

In this week's alert:

1. Port Abbot coal terminal expansion – comments due by Tuesday 7th October
2. Water buyback in the Murray-Darling Basin region
3. Dwarf Sawfish nomination to list as Vulnerable

All of the information below is drawn directly from the Commonwealth Government's website (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

2008/4468	Ports Corporation of Queensland/Mining/Abbot Point Road, Port Abbot, 25km North of Bowen/QLD/Coal Terminal Expansion, and Associated Infrastructure	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	07 Oct 2008
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To meet growing demand for coal export capacity, it is intended to undertake the X110 Expansion Project of the Abbot Point Coal Terminal which includes offshore and onshore infrastructure development. The offshore development is in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Threatened plants, birds, terrestrial fauna, marine mammals, reptiles and sharks potentially occur in the Project area. The referral concludes the proposed action is not likely to have significant impact for the reasons stated in section 5.2 of the document.

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

2. Water Resources

[Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin Program \(water buyback\)](#)

The 2008-09 Northern basin water entitlement purchase round is now open to willing sellers of water entitlements in the Queensland and northern New South Wales areas of the Murray-Darling Basin. Applications are due by **19 December 2008**.

3. Threatened species and ecological communities

Dwarf Sawfish – nomination to be listed as vulnerable.

A tropical Australian species distributed from Cairns to the Kimberleys. [Further details on comments being sought](#) available on the DEWHA website. Comments due by **24 October 2008**.

4. Previous notices still open

Chillagoe Karst Region, Burke Development Road has been nominated for listing on the National Heritage List. Full details of the nomination are available on the [website](#) as well as a feedback form.

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