



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

(Our offices will close at 12 noon Wednesday, 24th December and reopen at 9am Monday, 5th January.)

EDO-NQ Alert!

New referrals:

Upgrade of 4.2km section of Bruce Highway, between Ingham and Cardwell – comments due 7th January

Decisions on referral:

Timor and Arafura Seas marine seismic survey – proposal withdrawn

Fisheries assessments:

1. Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery – submissions due 16th January
2. Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery – submissions due 30th January

Previous Notices:

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

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

Environmental Impact Statements open for comment:

Wandoan Coal Project – comments due 2nd February

This is a new section included in our regular alerts, notices are drawn from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning website. See below for an explanation.

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 for public comment on referral

2008/4665	Queensland Department of Main Roads/Transport - land/17 km north of Ingham, 35 km south of Cardwell/QLD/Upgrade of a 4.2km section of the Bruce Highway	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Comments due: 07 Jan 2009
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Upgrading works will include excavation of cuttings and the construction of embankments and bridge and drainage structures on a combination of the existing and a new alignment. Whilst the project

area contains or is adjacent to two World Heritage properties (section 12 and 15A) and could impact on three listed species (section 18 and 18A), the significance of the likely impacts is considered low.

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 and Notices on Referrals

2008/4623	Petroleum Geo-Services/Exploration (mineral, oil and gas - marine)/Bonaparte Basin and the Timor and Arafura Seas/Commonwealth Marine/2D Marine Seismic Survey	Proposal Withdrawn	22 Dec 2008
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3. Fisheries assessments open for public comment

[Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery](#)

The current export approval for the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery is valid until 15 February 2009 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. Closing date for comments **Friday 16th January 2009**.

[Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery](#)

The current export approval for the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery is valid until 28 February 2009 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. Closing date for comments **Friday 30th January 2009**.

4. Previous Notices

Nominations of threatened or endangered species

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

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

National Heritage List

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](#)

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.

A proposed action that has been referred under the EPBC Act may be declared by Queensland's Coordinator-General to be a "state significant project" under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (Qld) and an Environmental Impact Statement may be required by the Queensland Government under that Act.

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have entered into a Bilateral Agreement which allows Queensland to carry out the Commonwealth's environmental assessments in certain circumstances.

The community are entitled to make submissions in relation to the environmental assessments, whether at Commonwealth or Queensland level.

All of the information below is drawn directly from the Queensland Government's website (www.dip.qld.gov.au/projects) 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 review.

1. Environmental Impact Statements for Significant Projects

Wadoan Coal Project

Located in central Queensland the project would comprise a number of open-cut coal mines. The coal will be crushed, processed and blended on site before being transported by rail to a possible new coal terminal at Port Alma or the Port of Gladstone. The Coordinator-General has now approved the EIS for the project and it is available for public review, further details and how to access the EIS are on the website. Comments due **Monday, 2nd February 2009**.

Regards,

EDO-NQ

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