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 June and 31 August 2024, nine proposals were identified as requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) also became aware of one proposed action requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act during the period 1 March and 31 May 2024.

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2024/09824
Title:	Miriam Vale Renewable Energy Hub
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action is to develop and operate a 527 megawatt peak solar farm including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated ancillary infrastructure 60 kilometres south-east of Gladstone, Queensland. The BESS will have a maximum capacity of 200 megawatts, with the potential to increase to 1,600 megawatts.

The total project area is 1,082.25 hectares (associated within the boundary of the properties, excluding road reserves and watercourses) and the disturbance footprint of the proposed Project is 926 hectares. The proposed action will require clearing vegetation, earthworks, and construction and operation of temporary facilities and permanent infrastructure

The proposed action is entirely outside the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA), which lies approximately 50 kilometres east of the project area. The proposed project area is traversed by Skeleton Creek which is a tributary to Baffle Creek. The Baffle Creek catchment discharges into the ocean adjacent to the boundary of the GBRWHA, approximately one kilometre south of the GBRWHA.

On 3 June 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=315b8e24-e4e4-ee11-904c-00224893ddd8

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2023/09470
Title:	Nerimbera Quarry Extension
Category:	Mining

The proposed action intends to extend the footprint of the existing Nerimbera Quarry pit and facilitate access to additional quarriable resources. The project area is approximately 10 kilometres east from Rockhampton, Queensland.

The disturbance footprint to facilitate the quarry pit extension is approximately 57 hectares. The proposed action will require vegetation clearing, drilling and blasting, excavation/extraction, and earthworks, which may result in localised habitat loss and fragmentation, loss of species, introduction of exotic species to the area, and increased concentration of suspended sediments in waterways. The proposed action is located approximately 2.7 kilometres upstream of the GBRWHA boundary within the Fitzroy River.

On 26 June 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=45ee8472-b5ad-ed11-83fe-0022481867fa

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2024/09769
Title:	Whitsunday Skyway, Luge and Bike Tracks including Tourist Centre Facilities
Category:	Tourism

The proposed action is to construct the Whitsunday Skyway Project, an adventure tourism facility located approximately one kilometre from the Airlie Beach town centre, in Queensland. The proposed action will require an area of 103 hectares, including a disturbance footprint of 27.86 hectares. The proposed action includes a network of up to 33.5 kilometres of mountain bike trails that traverse the project area.

The proposed action will require clearing vegetation, earthworks - including cutting and filling of the land, civil construction works and associated construction works to establish infrastructure, and associated works related to the ongoing maintenance and operation of the facility and bike trails.

The proposed action is located approximately one kilometre from the GBRWHA and contains one defined watercourse (Airlie Creek) that flows downstream to the GBRWHA. Construction

activities, including vegetation clearing for infrastructure, and the long term presence of 33.5 kilometres of mountain bike trails may result in increased erosion and landslides and therefore release of sediment from the proposed project area. The broader region within which the proposed action is located, is known to be at risk of landslides.

On 8 July 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 proposed action on this World Heritage property.

The decision notice is available at: https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=0a4d32e9-3faf-ee11-a569-002248933951

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2024/09842
Title:	Theodore Wind Farm
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action seeks to construct, operate and decommission a wind farm of up to 170 wind turbine generators, as well as ancillary infrastructure, approximately 22 kilometres east of Theodore, Queensland.

The project area is 46,830 hectares, while the development footprint has a maximum area of 1,932.2 hectares. The proposed action entail vegetation clearance, construction and maintenance of access roads, and excavation and associated earthworks. The southernmost end of the GBRWHA is located approximately 170 kilometres east of the proposed action site.

On 9 July 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=ca7ba8a9-d6ec-ee11-a1fd-6045bde6da1b

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2023/09752
Title:	Upper Calliope Solar Farm
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action seeks to construct, operate, and decommission a solar farm and associated infrastructure approximately 50 kilometres west of Gladstone, Queensland. The proposed action involves the construction of a solar photovoltaic facility, a solar farm, with associated infrastructure (substation, power conditioning units, and internal transmission lines etc). The total proposed project area is 8,052.62 hectares and the disturbance footprint is 2,677.8 hectares.

While there are no World Heritage properties within the operational area of the proposed action, the proposed project is located within the Calliope drainage basin. The Calliope River discharges at a location 9 kilometres south of the southernmost boundary of the GBRWHA. Erosion and sediment control will be the key water quality risks to be managed.

