

FEDERAL - EPBC Act

1. Referrals open for public comment

Tropical Paradise Resort Precincts, Cairns	Comments due 8 th December
Cows Coal Project, Bowen Basin (210.5 hectare footprint size)	Comments due 9 th December
Jax Coal Project, Bowen Basin (1945 hectare footprint size)	Comments due 9 th December

Reminders

1. Two Wildlife trade and conservation invitations for comment – one due Friday 4th December other due Friday 8th January
2. Threatened Status review - comments due Friday 27th November
3. Draft Recovery Plans – comments due 4th January 2010

STATE

Notices:

Port of Gladstone Western Basin Dredging	Draft EIS – Comments due 18 th December
Water for Bowen	Draft EIS – comments due 14 th December
Kevin’s Corner	Draft TOR - comments due 30 th November

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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, the inclusion of this information in this newsletter should not be taken to indicate that EDO-NQ supports or has otherwise taken a position about the proposals which are the subject of review.

1. Referrals open for public comment

2009/5211	Tropical Resort Developments Pty Ltd/Tourism and recreation/Cairns/QLD/Tropical Paradise Resort Precincts Development	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Date of notice: 24 Nov 2009	Deadline for comments: 08 Dec 2009
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The proposal is for a leisure, entertainment, tourism, commercial, retail, sporting and predominantly short stay living community located approximately 18km south of Cairns with a development footprint of 293 hectares. The area is currently zoned R1 and utilized for growing sugar cane.

Cairns Tidal Wetlands National Heritage Places occur in the area, there are 21 listed threatened species and 16 migratory species identified for the area. Other important features of the environment identified are possible acid sulphate soils and impacts on water flow and riparian areas. The referral concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact.

2009/5216	Bowen River Coal Pty Ltd/Mining/Collinsville, Bowen Basin/QLD/Cows Coal Project, Open-Cut Coal Mine	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Date of notice: 25 Nov 2009	Deadline for comments: 09 Dec 2009
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Development and operation of an open-cut coal mine located approximately 9km northeast of Bowen. Proposed extraction up to 2.5 million tonnes of raw coal with a development footprint of 210.5 hectares.

Ten threatened species have been identified in the Collinsville – Bowen river area being either vulnerable or endangered with fifteen migratory birds which may frequent this region. The referral concludes that they do not think this is a controlled action.

2009/5215	Jax Coal Pty Ltd/Mining/13km south of Collinsville, Bowen Basin/QLD/Jax Coal Project, Open-Cut Mine Development	Invitation for Public Comment on Referral	Date of notice: 25 Nov 2009	Deadline for comments: 09 Dec 2009
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Development and operation of an open-cut coal mine located approximately 95km northeast of Bowen in Queensland's Bowen Basin. Proposed extraction up to 1.8 million tonnes per annum of raw coal with a development footprint of 1945 hectares.

Nine threatened species have been identified in the Collinsville – Bowen river area being either vulnerable or endangered with thirteen migratory birds which may frequent this region. The referral concludes that they do not think this is a controlled action.

NB. Whilst Cows Coal Project and Jax Coal Project are two separate referrals there are many similarities between the layout and wording of the two referrals and may have been produced concurrently.

Reminders

2. Wildlife trade and conservation invitations for comment

Proposal for the commercial harvest and export of invertebrates from Queensland

Operating primarily as a research centre, located near Mt Garnet, the privately owned farm generates its income from both commercial harvesting and breeding. Export of specimens harvested on this property was first approved by the Federal Government in 1995. This proposal covers the harvesting from two (2) properties and if approved would be in force for up to three years. [More info ...](#)

Please submit your comments by **4 December 2009**.

[CITES - 15th Conference of the Parties \(CoP 15\)](#)

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that the international trade in animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Australia is one of 175 current signatories to CITES.

Comments are invited from interested individuals and organisations on Conference of Parties (CoP 15) proposals and agenda items. Comments must be received by **Friday 8th January 2010** and be clearly referenced to the specified agenda items.

3. Threatened species status review

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee is reviewing the status of a number of species. Listed below are the species found in Queensland currently undergoing status review. For further information view the [Biodiversity Threatened species](#) page (scroll down) of the website. Comments due by **Friday, 27th November**.

