

Compulsory online reporting

Holders of exploration, assessment and mining authorities must submit annual reports on their exploration activities completed on their authority.

Reporting is in accordance with the *Mining Act 1992* and Mining Regulation 2010 or the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* and the Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016.

Detailed guidance for exploration reporting can be found in the following guidelines:

Mineral and coal authorities: [Exploration reporting: A guide for reporting on exploration and prospecting in NSW](#).

Petroleum authorities: [Onshore petroleum reporting and data submission](#).

Comprehensive geoscientific records of mineral, coal and petroleum exploration and mining provide a major competitive advantage to NSW.

Access to reports and data on past exploration and mining ensures that exploration investment does not duplicate past effort and can build on accumulated knowledge. Accordingly, the accurate recording of mineral, coal and petroleum exploration and mining is mandatory.

Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) within the Department of Regional New South Wales is responsible for receiving, assessing, storing and distributing this information. The information and data is used to inform the government, resource industry and community about the state's resources, and to facilitate safe and sustainable development of NSW mineral and energy resources for the benefit of all NSW citizens.

Reports and lodgement

Annual reports must present technical results and geological interpretations of exploration activities and/or mining operations carried out during the reporting period.

Partial relinquishment reports are required when an authority is reduced in area. The report is akin a final report on that part of the authority relinquished.

Final reports are the last reports for an authority and are submitted after the authority has expired or been fully cancelled or relinquished. They will, in addition to all annual reports, be the main source of information for future explorers of the area.

There are additional report types for petroleum authorities such as financial year statistics, well completion reports, well status notifications, notification of discovery, seismic surveys and well assessment reports that may be required depending on exploration activities completed.

For a detailed explanation on report contents and data submission requirements see the exploration reporting guidelines: www.regional.nsw.gov.au/meg/exploring-and-mining/compliance-and-reporting/exploration-reporting

Assessment of reports and data

Reports and data must be lodged online through the [Titles Management System \(TMS\) website](#).

All reports and data lodged are assessed by departmental geoscientists to ensure they comply with relevant guidelines. Reports are also assessed to monitor exploration progress, inform decisions by MEG and to ensure the results of exploration are fully and clearly recorded for the benefit of future explorers and researchers.

Satisfactory reports are accepted, and a notification sent advising the report has been assessed and accepted is sent to the TMS account through which the report was lodged. Satisfactory reports are accepted and archived to DIGS®.

Reports and data that do not meet the requirements of this guideline are deemed unsatisfactory and sent back to the person who lodged the report for amendment and resubmission. In this case, a notification is sent to the TMS account through which the report was lodged. The notification will include details of why the report was assessed as unsatisfactory and what action is required. Reports or data that require resubmission must be resubmitted within two weeks after the notification date.

Extension or exemption from reporting:

Clause 60 of the Mining Regulation and clause 27 of the Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation allows for authority holders to apply for an extension of the period within which a report must be lodged, or for an exemption from reporting requirements.

Applications for extensions or exemptions must be lodged no later than 30 days before the due date of the report using the form 'Application for an extension or exemption from reporting' ([ER01](#)).

Exemption from reporting requirements does not exempt the authority holder from their obligation to fulfil other conditions of authority, especially the requirements to effectively explore, assess or mine the authority area.

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