

In this week's alert:

1. Ross River, **Townsville Marine Precinct** Project – comments due 21st October
2. **Water buyback** in the Murray-Darling Basin region – applications due 19th December
3. **Magnetic Island Draft Policy Statement** – submissions due 29th October
4. Risk assessment on the **import of Russian Sturgeon** – submissions due 21st November

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

2008/4497	Port of Townsville/Transport - water/south of Benwell Road Beach, Ross River, Townsville/QLD/Townsville Marine Precinct	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Comments due: 21 Oct 2008
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Development of a commercial marine precinct at the mouth of Ross River, known as the Townsville Marine Precinct Project. Threatened plants, birds, terrestrial fauna, marine mammals and reptiles have been identified as likely to occur within the Project area as well as migratory birds, mammals, reptiles and sharks. The area of the project is also known to hold indigenous heritage values. Full details of likely impacts under World Heritage, Listed threatened species and communities and listed migratory species are given in the referral and comments are invited from the public.

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. Decision on Approvals

2007/3925	Wesfarmers Curragh Pty Ltd/Mining/Blackwater-Cooroora Rd, 6km nth of Blackwater/QLD/Blackwater creek diversion and coal mine	Decision on approval of action: Approved with conditions	25 Jul 2008
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It was found the approval has effect on Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A). The following plans must be submitted for approval:

- ? mitigate the loss and disturbance of the Brigalow
- ? offset the loss of the Brigalow ecological community
- ? mitigation measures in relation to impacts on EPBC listed fauna

2004/1447	BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance/Exploration (mineral, oil, gas)/Bowen Basin/QLD/Norwich Park Coal Mine - Development of East Pit	Decision on approval of action: Approved with conditions	18 Jul 2008
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It was found the approval has effect on Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A). Approval has been granted with conditions including establishment of a Nature Refuge Agreement and requirement for a plan to offset the loss of 44.2ha of Brigalow.

3. 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**.

4. Other Notices

Magnetic Island Draft Policy Statement

The [Draft Policy Statement](#) is designed to assist a person proposing to take an action on or around Magnetic Island decide whether or not they require EPBC Act approval. This draft policy statement should be read in conjunction with the [EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1](#). Public comments period closes **Wednesday 29th October**.

Risk Assessment on the Import of Russian Sturgeon

Comments are invited on the draft report assessing the suitability of import of the Russian Sturgeon into Australia. Full details and a [copy of the report](#) are available on the DEWHA website. Submissions due by **21 November 2008**.

5. Previous notices still open

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**.

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Regards,

EDO-NQ

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