

FEDERAL - EPBC Act

1. Decisions on Referrals

Great Keppel Island Resort Revitalisation Plan
 Myola-Oakforest Rd, Rural Residential Subdivision
 Cape Tribulation Cabins and Facilities

Proposal Withdrawn
 Notification of Variation to
 Approval Required

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

Open for comment until 14th
 Open for comment until 18th

STATE PROJECTS

Notices:

Port of Gladstone Western Basin Dredging

 Water for Bowen

Draft EIS – Comments due 18th
 December
 Draft EIS – comments due 14th
 December

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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. Decisions on Referrals

2009/5095	GKI Resort Pty Ltd/Tourism and recreation/Great Keppel Island/QLD/Great Keppel Island Resort Revitalisation Plan	Proposal Withdrawn	Date of notice: 20 Nov 2009
2008/4394	Christensen Family Trust/Residential development/Lot 13 15 & 16 Myola-Oakforest Rd Kuranda/QLD/Rural Residential Subdivision and Services	Notification of Variation to Approval	30 Nov 2009

Amendment to approval condition 2 in regard to minimising impacts on the Cassowary from habitat fragmentation.

2009/5176	Amsal Pty Ltd/Tourism and recreation/Rykers Road, Cape Tribulation/QLD/Development of Accommodation Cabins and Associated Facilities on Lot 9 on RP727756	Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Required	02 Dec 2009
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It was found that the project was a controlled action and will be assessed by preliminary documentation notice of which will be sent out when it becomes available.

Reminders

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Significant Impact Guidelines open for public comment

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**.

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**.

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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