

What are the different types of permits?

Crown Minerals issues permits to prospect, explore or mine petroleum under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. The following table lists the key information for the three types of petroleum permits available. More detailed information is available through links to excerpts from the Minerals Programme for Petroleum.

	Prospecting permit	Exploration permit	Mining permit
Purpose	For conducting reconnaissance and general investigations of an area	To identify petroleum deposits and evaluate the feasibility of mining any discoveries made	For development of a petroleum field to allow the extraction and production of petroleum
Activities	Generally acquisition of geological and geophysical data	Geological and geophysical surveying, exploration and appraisal drilling and testing of petroleum discoveries	Mining operations relevant to the extraction, separation, treatment and processing of petroleum
Allocation	Non-competitive applications may be made over available areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority in time • Competitive: Petroleum Exploration Permit Blocks Offer 	Subsequent to an exploration permit, following extensive appraisal programme and preparation of a work programme for development and mining of a discovery
Rights	Non-exclusive No subsequent rights	Exclusive Subsequent rights to apply for a mining permit	Exclusive
Duration	Up to 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 5 years • Renewal of 5 years over a maximum of 50% of the original area • Appraisal extension of up to 4 years possible 	Up to 40 years, related to size of discovery and rate of production
Size	No size limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority In Time: Related to level and extent of proposed exploration • Blocks Offer: Defined by Crown Minerals 	Related to extent of discovery