

Included in this alert are the following invitations to comment:

1. Dredging at Abbot Point Coal Terminal, 25km N of Bowen – comments due 18<sup>th</sup> September
2. Bauxite mine extension in Western Cape York – comments 17<sup>th</sup> September
3. Construction of Connors River Dam, 70km south of Sarina – comments due 11<sup>th</sup> September
4. Still open the two referrals for Bowen Basin Coal Growth Project – comments due 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September
5. Inquiry into the operation of the EPBC Act – extended to 22<sup>nd</sup> September
6. Biodiversity *Draft Recovery Plans and Priority Assessment List*
7. And previous notices still open for comment.

*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. Invitation on public comment on referral

2008/4438	<a href="#">Ports Corporation of Queensland/Transport - water/Offshore from the Abbot Point Coal Terminal 25km N of Bowen/QLD/Apron and Berth Dredging</a>	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	18 Sep 2008
-----------	--	---	-------------

The proposal to expand the Abbot Point Coal Terminal is to meet growing demand for coal export capacity. As part of the expansion dredging of two new berth pockets and an apron area of approximately 350,000m<sup>3</sup> and relocation of the dredge material is proposed.

The action is located in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park with threatened marine mammals, reptiles and sharks likely to occur in the Project area. Migratory species also occur in the Project area including migratory birds, mammals, reptiles and sharks. The report concludes the action is not likely to have a significant impact.

2008/4435	<a href="#">Rio Tinto/Mining/South of Embley River, South of Boyd Point and in Port of Weipa, Western Cape York/QLD/South of the Embley Bauxite Mine Extension, Including Construction of Port and Infrastructure</a>	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	17 Sep 2008
-----------	---	---	-------------

Rio Tinto propose to extend its existing bauxite mining operations in western Cape York Peninsula including the construction and operation a new bauxite processing plant and infrastructure: roads, water, supply infrastructure, product stockpiles, barge and ferry facilities. As the effect of the project is to shift vessel activity for the Port of Weipa to the proposed port the risk of introduction of marine pests is likely to be similar to the current risks.

There are identified threatened species including marine and freshwater fauna and identified migratory reptile and bird species in the area indicating that the proposed action is a controlled action under the Act.

2008/4429	<a href="#">SunWater/Water management and use/Mt Bridget, Fitzroy River Basin, Central QLD/QLD/Construct and Operate the Connors River Dam and Pipelines</a>	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	11 Sep 2008
-----------	--	---	-------------

The construction and operation of the Connors River Dam near Mt Bridget in the Fitzroy River Basin located in Central Queensland, 70km south of Sarina. The primary impacts relate to the capture and storage of water on up to 5,400 ha of land, regulation of the downstream flow environment and construction of pipeline distribution systems.

The proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage and National Heritage places, wetlands of international importance, listed threatened species and communities, listed migratory species and the marine environment. For full details refer to the report available through the link above.

### Still open for comment:

2008/4418	<a href="#">BM Alliance Coal Operations Pty Limited/Mining/Approximately 40kms South East of Moranbah, Bowen Basin/QLD/Develop an Open Cut Coal Mine at Daunia</a>	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	08 Sep 2008
2008/4417	<a href="#">BM Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd/Mining/ML 1775, 6.2km south of Moranbah, Bowen Basin/QLD/Caval Ridge Coal Mine Project</a>	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	09 Sep 2008

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

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

The date of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* submissions has now been extended until **22 September**. EDO-NQ in collaboration with the Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices, is currently working on this submission. 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)

## 3. Biodiversity

### **Draft Recovery Plans**

You are invited to comment on draft recovery plans under provisions of section 275 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

There is a three month public comment period and at the end of this period the plans will be revised, taking into consideration any comments received. [Current draft recovery plans ...](#)

### **Priority Assessment List**

Announcement of the Finalised Priority Assessment List. This year, 20 species, seven ecological communities and two key threatening processes have been included for priority assessment. [The list of nominations is available for viewing.](#)

## 4. Previous notices:

### **Application for a permit to conduct a project involves cataloguing humpback whales**

(*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in Commonwealth waters during their migration along the coastline of eastern Australia from Port Douglas Queensland to Eden, NSW. The applicant seeks to document the status of the east Australian Group V population of humpback whales, adding to Pacific Whale Foundation's catalogue of photo-identification and life history data on this population.

You are invited to comment on this proposal before COB 5 September 2008.

### **Invitation to comment - Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – Green Paper closes 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

Submissions and comments are being sought on the design of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme on the Commonwealth Government's Green Paper in response to the Garnaut Climate Change review.

For further information and details of where to forward your written submission refer to the [Department of Climate Change website](#).

**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.

**No Decisions on Previous Referrals to report.**

*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.*

Regards,

**EDO-NQ**

**Environmental Defender's Office of NQ Inc.**

Level 1, 96-98 Lake Street

Cairns QLD 4870

Ph: 07 4031 4766

Fax: 07 4041 4535

Email: [edonq@edo.org.au](mailto:edonq@edo.org.au)

Internet: [www.edo.org.au](http://www.edo.org.au)