On 16 July 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=91cf5eb7-f09e-ee11-be37-0022489332fb

World Heritage Property:	Great Barrier Reef
EPBC Number:	2024/09892
Title:	Hughes Road Battery Energy Storage System
Category:	Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

The proposed action is to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure 12 kilometres south of Gladstone, Queensland. Associated infrastructure includes an underground transmission line, fencing, main site access road, and an access track surrounding the perimeter of the BESS. The BESS is expected to cover a total area of approximately 2.84 hectares, and the total proposed project area is 28.8 hectares.

There are no World Heritage properties within the operational area of the proposed action. The proposed action is in the Boyne River catchment, approximately 2.25 kilometres downstream the Boyne River discharges into the GBRWHA.

On 6 August 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=d004995e-a321-ef11-840a-002248116891

World Heritage Property:	Ningaloo Coast
NOPSEMA Number:	7955
Title:	North Rankin Complex Facility Operations
Category:	Offshore Oil and Gas

On 30 August 2024, Woodside Energy Ltd submitted a 5-year revision of the North Rankin Complex (NRC) Facility Operations Environment Plan to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). The plan covers continuing activities including the routine production of dry gas and condensate, routine and non-routine operations of existing infrastructure, and routine inspection, monitoring, maintenance and repairs.

The NRC is a single integrated facility which is comprised of two fixed and interconnecting platforms, located offshore approximately 135 kilometres north of Dampier, Western Australia. The NRC consists of 32 production wells (30 platform and 2 subsea, noting one platform well is suspended and not producing), installations (e.g. wellheads, production and pigging manifolds and flowlines), riser platforms and two gas trunklines.

The operational area of the proposed action is between approximately 268 kilometres and 284 kilometres south-west of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. 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/685/show_public

World Heritage Property:	Ningaloo Coast
NOPSEMA Number:	7828
Title:	Scarborough Offshore Facility and Trunkline (Operations)
Category:	Offshore Oil and Gas

On 3 May 2024, Woodside Energy Scarborough Pty Ltd submitted the Scarborough Offshore Facility and Trunkline (Operations) Environment Plan to NOPSEMA for the Scarborough Floating Production Unit (FPU) associated subsea infrastructure. The proposed action will occur within Production Licences WA-61-L and WA-62-L and Pipeline Licence area WA-32-PL, and will include the hook up of the Scarborough Floating Production Unit to pre-installed moorings, commissioning activities of the Unit, routine production, and export of dry gas.

The proposed action includes the Commonwealth waters portion of an export trunkline, which runs between the Scarborough FPU and onshore gas plant which is approximately 375 kilometres west-north-west of Dampier, Western Australia.

The operational area of the proposed action is approximately 178 kilometres north of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. 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/672/show_public

World Heritage Property:	Ningaloo Coast / Shark Bay
NOPSEMA Number:	No reference allocated at time of reporting
Title:	Goodwyn Area Infill Development
Category:	Offshore Oil and Gas

On 29 July 2024, Woodside Energy Limited (Woodside) submitted a proposal to NOPSEMA to undertake the Goodwyn Area Infill Development in Commonwealth waters, approximately 140 kilometres north-west of Karratha, Western Australia. The purpose of the development is to partially fill the ullage (unused production capacity) at the existing Goodwyn A (GWA) platform.

The development comprises multiple subsea tiebacks to the existing Greater Western Flank (GWF) subsea infrastructure, which will transfer the reservoir fluids to the existing GWA platform. The proposed action involves drilling and subsea installation in a number of Woodside petroleum titles.

The operational area of the proposed action is approximately 200 kilometres north-east of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, and approximately 560 kilometres north-east of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area. 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://consultation.nopsema.gov.au/environment-division/goodwyn-area-infill-development-offshore-project-p/

World Heritage Property:	Ningaloo Coast
NOPSEMA Number:	No reference allocated at the time of reporting
Title:	Gorgon Gas Development: Backfill Fields
Category:	Offshore Oil and Gas

On 9 August 2024, Chevron Australia Pty Ltd. submitted a proposal to NOPSEMA to tie seven backfill fields into the existing subsea gathering infrastructure, which connects the two currently operational gas fields, Gorgon and Jansz-Io, with the Gorgon Gas Facility. The proposed action is located in Commonwealth waters approximately 200 kilometres north of Onslow, Western Australia, and approximately 100 kilometres north-west of Barrow Island, at depths of 150 metres to 1,400 metres.

Planned activities include conducting geotechnical and geophysical surveys, well drilling, installing a subsea gathering network that connects the wells to the existing Gorgon and Jansz-Io pipelines, operating the facilities including inspection, maintenance and repair, and operating vessels, helicopter and remotely operated vehicles.

The operational area of the proposed action is approximately 127 kilometres north-east of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. 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://consultation.nopsema.gov.au/environment-division/gorgon-gas-development-backfill-fields/