

Our regular Alerts have now been expanded to include:

1. Inquiry into the operation of the EPBC Act
2. Invitations on public comment on referrals
3. Decision on previous referral and
4. Species and Ecological Communities Plans and Notifications.

*All of the information below is drawn directly from the Commonwealth Government's website ([www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html)) and is provided for information and summary purposes only; EDO-NQ does not warrant or guarantee its accuracy or correctness. In addition, EDO-NQ does not support the various proposals which are the subject of the EPBC Act referrals below.*

### 1. Inquiry into the operation of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Thanks to Senator Siewert, the terms of reference for an inquiry into the operation of the EPBC are now up on the Australian Government website. Submissions are due **5th September**.

For further information and details of where to forward your written submission refer to:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eca\\_ctte/epbc\\_act/tor.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eca_ctte/epbc_act/tor.htm)

### 2. Invitation on public comment on referral

2008/4339	<a href="#">Mark Entriken/Residential development/Lot 19 Chisholm Trail Oak Valley/QLD/Private House Construction</a>	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Deadline 29 Jul 2008
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Oak Valley is located approximately 15 minutes south west of Townsville CBD and less than 5km from Ross River Dam. It was concluded in the referral that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact.

2008/4338	<a href="#">Cairns Natural Spring Water/Commercial development/Maconachie St, East Woree, Cairns/QLD/Subdivision at East Woree Industrial Area</a>	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Deadline 28 Jul 2008
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Development of 1.983 ha of land into 10 lots. The land is located in the Industrial Planning Area and East Worree Development Precinct of the Portsmouth-Woree industrial district. The referral discusses the impact of this action on the Southern Cassowary habitat, Ant Plant and Spectacled Flying –fox and concluded that the impact was not significant.

For further information on how to comment refer to the [Help](#) document provided by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources.

### 3. Decision on Previous Referral

2004/1447	<a href="#">BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance/Exploration (mineral, oil, gas)/Bowen Basin/QLD/Norwich Park Coal Mine - Development of East Pit</a>	Decision on approval of action: Approved with conditions	Approval 18 Jul 2008
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To develop an open-cut mine operation of the East Pit, 24km south of Dysart in Central Queensland. It was found the approval had effect for Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A) and is subject to conditions which can be found in the Approval document (follow the links above).

## 4. Species and Ecological Communities Plans and Notifications

### Torres Strait Trochus Fishery – comment by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008

The current export approval for the Torres Strait Trochus Fishery is valid until 25 November 2008 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) received a submission -Strategic and Export Reassessment Report from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in June 2008. The report has been prepared to address the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries, 2nd edition* (the Guidelines) and to provide updates on the implementation of recommendations made in the original DEWHA assessment. The submission will be used to assess the operation of the fishery for the purposes of Parts 13 and 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

[For copies of the reports and submission details .....](#)

### Previous notices:

#### Draft Recovery Plan – comment by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008

[Large-eared pied bat \*Chalinolobus dwyeri\*](#) – and is listed as “Rare” under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992.

#### Threat Abatement Plan – The impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life – comment by Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008

[Further details and background paper ....](#)

#### Comment on Nomination – Damage to marine ecosystems by trawling in the area of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery – comment by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Key factors that contribute to the process of overfishing are discussed in [two documents](#) and are available for review.

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Regards,

**EDO-NQ**

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