

New referrals:

1. Galilee Coal Mine and associated infrastructure – comments due Friday, 27th February

Decisions on referral:

1. Vessel-based Seismic and Hydrographic Sonar Survey – approval not required
2. Oak Valley planned residential community – approval required

Recent Notices:

1. Kuranda Tree Frog – nomination for listing as critically endangered – comments due Monday, 30th March
2. Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including cultivated pond and aquatic plants – comments due Monday, 30th March
3. Live import of Brown-nosed or South American Coati – comments by Friday, 11th April
4. Review of conditions for overseas transfer of koalas – comments by Wed, 11th March

Previous Notices:

1. Coral Sea Fishery – environmental assessment – submissions due Wednesday, 25th February
2. Draft environment assessment report for the importation of common eggfly butterflies (*Hypolimnas bolina*) – comments due 6th March
3. Consultation Draft of the Policy for Biodiversity Offsets – submissions due 13th March

Queensland Infrastructure and Projects notices:

1. **Connors River Dam** – terms of reference open for comment due Monday, 9th March
2. **Alpha coal Project** – terms of reference open for comment due Monday, 9th March
3. **Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031**

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

2009/4737	Waratah Coal Incorporated/Mining/Alpha in the Galilee Basin to Abbot Point/QLD/Establishment of Galilee Coal Mine and Associated Infrastructure	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Comments due: 27 Feb 2009
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Establish a new coal mine, railway and coal stockyards and supporting infrastructure to export coal to international markets. The proposed action is likely to have significant impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage and National Heritage places, listed threatened species, migratory species and the marine environment.

The referral acknowledges the potential exists for adverse impacts to occur. Fauna and flora likely to be affected by vegetation clearance and contaminated runoff from coal stockpile areas has the potential to enter the terrestrial and marine environments.

2. Decisions on referrals

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	Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Not Required - particular manner	Date of notice: 10 Feb 2009
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2009/4711	Oak Valley Lands Pty Ltd/Residential development/Lot RP735647 Flinders Highway Oak Valley Townsville/QLD/Planned Residential Community	Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Required	Date of notice: 17 Feb 2009
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The project will require assessment and approval before it can proceed as is likely to have a significant impact on listed threatened species and communities.

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.

3. Recent Notices

Threatened Species Scientific Committee nominations:

The committee seeks comment for the nomination of the [Kuranda Tree Frog \(*Litoria myola*\)](#) for critically endangered category. Comments due Monday 30th March.

Seeking comments on the nomination to list as a Key Threatening process the [Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including cultivated pond and aquatic plants](#). Comments due Monday 30th March.

Live import of Brown-nosed or South American Coati.

A [draft environment assessment report](#) has been prepared by Zoos Victoria under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to amend the live import list to include the Brown-nosed or South American Coati (*Nasua nasua*) and White-nosed Coati (*N. narica*) for exhibition and education purposes. Comments invited by Friday 10th April.

Overseas transfer of koalas

[Review of conditions](#) for the overseas transfer of koalas. The current *Conditions for the overseas transfer of koalas* were finalised in May 2004. The conditions were formulated to ensure that the welfare of koalas being transferred overseas is protected and that the chances of establishing viable captive koala populations in those overseas institutions receiving animals from Australia are maximised. Comments invited by Wednesday 11th March.

4. Previous Notices

[Coral Sea Fishery](#)

The current export approval for the Coral Sea Fishery is valid until 19 March 2009 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. – Comments are invited on the submission for environmental assessment - **due Wednesday, 25th February**.

[Draft environment assessment report for the importation of common eggfly butterflies \(*Hypolimnas bolina*\) for laboratory research.](#)

Comments are invited on The University of Queensland's draft report to amend the live import list to include the Common Eggfly Butterfly – **comments by 6th March**.

Consultation Draft of the Policy for Biodiveristy Offsets

The Environmental Protection Agency has released the draft Policy for Biodiversity Offsets for consultation and invites written submissions from individuals and organisations by the **final date of 13th March 2009**. The draft Policy on Biodiversity Offsets is available for downloading from the [EPA website](#) or request a copy by emailing offsets@epa.qld.gov.au or phoning (07) 3227 7783.

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

Alpha Coal Project – terms of reference open for comment

Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd proposes to establish a mine in the Galilee Coal Basin, Central Queensland, to service international export markets for thermal coal.

You are invited to have your say on the Alpha Coal project draft TOR for an EIS. [Further details and a list of locations](#) where the draft TOR is available for public review are available on the website. Submissions and comments should be received **by 5 pm on Friday 9th March 2009**.

Connors River Dam – terms of reference open for comment

The preparation of terms of reference for an EIS is the first stage of the EIS process. Terms of reference control what is discussed in an EIS and covers social, economic and environmental impacts of a project.

Draft terms of reference for the Connors River Dam EIS were released for public comment on 31 January 2009. **Comments due by 5 pm 9th March 2009**.

Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031

Each local council is required to amend its planning scheme to align with the FNQ Regional Plan. [Factsheets](#) on each council area and other issues are available for download.

Regards,

EDO-NQ

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