

FEDERAL - EPBC Act

1. Referral open for public comment
Wongaling Beach, 48 Lot Residential Subdivision Comments due 16th December

2. Decisions on Referrals
Tully Sugar Cane Tramway Approva

3. Significant Impact Guidelines open for public comment
Migratory shorebird species Open for comment until 1
Vulnerable Water Mouse *Xeromys myoides* Open for comment until 1

Reminders

1. Two Wildlife trade and conservation invitations for comment – one due Friday 4th December other due Friday 8th January
2. Draft Recovery Plans – comments due 4th January 2010

STATE PROJECTS

Notices:

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| Port of Gladstone Western Basin Dredging | Draft EIS – Comments due 18th December |
| Water for Bowen | Draft EIS – comments due 14th December |

FEDERAL - EPBC Act

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1. Referrals open for public comment

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|-----------|---|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2009/5228 | MM Land Pty Ltd/Residential development/Lot 1 on SP106832, Pacific View Drive, Wongaling Beach/QLD/48 Lot Residential Subdivision and Associated Infrastructure | Invitation for Public Comment on Referral | Date of notice: 02 Dec 2009 | Deadline for comments: 16 Dec 2009 |
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At Pacific View Drive, Wongaling Beach with a development footprint of 6.668 hectares. Cassowary Coast Regional Council approved the development application for 48 urban residential allotments in July 2009. The site is located 1.3kms from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and 170 metres from the Great Barrier Reef.

The site potentially contains habitat for 15 threatened species including the Southern Cassowary and 18 listed migratory species. Based on the Ecological Assessment produced by Conics (Cairns) Pty Ltd the referral concludes the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

2. Decisions on Referrals

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| 2009/5177 | Tully Sugar Limited/Transport - land/Hamlin Road to Bilyana Road, Bilyana/QLD/7km Sugar Cane Tramway | Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Required | Date of notice: 27 Nov 2009 |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------------------|

The project will be assessed by preliminary documentation as it is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage/National Heritage properties and Listed threatened species and communities. Preliminary documentation date of release for public comment to be advised.

3. Notices

3.1 Migratory shorebird species – [Significant Impact Guidelines](#)

Thirty-six international migratory shorebird species regularly visit Australia each year and are listed as migratory under the EPBC Act 1999 as they are considered a matter of national environmental significance. The policy statement is intended to provide a guide for stakeholders in assessing the likelihood of a proposed action having a significant impact on one or more migratory shorebird species in Australia.

The public are invited to comment on the draft policy statement, in particular its usability, possible improvements and any new research or information on these migratory shorebirds. Comments will be accepted until COB Monday 14th December 2009.

3.2 Vulnerable Water Mouse *Xeromys myoides* - [Significant Impact Guidelines](#)

The Water Mouse is found in the Townsville to Bundaberg area and is likely to be found from Townsville around the coast to the Western Australian border. The key elements of the policy statement were developed during an expert workshop in 2009 and is intended to provide guidance for stakeholders in determining whether a proposed action may have a significant impact on the water mouse.

Final comments are being sought from interested parties and will be accepted until COB 18th December 2009.

Reminders

[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.

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.

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.

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