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 December 2023 and 29 February 2024, two proposals were identified as requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act.

World Heritage Property:	K'gari (Fraser Island)
EPBC Number:	2023/09646
Title:	Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) Project
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

Queensland Hydro Pty Ltd proposes to build a large-scale, long-duration pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) project with the capacity to generate up to 2,000MW of electricity for up to 24 hours (48,000MWh). The project involves expanding the existing Lake Borumba (lower reservoir) and connecting it via twin water tunnels to a new reservoir (upper reservoir) and underground power station. The development site is located at Lake Borumba, approximately 182 kilometres northwest of Brisbane, Queensland.

The project will require vegetation clearing, earthworks, some changes to water and air quality. The project footprint is an estimated 1,500 hectares, within a project area of 5,235 hectares. The project is located outside of K'gari (Fraser Island) approximately 257 kilometres south-west.

On 19 December 2023, the proposal was determined a Controlled Action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to potential impacts on nationally protected matters, including K'gari (Fraser Island). The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 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/project-decision/?id=68585291-5f78-ee11-8179-000d3a794b49

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2023/09715
Title:	Moonlight Range Wind Farm and Battery Energy Storage System
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action is the development of a wind farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) in a project area of approximately 21,790 hectares. The proposed action will consist of up to 97 wind turbine generators, electrical infrastructure, and access tracks. The development site is located approximately 40 kilometres west of Rockhampton, approximately 100 kilometres west of the Great Barrier Reef.

The project will require vegetation clearing and soil disruption in an area of 1,269 hectares. This may result in impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance through the removal of habitat, impacts on flora and fauna, and the disruption of ecological processes.

On 1 February 2024, the proposal was determined a Controlled Action to be assessed under the EPBC Act, due to potential impacts on the Great Barrier Reef. The Department will assess potential impacts of the action on the Great Barrier Reef.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=530787f8-9caa-ee11-be37-0022489309b5