non-Defence Access into the WPA

- **534** Approved Person applications processed.
- **290** Tourist permits issued covering **539** individuals.
- **43** Minister's Permissions issued.
- **41** Opal mining permits issued.
- **58** requests for access to tenements or areas within the WPA processed.
- **3** Resource Exploration permits granted.

Defence Use of the WPA

Defence trials included:

- MQ-28A Ghost Bat and Uncrewed Aerial Systems;
- A research and development activity that seeks to test long range electronic warfare capabilities;
- Long Range Deployable Telemetry and Flight Determination Systems – operational testing of the equipment in support of future Long Range Fire testing; and
- Countermeasure flares trials for multiple Defence aircraft.

Woomera based Compliance Monitoring Teams conducted 22 patrols to ensure permit holders were compliant with permit conditions and to conduct community engagements.

Woomera Prohibited Area Review

- Ms Rebecca Skinner led an independent review in 2024-25 into the WPA Rule 2014 (the Rule) to ensure the coexistence arrangements meet the contemporary needs of the Australian Defence Force into the future, and serve the requirements of all stakeholders. The review report is currently being considered by Government.
- In accordance with the Legislation Act 2003, the Rule will sunset in October 2026. Drafting of the new Rule is underway and will take into account stakeholder views shared with the Review. Defence is working to ensure the new Rule remains fit for purpose for all WPA over the next decade.