Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board Dashboard Report – October 2025 to March 2026

Key Insights

- The Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) engaged Ventia Utility Services Pty Ltd in October 2025 to deliver the Maralinga Site Maintenance Project (SMP). Remediation works are underway at Maralinga and Emu Field to address physical and environmental hazards associated with former nuclear testing activities. The project is being delivered in partnership with Maralinga Tjarutja, supporting stewardship of the sites.
- The South Australian Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) completed the assessment and notification process for Central Iron Pty Ltd.'s Mining Lease and Miscellaneous Purpose Licence applications for the Hawks Nest magnetite project.
- In February 2026, PTR Minerals Limited submitted an Exploration Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (EPEPR) Review with DEM to further define, develop and explore titanium and vanadium mineralisation around the Muckanippie Project.
- The number of active SA Government exploration licenses in the WPA remains steady since the last reporting period.
- Tourist access trended downward between October to March, consistent with regular patterns.

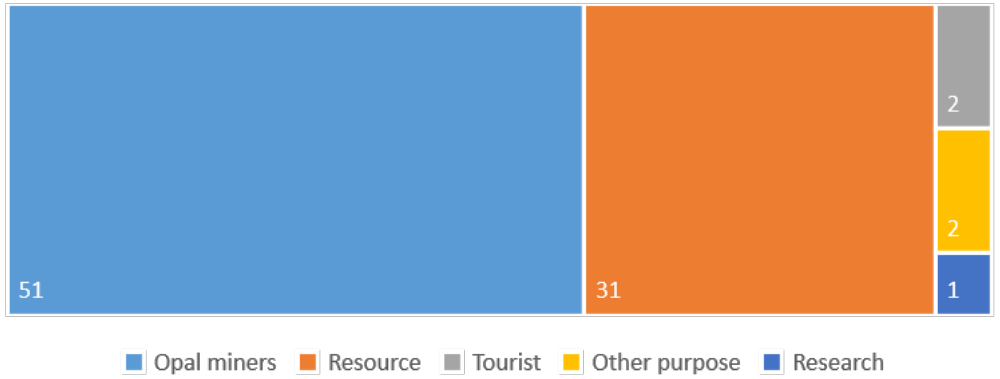
Royalties of **$28.9M** received by SA Government from companies in the WPA
01 October 2025 to 31 March 2026

Cumulative total royalties of **$603,800M** received since the implementation of The Rule

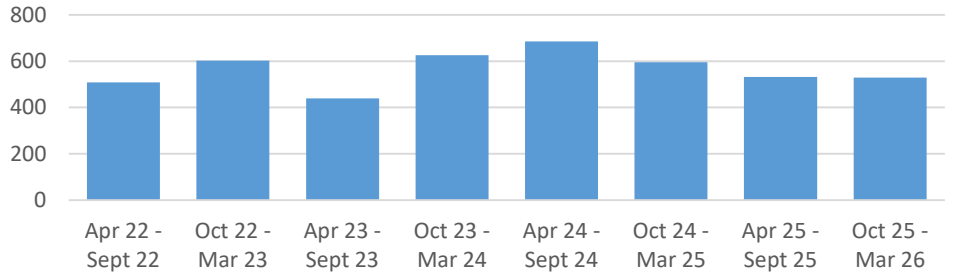
168
Active SA Government **exploration licences**

100
mineral production tenements
as at 31 March 2026

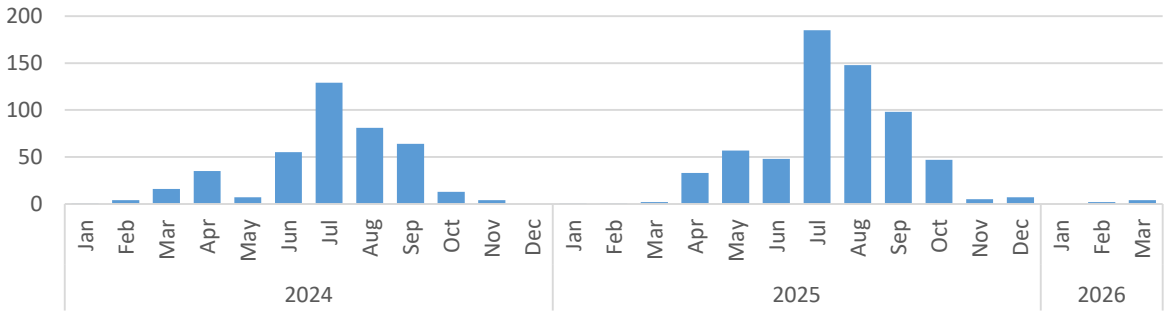
Current permit holder as at 31 March 2026



Approved Person applications



Tourist access by year / month



206* Defence trial days
01 October 2025 to 31 March 2026

*achieved through the concurrent conduct of trials

Non-Defence Access into the WPA

- **529** Approved Person permissions issued.
- **47** Tourist permits issued covering **85** individuals.
- **38** Minister's Permissions issued.
- **8** Opal mining permits issued.
- **111** requests for access to tenements or areas within the WPA processed.
- **2** Resource exploration permits issued.

Defence Use of the WPA

- A major milestone was achieved during Trial Kareela in Q4 2025, when the MQ-28A Ghost Bat became one of the first collaborative combat aircrafts to successfully engage an aerial target with a live weapon. The MQ-28A Ghost Bat launched an AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile against an uncrewed Phoenix Jet aerial target.
- For the first time, Defence consolidated into a single Green Zone exclusion period the testing of multiple weapons systems and platforms that were capable of using a common instrumentation laydown. This coordinated approach enabled activities that would otherwise have required separate exclusion periods to be conducted, significantly reducing disruption and access restrictions for non-Defence users within the Green Zone.

Woomera Prohibited Area Rule

- Defence progressed efforts to remake the *WPA Rule 2014* ahead of its 1 October 2026 sunsetting, and continued engagement with the South Australian Government in preparation to transition to the new Rules.