Report on proposals approved, approved with conditions, withdrawn or varied under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for Australia's World Heritage properties

For the period 1 September 2025 to 30 November 2025, five proposed actions were accepted, two proposals were withdrawn and two proposals were determined not to be controlled actions.

Accepted

World Heritage Property: Ningaloo Coast; Murujuga Cultural Landscape

NOPSEMA Number: No reference allocated at time of reporting (Offshore Project Proposal)

Title: Gorgon Gas Development: Backfill Fields OPP

Category: Offshore Oil and Gas

On 14 October 2025, NOPSEMA accepted the Offshore Project Proposal for Chevron Australia's Gorgon Backfill Fields Project. The proposed action is located in north-west Western Australia, approximately 60 kilometres north-west of Barrow Island and approximately 130 kilometres from Onslow, Western Australia.

The proposed action comprises the construction, installation, and operation of drill centres, flowlines, and subsea tiebacks to access seven backfill gas fields in the Greater Gorgon Area. This will include petroleum activities such as surveying, drilling, installation and commissioning, operations and decommissioning.

The Hydrocarbon Ecological and/or Social Environments that May Be Affected by the proposed action intersect with the Ningaloo Coast and the Murujuga Cultural Landscape. The proposed action is located 127 kilometres north-west of the Ningaloo Coast and 143 kilometres south-west of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape.

This acceptance does not allow the proponent to undertake any activities associated with the proposal until they have submitted, and obtained approvals for their environment plans for activities described in the Offshore Project Proposal.

The decision notice is available at: https://www.nopsema.gov.au/offshore-industry/environmental-management/assessment-process/public-comment

World Heritage Property: Tasmanian Wilderness; Budj Bim Cultural Landscape

NOPSEMA Number: 8311

Title: Well Completions, Well Interventions, Plugging and Abandonment Activities

Category: Offshore Oil and Gas

On 15 October 2025, NOPSEMA provided regulatory approval for Well Completions, Well Interventions, Plugging and Abandonment Activities by Beach Energy (Operations) Limited. The proposed action is located in the Otway Basin off Victoria.

The proposed action is to undertake well completions, well interventions and contingent plug and abandonment activities. The scope of the proposed action includes installation of a subsea production tree, completion installation and plug and abandonment for one location.

No World Heritage properties were identified within the operational or planning areas of the proposed action. However, the planning area is located in proximity to Tasmania on its south-east, which may cause impacts on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is also in proximity to the operational and planning areas of the proposed action, to the north-west.

The decision notice is available at:
https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/715/show_public.

World Heritage Property: Shark Bay

NOPSEMA Number: 7726

Title: Eureka 3D Marine Seismic Survey

Category: Offshore Oil and Gas

On 20 October 2025, NOPSEMA provided regulatory approval for Eureka 3D Marine Seismic Survey to be undertaken by Pilot Energy Limited. The proposed action is to undertake seismic survey activities on the mid-west coast of Western Australia, in the northern Perth Basin.

The survey will involve a single seismic survey vessel towing a seismic source array. The active source area covers approximately 946 square kilometres and is surrounded by a larger operational area of approximately 1,575 square kilometres. The operational area at its closest is

approximately 6 kilometres west of Dongara and 54 kilometres south of Geraldton, Western Australia.

The Environment that May Be Affected by the proposed action covers an area that is adjacent to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, and is approximately 300 kilometres from the operational area.

The decision notice is available at: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/activities/537/show_public.

World Heritage Property: Lord Howe Island Group

NOPSEMA Number: 8520

Title: Jack-Up Rig Wellwork BTA

Category: Offshore Oil and Gas

On 5 November 2025, NOPSEMA provided regulatory approval for Jack-Up Rig Wellwork BTA by Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd. The proposed action is located at the edge of the Gippsland Basin of the eastern Bass Strait.

The proposed action is to use a jack-up rig to permanently abandon the wells by installation of cement plugs as barriers. It is also to undertake tubing replacement activities on some wells where required to provide production uplift. The activities of the proposed action include jack-up rig positioning, plug and abandonment activities, well workover activities, support vessels, remotely operated vehicle activities and use of helicopters.

Lord Howe Island Group Worl Heritage Area is located within the Environment that May Be Affected by the proposed action.

The decision notice is available at: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/activities/585/show_public.

World Heritage Property: Kakadu National Park

NOPSEMA Number: 8126

Title: Crux Completions, Hot Commissioning, Start-up and Operations

Category: Offshore Oil and Gas

On 28 November 2025 NOPSEMA provided regulatory approval for Crux Completions, Hot Commissioning, Start-up and Operations by Shell Australia Pty Ltd. The proposed action is located in Commonwealth waters in the northern Browse Basin, 200 kilometres offshore north-western Australia, and 460 kilometres north-north-east of Broome, Western Australia.

The proposed action includes completion of five wells, hot commissioning of gas turbine generators, and start-up of facilities to activate production from Crux wells.

No World Heritage Areas are identified in the operational or planning areas of the proposed action. However, the planning area is located to the north-east of the Kakadu National Park World Heritage Area, which may cause impacts on the property.

The decision notice is available at: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/activities/556/show_public.

Withdrawn

World Heritage Property: Great Barrier Reef

EPBC Number: 2023/09723

Title: Blackwater Mine – North Extension Project

Category: Mining

This proposal to extend the current mining operation through open cut mining in Queensland was withdrawn on 7 November 2025.

Details are available at: https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=349ac13c-d08f-ee11-be36-000d3a7943d3.

World Heritage Property: Ningaloo Coast

NOPSEMA Number: 7511

Title: Gorgon Gas Development Gorgon and Jansz Wellhead Decommissioning

Category: Offshore Oil and Gas

This proposal to leave the wellheads permanently in situ as a decommissioning option on the northwest coast of Western Australia was cancelled. No date of cancellation is provided.

Details are available at: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/639/show_public.

Determined not to be controlled actions

World Heritage Property: Tasmanian Wilderness

EPBC Number: 2012/6406

Title: Marine Farming Expansion, Macquarie Harbour, TAS

Category: Aquaculture

The proposed action is to expand marine farming operations in Macquarie Harbour, on the west coast of Tasmania, approximately 175 kilometres to the north-west of Hobart.

The project area borders the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, with the nearest proposed zone and associated lease being approximately 375 metres and 520 metres from the property, respectively.

In 2012, the then Minister for the Environment determined that the marine farming expansion in Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania was not a controlled action if undertaken in a particular manner and could proceed without any further assessment under the EPBC Act (the referral decision).

In 2023, the then Minister received three separate requests, from third parties, to reconsider the 2012 referral decision.

Amendments to the EPBC Act came into effect on 28 March 2025, limiting the Minister's ability to revoke previous 'not controlled action' decisions in certain circumstances. In accordance with the amended EPBC Act, on 13 August 2025, the Minister confirmed the 2012 decision on the Macquarie Harbour marine farming expansion.

Details are available at: https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=657c7a12-4c67-e511-b4b8-005056ba00ab.

World Heritage Property: Gondwana Rainforests

EPBC Number: 2025/10285

Title: Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk Project - Multi Day Walk

Category: Tourism and Recreation

The proposed action is construct, operate and manage a new hiking trail for a single-direction 4-day, 3-night walk. It is located primarily in Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks in New South Wales.

Attachment B

On 5 November 2025, the proposed action was determined not to be a controlled action by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Part of the planning area of the proposed action lies within Dorrigo National Park, a part of the Gondwana Rainforests World Heritage Area.

Details are available at: https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=53600709-3994-f011-b4cb-7c1e528a2679.