

FEDERAL - EPBC Act

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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

Subdivision of 4.053 hectares and clearing of 0.713 hectares to develop eight residential building envelope lots and one balance common property lot. Located in close proximity to the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Areas, potential habitat for 12 threatened fauna species and 8 terrestrial migratory species. The referral concluded that the proposed action should not be found to be a controlled action.

2. Decisions on Referrals

2009/5215	Jax Coal Pty Ltd/Mining/13km south of Collinsville, Bowen Basin/QLD/Jax Coal Project, Open-Cut Mine Development	Decision whether action needs approval/Approval Not Required	Date of notice: 08 Feb 2010
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The Minister found that this was not a controlled action and so approval is not required.

3. Notices open for comment

Queensland Rocky Reef Fin Fish Fishery

The current export approval for the Queensland Rocky Reef Fin Fish Fishery is valid until 29 April 2010 and the fishery is now due for reassessment for ongoing export accreditation. Consideration will be given to:

- declaring the Queensland Rocky Reef Fin Fish Fishery as managed consistent with the Queensland Fisheries Act 1994, Fisheries Regulation 2008, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 and Queensland Marine Parks Act 2004 as an Approved Wildlife Trade Operation under section 303FN of the EPBC Act; and

- including on the list of exempt native specimens, specimens harvested in the Queensland Rocky Reef Fin Fish Fishery under the provisions of the Queensland Fisheries Act 1994, Fisheries Regulation 2008, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 and Queensland Marine Parks Act 2004.

The submission is available for downloading from [the website](#).

Public comment period closes on Friday, 12th March 2010.

National Recovery Plans

You are invited to comment on these draft recovery plans in accordance with the provisions of section 275 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. At the end of the three month public comment period the plans will be revised, taking into consideration any comments received. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts will consider the revised plans as well as the comments received when deciding on adoption of the plans.

Species found in Northern Queensland:

[National Recovery Plan for the Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus*](#) – comments due 12 April 2010

[National recovery plan for the red goshawk *Erythroriorchis radiatus*](#) – comments due 12 April 2010

National Heritage Listing

Nominations are invited from members of the public for inclusion in the National Heritage List or in the Commonwealth Heritage List. The National Heritage List contains those places in the Australian jurisdiction of outstanding heritage value to the nation. The Australian jurisdiction includes Australia, the external Territories, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. The Commonwealth Heritage List contains places that are Commonwealth areas, as defined in section 525 of the EPBC Act, that have significant heritage value.

Further details are available from the [Heritage page of the DEWHA website](#).

Nominations must be received by Friday, 5th March 2010.

STATE PROJECTS

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.

1. Significant Projects in Northern Queensland

Connors River Dam and Pipelines – comments due 22 March

The Connors River dam is located on the Connors River near Mount Bridgett 110 kilometres due east of Moranbah and 70 kilometres south of Sarina. The project involves the construction and operation of the Connors River Dam with a capacity of 373, 662 megalitres and will inundate an area of 5,850 hectares.

Under the EPBC Act, referral number [2008/4429](#), it was decided Approval was required as the project was likely to have a significant impact on:

- World Heritage and National Heritage places;
- Wetlands of international importance;
- Listed threatened species and communities and
- Listed migratory species.

SunWater has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and it has been released for public comment. The EIS can be viewed [via the DIP website](#) or by visiting:

EIS Display Locations	
Mackay	Mackay City Library Civic Centre Gordon Street, Mackay
Nebo	Nebo Library 10 Reynolds Street, Nebo
Moranbah	Moranbah Town Library Grosvenor Complex Batchelor Parade, Town Square, Moranbah

Submissions to the Department of Infrastructure and Planning and must state the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied upon to support the grounds. A fact sheet and a template for making submissions are also available via the website.

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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