

EDO-NQ Alert!

11th June

New referrals:

1. Gulf of Carpentaria 2D Seismic Survey – comments due Monday 22nd June
2. Willowbend residential community, Townsville – comments due Tuesday 25th June

Decisions:

1. Macarthur Coal Mining, Codrilla Open Cut Coal Mining and Processing – approval required

Previous Notices:

1. Draft Assessment Bilateral Agreement between the Australian Government and Queensland – comments due Friday, 19th June
2. EPBC Amendment Regulations 2009 (No. 1)

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. Referrals open for comment

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| 2009/4925 | Gulf Energy Limited/Exploration (mineral, oil and gas - marine)/150nm West N-W of Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria/QLD/2D Seismic Survey, Permit Area Q23P | Invitation for Public Comment on Referral | Comments due: 22 Jun 2009 |
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Gulf Energy propose to undertake a 2D seismic survey in Commonwealth waters at a site approximately 150 nautical miles west-northwest of Weipa. Listed threatened species and migratory species may be found in the survey area. The referral concludes that the proposed survey has a low potential for impact.

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| 2009/4935 | Willowbend (NQ) Pty Ltd/Residential development/Gumlow/QLD/Establishment of Residential Community | Invitation for Public Comment on Referral | Comments due: 25 Jun 2009 |
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The proposed master planned community is located in Gumlow on the western periphery of Townsville. The proposal incorporates 17.9ha of natural habitat adjacent to the rivers Bohle River and Little Bohle River. The referral concludes whilst some migratory species may be found at the site the development is not likely to have significant impacts.

2. Decision on previous public notices

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| 2009/4892 | Macarthur Coal Limited/Mining/Bowen Basin, approx 57km east south-east of Moranbah/QLD/Codrilla Open Cut Coal Mining and Processing Operation with Associated Infrastructure | Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Required | Date of notice: 04 Jun 2009 |
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The action, located within the Bowen Basin, is likely to have significant impact on listed threatened species and communities and will require approval.

3. Previous Notices

[Draft Assessment Bilateral Agreement between the Australian Government and Queensland](#)

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) allows for bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions, relating to environmental assessments. A key function of bilateral agreements is to reduce duplication of environmental assessment processes between the Commonwealth and States or Territories, relating to the same development proposals.

A bilateral agreement is currently in place between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland. That agreement will expire on 13 August 2009. Public comments are invited on the draft agreement by **5pm Friday, 19th June 2009**.

EPBC Amendment Regulations 2009 (No. 1)

Amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (the Principal Regulations) have been proposed by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts to provide for greater flexibility in the operation of regulations which prohibit and regulate how non-commercial fishing can be carried out within Commonwealth reserves. The provisions will also apply to conservation zones.

The Regulations will allow the Director of National Parks to make determinations for an increased range of matters relating to fishing methods and equipment. Actions taken in accordance with these determinations will be exempt from the relevant offence provisions.

The Regulations will also create additional strict liability offences, including the use or possession of devices designed to take animals within a Commonwealth reserve, the taking of fish in contravention of a determination for an area of water, and a range of prohibited actions related to using certain equipment, or types of bait to take fish within a Commonwealth reserve.

Further information: [Regulations](#) and [Explanatory Statement](#) are available for viewing.

Regards,

EDO-NQ

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