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 June to 31 August 2023, two proposals were identified as requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act.

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2023/09485
Title:	Northern Silica Sand Mining Project
Industry Type:	Mining

The proposed action is to develop a silica mine located 15 kilometres southwest of the Port of Cape Flattery and immediately adjacent (to the south) to the Cape Flattery Silica Mine. The project will involve the mining and processing of silica sand on a greenfield site, conveyance of bulk silica sand, access tracks, export of bulk product, and rehabilitation.

The marine components of the project area occur within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The marine components include new loading and shipping activities, and if arrangements cannot be reached to use existing maritime infrastructure, the project will also introduce new maritime structures including a rock jetty, mooring dolphins, and possible extension of the Port of Cape Flattery Wharf.

On 14 June 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=a1b85f75-c6bb-ed11-83fe-00224818a31f

World Heritage Property:	Shark Bay
NOPSEMA Number:	7213
Title:	Cliff Head Oil Field
Industry Type:	Offshore Oil and Gas

On 24 January 2023, Triangle Energy Operations submitted the 5-year update to the Cliff Head Operations Environment Plan to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) for assessment. The Cliff Head oil field is located approximately 11 kilometres east of the Western Australian coast, approximately 20 kilometres

south-southwest of Dongara. Production from the Cliff Head Oil Field Development involves transferring oil and produced formation water from the offshore wellhead to the Arrowsmith Stabilisation Plant via the offshore and onshore pipeline.

Facilities in Commonwealth waters include an unmanned well head platform, eight well heads with the current arrangement of five production wells with electrical submersible pumps, three water injection wells, and an insulated subsea production pipelines.

NOPSEMA is Australia's sole regulator for petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. As a result of strategic arrangements entered into with NOPSEMA, approvals issued by NOPSEMA under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* have effect under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The operational area of the proposed action is approximately 260 kilometres south east of the Shark Bay World Heritage property. NOPSEMA will not accept an environment plan that proposes activities that will contravene a plan of management for a World Heritage property or proposes unacceptable impacts to the World Heritage values of a World Heritage property.

For more information on this proposal, go to the NOPSEMA website at the link: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/620/show_public