Species Name	Nominated Category	State	Comment period closes
<i>Acacia chinchillensis</i>	De-list	Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Calamus warburgii</i>	De-list	Queensland	27 November 2009
Callistemon sp. Boulia (L.Pedley 5297) = Callistemon viminalis	De-list	Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	De-list	Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Digitaria porrecta</i>	Downgrade to Vulnerable	New South Wales, Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Diuris sheaffiana</i> - <i>Diuris tricolour</i>	De-list	Qld, NSW, Vic	27 November 2009
<i>Diuris tricolour</i>	De-list	Qld, NSW, Vic	27 November 2009
<i>Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia</i>	De-list	New South Wales, Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Leucopogon cuspidatus</i>	De-list	Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Pultenaea stuartiana</i> - <i>Pultenaea foliolosa</i>	De-list	New South Wales, Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Pultenaea foliolosa</i>	De-list	New South Wales, Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Ristantia gouldii</i>	De-list	Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Tinospora tinosporoides</i>	De-list	New South Wales, Queensland	27 November 2009
<i>Xanthostemon youngie</i>	De-list	Queensland	27 November 2009

4. Draft national recovery plans open for public comment

There are a number of recovery plans that are open for comment until **4th January 2010**. Click on the link below to view the full details on the DEWHA website.

Draft recovery plans that apply to the Northern Queensland area:

1. [Draft national recovery plan for the northern bettong *Bettongia tropica*](#)

Currently occur in three locations: Mt Carbine Tableland, Lamb Range and Coane Range (Paluma) and listed as endangered.

2. [Draft national recovery plan for the Proserpine rock-wallaby *Petrogale persephone*](#)

Listed as endangered the Proserpine rock-wallaby essential habitat is found around Proserpine.

3. [Draft national recovery plan for the spectacled flying fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*](#)

Listed as vulnerable the spectacled flying fox occurs in north-eastern Queensland, with the largest population known from the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area between Townsville and Cooktown.

4. [Draft national recovery plan for the buff-breasted button-quail *Turnix olivii*](#)

Critical habitat can be broadly defined as stoney or grassy woodlands and forests on plains and slopes found throughout inland Queensland. Due to lack of detailed information population locations and numbers are not know.

5. [Draft national recovery plan for the water mouse \(false water rat\) *Xeromys myoides*](#)

The water mouse is listed as vulnerable in Queensland and a threatened species in the Northern Territory. They are found in coastal saltmarsh, mangrove and wetland habitats and in Queensland from Proserpine south to the Queensland/New South Wales Border.

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, the inclusion of this information in this newsletter should not be taken to indicate that EDO-NQ supports or has otherwise taken a position about the proposals which are the subject of review.

STATE PROJECTS

1. Significant Projects in Northern Queensland

Port of Gladstone Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project – EIS open for comment

This project accommodates the long-term dredging and dredged material disposal that is required to provide access to the existing and proposed Gladstone Western Basin Port (Port Curtis, from Auckland Point to The Narrows) facilities over the foreseeable future.

The Environmental Impact Statement can be downloaded via the DIP website, and it may also be viewed at the Gladstone Regional Council Library or State Library of Queensland, South Bank, Brisbane. A fact sheet and template for making submissions on the EIS are available via the website.

Submissions must be received by 5pm Friday, 18th December 2009.

Water for Bowen – EIS open for comment

The project aims to supply water for industrial and agricultural users via a new channel and pipeline system extending from Burdekin River 150 kilometres south across the coastal plain to Bowen and surrounding areas. The project was found to be a controlled action under the EPBC Act with impacts on world heritage, listed threatened species and communities and listed migratory species. The state's EIS process is accredited under a bilateral agreement.

SunWater has now prepared the EIS based on the requirements of the TOR and can be downloaded from the website or viewed at the following locations:

- Bowen – Whitsundays Regional Council Office – 67 Herbert Street
- Ayr – Burdekin Shire Council Library – 108 Graham Street
- Home Hill – Burdekin Shire Council Library – 77-79 Ninth Ave
- Brisbane – State Library – Stanley Place, South Bank

Submissions must be received by 5pm Monday, 14th December 2009.

Kevin's Corner – draft TOR

Hancock Galilee Pty Ltd proposes a 30 million tonne per annum coal mine in the Galilee Basin to service international export markets for thermal coal. Located approximately 56 kilometres north of the township of Alpha and 360 kilometres south-west of Mackay. The Alpha Coal project is on adjoining land.

The draft terms of reference are now available for public consultation via the [website](#). A fact sheet and submission form to assist you when completing submissions are available on the [website](#). Copies of the draft TOR are available for public review in Alpha, Barcaldine, Emerald council offices and the State Library in Brisbane.

Comments can be made until **5pm Monday 30th November**.

Regards,

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The EDO-NQ is a Community Legal Centre that specialises in public interest environmental law. For more information see [www:edo.org.au/edonq](http://www.edo.org.au/edonq).

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