Attachment A

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 March and 31 May 2024, six proposals were identified as requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act.

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2024/09802
Title:	Eurimbula Solar Farm
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action comprises the construction, operation and decommission of an approximate 696 megawatt photovoltaic solar array and associated infrastructure. The proposed action covers an area of approximately 1,281 hectares and is located approximately 50 kilometres southeast of Gladstone, Queensland.

The proposed action will require clearing vegetation, earthworks, construction and operation of temporary facilities and permanent infrastructure, and rehabilitation of the temporarily disturbed area. The proposed action is located approximately 7 kilometres upstream from the Great Barrier Reef.

On 28 May 2024, the proposed action was determined to be a Controlled Action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to potential impacts on nationally protected matters, including the Great Barrier Reef. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) will assess potential impacts of the action on this World Heritage property.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=7218ecc6-1cd1-ee11-9079-000d3acb1769

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2024/09792
Title:	Kestrel West Mine Extension
Category:	Mining

The proposed action will be a direct continuation of the existing Kestrel Mine, utilising the same mining approach and equipment for the development of underground roadways and to setup longwall production faces. It will also utilise existing surface facilities. The proposed action will require a total area of 5,644 hectares, of which 4,330 hectares will be disturbed. The proposed action is located approximately 40 kilometres northeast of Emerald, Queensland.

The proposed action will require vegetation clearing, new access tracks, excavation and earthworks, concrete works, and construction traffic movement and plant operation. The proposed action is located approximately 150 kilometres southwest and 230 kilometres west of the Great Barrier Reef.

On 22 May 2024, the proposed action was determined to be a Controlled Action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to potential impacts on nationally protected matters, including the Great Barrier Reef. The Department will assess potential impacts of the action on this World Heritage property.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=59065973-feca-ee11-9079-000d3acb1769

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2023/09723
Title:	Blackwater Mine – North Extension Project
Category:	Mining

The proposed action seeks to extend the current mining operation at the Blackwater Mine through the North Extension Project. The Blackwater Mine is located approximately 20 kilometres southwest of Blackwater, Queensland.

The proposed action will require an area of approximately 9,048 hectares with approximately 3,761 hectares proposed to be impacted by the disturbance footprint. The key elements of the proposed action include vegetation clearing, topsoil removal, drilling, blasting and backfilling with spoil, open cut mining of Run of Mine coal, continued use of existing infrastructure and disposal of rejects and tailings, construction and operation of new infrastructure in the proposed extension area, ongoing exploration activities and progressive rehabilitation of the site.

The proposed action is located approximately 200 kilometres west of the Great Barrier Reef. The proposed action is located within the catchment of Blackwater Creek, a tributary of the Mackenzie River which drains to the Fitzroy River and ultimately terminates at the Great Barrier Reef, southeast of Rockhampton, Queensland.

On 22 March 2024, the proposed action was determined to be a Controlled Action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to the potential impact on nationally protected matters, including the Great Barrier Reef. The Department will assess potential impacts of the action on this World Heritage property.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=349ac13c-d08f-ee11-be36-000d3a7943d3

World Heritage Property:	Willandra Lakes Region
EPBC Number:	2023/09695
Title:	Euston Wind Farm
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action seeks to develop a wind farm and battery energy storage system in a project area of approximately 38,567 hectares. The clearing footprint is estimated to be 3,117 hectares, however this is likely to be reduced during the assessment. The proposed action will consist of up to 96 wind turbines, electrical infrastructure and access tracks. The development site is located approximately 7.6 kilometres north of Euston, New South Wales.

The proposed action will require vegetation clearing, excavation for access tracks and turbine footings and ancillary infrastructure, installation of components, followed by rehabilitation of the disturbed areas. The southern boundary of the Willandra Lakes Region is located directly adjacent to the east and north of the proposed action site.

On 26 March 2024, the proposed action was determined to be a Controlled Action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to potential impacts on the Willandra Lakes Region. The Department will assess potential impacts of the action on the Willandra Lakes Region.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=73f3b373-d576-ee11-8179-000d3a794b49

World Heritage Property:	Tasmanian Wilderness
NOPSEMA Number:	7557
Title:	Otway Development – Beach Energy
Category:	Offshore Oil and Gas

The proposed action seeks to develop gas reserves in a location adjacent to existing Beach Energy permits and infrastructure near Port Campbell, Victoria, to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). The proposed action is a staged subsea development, involving exploration, appraisal and development of existing and future gas discoveries in Beach Energy's exploration permits. These are located approximately 20 kilometres south of the Victorian coast and 40 kilometres west of King Island.

The proposed scope of the action consists of seabed surveys, exploration, appraisal and development drilling, completion of successful wells, subsea infrastructure installation, commissioning, operations and maintenance, future tiebacks, and decommissioning. Up to six wells may be drilled and completed (in a success case), with one existing well to be re-entered and completed as part of the initial drilling campaign.

While there are no World Heritage properties within the operational area of the proposed action, the Tasmanian Wilderness is within the planning area of the action. 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://consultation.nopsema.gov.au/environment-division/otway-offshore-gas-victoria-offshore-project-propo/

World Heritage Property:	Shark Bay
NOPSEMA Number:	7726
Title:	Eureka 3D Marine Seismic Survey
Category:	Offshore Oil and Gas

Pilot Energy Limited submitted a proposal to conduct a seismic survey to NOPSEMA for assessment. The proposed action seeks to collect 3D geophysical data about the underlying rock types to inform oil and gas exploration.

The proposed action will involve a single seismic survey vessel towing a seismic source array, which will use compressed air to emit regular pulses of sound that reflect off the seabed and underlying rock formations. The proposed action will take place in Commonwealth waters off the mid-west coast of Western Australia, within the northern Perth Basin, in Exploration Permit Area WA-481-P, Production Licence WA-31-L and open acreage area.

The operational area of the proposed action is approximately 300 kilometres south of Shark Bay. NOPSEMA will not accept an environmental 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/663/show_public