Report on new proposals referred under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for Australia's World Heritage properties

For the period 1 December 2025 to 28 February 2026, three proposals were identified as requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act.

World Heritage Property: Tasmanian Wilderness

EPBC Number: 2025/10393

Title: Cethana Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project

Category: Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action is to develop pumped hydro energy infrastructure, which aims to deliver long-duration energy storage of up to 750 MW of dispatchable capacity. It is located in the vicinity of Lake Cethana in northwest Tasmania. The proposed action will use Lake Cethana as the lower storage and construct a new off-river upper storage west of the lake.

The proposed action will require clearance of up to 335.5 hectares of native vegetation, including 245.5 hectares of wet and dry eucalypt forest and 37.9 hectares of highland *Poa* grassland, which might impact habitat for Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll. Acid mine drainage and construction wastewater are expected to cause potential environmental impacts.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) is located south of the operational area of the proposed action, abutting the southern shoreline of Lake Cethana, approximately 4.1 kilometres from the disturbance footprint.

On 25 February 2026, the proposed action was determined to be a controlled action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to the potential impacts on nationally protected matters, including the TWWHA. The Department will assess potential impacts of the action on this World Heritage property.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=85d2ede8-a2db-f011-8544-7c1e528a0f90.

World Heritage Property: Greater Blue Mountains Area

EPBC Number: 2025/10345

Title: Mount Lambie Wind Farm

Category: Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action is to construct and operate up to 20 large wind turbine generators across an area of approximately 2,540 hectares in Lithgow City Local Government Area in New South Wales. Other components of the proposed action include a 100-megawatt capacity battery energy storage system, two substation and transmission connection points, approximately 27 kilometres of access tracks throughout the project area, as well as operational and maintenance infrastructure. The wind farm is expected to generate up to 200 megawatts.

The proposed action will require clearance of approximately 125 hectares within the Indicative Disturbance Footprint to construct turbines and other infrastructure. The proposed action is likely to cause significant impacts to the Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), an endangered species, due to the removal of 30.57 hectares of potential foraging and/or breeding habitat. The proposed action may also have a significant impact on a range of other threatened species including the South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*), a vulnerable species.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is about 23 kilometres east of the operational area of the proposed action.

On 17 December 2025, the proposed action was determined to be a controlled action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to the potential impacts on nationally protected matters, including threatened species and communities, and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The project is being assessed under the assessment bilateral agreement with NSW. This will include an assessment of the potential impacts of the action on this World Heritage property.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=e947cc24-98b3-f011-bbd2-6045bdc23015.

World Heritage Property: Willandra Lakes Region

EPBC Number: 2025/10354

Title: Atlas-Campaspe Mine – Optimised Services Corridor

Category: Mining

The proposed action is a new development of the existing Atlas-Campaspe Mine located in western New South Wales. It proposes to develop and operate an optimised services corridor between the Atlas and Campaspe deposits, including haul road, pipelines, electricity transmission line, soil stockpiles and water management infrastructure. It will carry out transport of pre-mineral concentrate and ore from the Campaspe deposit to the Atlas deposit via a pipeline and/or truck along the optimised services corridor. The operational area covers approximately 50.5 hectares.

The Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area is located approximately 10-15 km west of the operational area of the proposed action.

On 22 December 2025, the proposed action was determined to be a controlled action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to the potential impacts on nationally protected matters, including the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area. The Department will assess potential impacts of the action on this World Heritage property.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=d8b2d921-9fba-f011-bbd3-7c1e5289e8d7.