

New referrals:

1. Alpha Coal Project – Mine and Rail Development – comments due 29th December
2. Alpha Coal Project – Port Options Development – comments due 29th December
3. Hay Point Coal Terminal Offshore seismic survey – comments 6th January

Decisions on referral

1. Aurukun Bauxite Project Abbot Point Refinery, Transport Corridor and Infrastructure – Approval required

Invitation for submissions from the public:

1. Threatened species – Windswept Helmut Orchid and Patagonian Toothfish – comments due 23rd January 2009
2. Commonwealth National Heritage List – nominations due by 3rd February 2009

Expressions of interest are being sought for membership of the Australian State of the Environment (SoE) 2011 committee – submissions close 18th January 2009

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

2008/4648	Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd/Mining/Near Alpha, Clermont and Mackay/QLD/Alpha Coal Project - Mine and Rail Development	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Comments due: 29 Dec 2008
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This referral outlines the details for the mine and rail corridor only of the Alpha Coal Project. The mine site is approximately 360km southwest of Mackay. There are known World Heritage Properties, National Heritage places, listed threatened species and ecological communities and listed migratory species and the proposed action is likely to have significant impacts.

2008/4647	Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply (non-renewable)/Abbott Point, north of Bowen, or Dudgeon, south of Mackay/QLD/Alpha Coal Project - Port Options Development	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Comments due: 29 Dec 2008
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The two port options under consideration are Port of Abbot Point, north of Bowen and at Dudgeon Point of Hay Point, south of Mackay. This part of the project is also likely to have significant impacts and is likely to impact on World Heritage Properties, National Heritage places, Listed threatened species and ecological communities and listed migratory species.

2008/4659	BM Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd/Exploration (mineral, oil and gas - marine)/Offshore from Hay Point Coal Terminal, southeast of Mackay/QLD/Vessel-based Seismic and Hydrographic Sonar Survey	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Comments due: 06 Jan 2009
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The seismic and hydrographic surveys will provide accurate rock level and bathymetric seabed information within and around the waters off Hay Point. This information will be used in the design of future Hay Point Coal Terminal expansion projects. It is concluded that the proposed action is unlikely to have significant impacts.

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. Decisions on Referrals

2008/4594	Chalco Australia Pty Ltd/Mining/25km North West of Bowen/QLD/Aurukun Bauxite Project Abbot Point Refinery	Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Required	Date of notice: 17 Dec 2008
2008/4593	Chalco Australia Pty Ltd/Transport - land/25km North West of Bowen/QLD/Aurukun Bauxite Project Abbot Point Transport Corridor	Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Required	Date of notice: 17 Dec 2008
2008/4595	Chalco Australia Pty Ltd/Transport - water/25km North West of Bowen/QLD/Aurukun Bauxite Project Abbot Point Infrastructure	Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Required	Date of notice: 17 Dec 2008

The proposed development of an Alumina refinery, landing facility and road, residue storage facility and slurry pipeline from the refinery to the Port Abbot, transport corridor and port facility were found to be controlled actions. They are likely to have significant impact on World Heritage properties, National Heritage places, Listed threatened species and communities, listed migratory species and Commonwealth marine.

3. Threatened Species and ecological communities

The public are invited to comment on Nominations put to the Committee. Comments are due 23rd January 2009.

S281	Windswept Helmet Orchid (<i>Nematoceras dienenum</i>)	Nominated category: endangered	Qld
S277	Patagonian Toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Nominated category: conservation dependent	Australian waters

4. Heritage Public Notices

Nominations for places for inclusion in the National Heritage List of Commonwealth Heritage List are invited from the Public – closes 3rd February 2009. [For further details](#)
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5. Other Notices

Expressions of interest are being sought for membership of the Australian **State of the Environment (SoE) 2011 committee**. The 2011 report will be produced independently by a committee of experts appointed by the Minister. For further details on submitting an expression of interest refer to [the Department website](#) – submissions close on 18 January 2008.

Regards,

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