Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

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 September to 30 November 2023, two proposals were identified as requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act.

World Heritage Property:	Tasmanian Wilderness
EPBC Number:	2023/09613
Title:	Cethana Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project
Industry Type:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action is to construct a hydro energy storage facility approximately 58 kilometres southwest of Devonport, Tasmania, near Lake Cethana in northwest Tasmania. The Tasmanian Wilderness is located to the south of the Cethana Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project and abuts the shoreline of Lake Cethana approximately 6 km outside the project area. The project proposes to use the existing Lake Cethana as a lower storage, connected via underground tunnels and a new underground power station to a new off river upper storage, located on a plateau above the western side of the Lake. The storage facility will have an operating capacity of approximately 750 megawatts.

The key components of the project are all outside the World Heritage property and include a new partly lined off river upper storage formed by a ring-shaped embankment dam, several high and low pressure tunnels and shafts, an underground powerhouse complex, an intake structure housing trash racks, a maintenance gate and a bypass, access tunnels, and transmission lines.

On 20 November 2023, the proposal was determined a Controlled Action to be assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, due to potential impacts on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment will assess potential impacts of the action on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, including to *wilderness landscapes of exceptional aesthetic importance*, and *endemic and rare or threatened species such as the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle.*

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=30fb70ec-0630-ee11-bdf4-000d3a794f17

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2023/09525
Title:	Half Moon Bay Residential Development
Industry Type:	Residential Development

The proposed action involves the development of a residential estate of 265 residential lots over 8 stages and one community facility lot intended to accommodate a future community centre. The project area is located approximately 15 kilometres north-west of Cairns Central Business District and approximately 50 kilometres north-west of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The project will require vegetation clearing and earthworks to construct new residential lots, internal roads, underground services, open space, and a drainage reserve. Proposed earthworks are contained within a development footprint of approximately 14.5 hectares, with an avoidance and retention area of approximately 6.5 hectares which is provided to retain predominately mangrove vegetation.

On 8 November 2023, the proposal was determined a Controlled Action to be assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, due to potential impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Department will assess potential impacts of the action on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=95d1125c-5fda-ed11-a7c7-000d3ae0929c