



**Report on new proposals requiring assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for Australia's World Heritage properties**

For the period 1 June 2020 to 31 August 2020, seven proposed activities were identified as requiring assessment under the EPBC Act.

<b>World Heritage Property:</b>	Gondwana Rainforests of Australia
<b>EPBC Number:</b>	2020/8734
<b>Title:</b>	Winterbourne Wind Farm, NSW
<b>Category:</b>	Services Infrastructure

The proposed action involves the construction, operation and maintenance of a wind farm near Walcha, in the Northern Tablelands of NSW. The proposal includes the construction of up to 126 wind turbines as well as 30 kms of 330 kV overhead transmission line from the farm to a proposed switchyard 7 km south of Uralla, NSW, and ancillary infrastructure.

The project boundary extends over an area of approximately 24,400 hectares and less than 1,000 hectares is expected to be disturbed during the project lifecycle.

The proposal is adjacent to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area and is currently being assessed for potential impact to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including to the diversity and composition of plant and animal species and potential impact to habitat important for the conservation of biological diversity. The assessment will also consider the impact of the 2019-2020 bushfires on threatened species and habitat.

The notice of the decision to undertake an assessment can be viewed online here:

<http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/a56d9cd1-09ec-ea11-ae06-00505684324c/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1600252101240>

<b>World Heritage Property:</b>	Great Barrier Reef
<b>EPBC Number:</b>	2020/8705
<b>Title:</b>	Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project
<b>Category:</b>	Services Infrastructure

The proposed action is to raise the supply level of the existing Burdekin Falls Dam to at least 2m and up to a maximum of 6m, and upgrade ancillary infrastructure. The Dam is located approximately 210km south-east of Townsville and 80km south of Ravenswood in northern Queensland. The dam wall is located on the Burdekin River catchment, which discharges into Upstart Bay (located within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park).

The assessment will consider direct and indirect impacts to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, including through reduced environmental water flows to the property as a result of raising the dam wall, and potential impacts should there be an increase in agricultural activities as a result of the proposed action. The proposal will be assessed consistent with the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan*, *EPBC Act referral guidelines for the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area* (2014), and the findings of the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019* (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority).

The notice of the decision to undertake an assessment can be viewed online here:

<http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/0ed9cccb-36eb-ea11-ae06-00505684324c/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1600252235154>

<b>World Heritage Property:</b>	Wet Tropics of Queensland
<b>EPBC Number:</b>	2020/8722
<b>Title:</b>	Wangetti Trail South, Qld
<b>Category:</b>	Tourism infrastructure

The proposal is to construct and operate a 29.7km walking and mountain bike riding trail from the township of Wangetti to Palm Cove, part of which will be located inside the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The trail is to be 1.5m wide and constructed on natural ground, imported crushed rock, decking material and concrete. The proposal includes gully crossings, staircases, signage, construction of a public camping node (0.25 ha) and formalisation of existing back country tracks into service tracks.

The proposed action is related to the proposed Wangetti Trail North project (EPBC 2020/8723, below), which has been referred by the same proponent for consideration under the EPBC Act and has been split into two separate referrals due to the different timeframes for planning and proposed construction.

The potential impacts relate to the removal of habitat for protected fauna and flora and disturbance to fauna and flora during construction and operation, as well as potential impacts from increased tourism (estimated to be 11,000 people using the trail every year).

The notice of the decision to undertake an assessment can be viewed online here:

<http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/780fc4ca-73e6-ea11-be57-005056842ad1/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1600252278201>

<b>World Heritage Property:</b>	Wet Tropics of Queensland
<b>EPBC Number:</b>	2020/8723
<b>Title:</b>	Wangetti Trail North, Qld
<b>Category:</b>	Tourism infrastructure

The proposal is to construct and operate a 54km walking and mountain bike riding trail from Wangetti to South of Mowbray River in Queensland, part of which will be located inside the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. It will also run parallel to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) at a closest distance of 200 m. Given the nature of the proposal it is unlikely to impact the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the focus of the assessment will be on potential impact to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The trail is to be 1.5m wide and constructed on natural ground and imported crushed rock. The proposal includes gully crossings, staircases, signage, construction of four public camping nodes (0.25 ha each), four eco-accommodation nodes (0.25 ha each) and formalisation of existing back country tracks into dedicated bike track.

The notice of the decision to undertake an assessment can be viewed online here: <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/1aca77d5-73e6-ea11-ae06-00505684324c/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1600252317760>

<b>World Heritage Property:</b>	Australian Convict Sites – Cascades Female Factory
<b>EPBC Number:</b>	2020/8662
<b>Title:</b>	Cascades Female Factory Centre
<b>Category:</b>	Interpretative and visitation facilities

The proposed action involves construction of a new History and Interpretation Centre within Yard 3 of the Cascades Female Factory, which is one of the 11 convict sites that make up the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property.

The proposed building has a footprint of 575 square metres and runs the entire length of the western side of Yard 3. A new building is proposed because the proponent (Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority) has advised the building currently being used for visitor services is a former food production factory that is not adequate in terms of facilities for visitors or staff.

The proposal includes construction of the building, covering the exposed block of former solitary apartment footings, reconstruction and interpretation of absent sections of the perimeter walls, and interpretive signage. The proposal also includes removal of the existing visitor centre/factory building and modern paving elements.

The proposal will be assessed with regard to the decision made at the time of World Heritage listing (2010) concerning the recommendation to remove anachronistic constructions and to ensure that new facilities respect the visual integrity and the landscape values of the serial listed sites.

The notice of the decision to undertake an assessment can be viewed online here:  
<http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/790201c5-9dc1-ea11-8731-005056842ad1/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1600252357837>

<b>World Heritage Property:</b>	Great Barrier Reef
<b>EPBC Number:</b>	2020/8626
<b>Title:</b>	Diatreme Resources
<b>Category:</b>	Physical resource extraction

The Galalar Silica Sand Project (Diatreme Resources Ltd) proposal 20km north of Cooktown in Queensland, comprises sand mining adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage property and subsequent export of the mineral product.

Two export options are proposed, both of which require trans-shipment (either bulk or containerised) at an anchorage within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The first option involves upgrading existing infrastructure on the Endeavour River at Cooktown and barging the product from this point to a trans-shipment anchorage. The second option involves the establishment of a new port at a greenfield site at Nob Point and barging the product to an alternative trans-shipment anchorage.

The proposal will be rigorously assessed for potential impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef with particular reference to commitments under the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan*.

The notice of the decision to undertake an assessment can be viewed online here:  
<http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/360c37a0-d8aa-ea11-8a09-00505684324c/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1600251932735>

<b>World Heritage Property:</b>	Ningaloo Coast; Shark Bay
<b>Title:</b>	KATO Energy Amulet Development, WA
<b>Category:</b>	Offshore Oil and Gas

KATO Energy Pty Ltd (KATO) propose to develop the Amulet Development oil field and potentially the Talisman oil field using a mobile offshore production unit, which is a relocatable system known as the ‘honeybee production system.’ The Amulet Development is located within Commonwealth waters in the north-west of Australia in water depths of approximately 80m. The Talisman oil field is approximately 3.5km to the west of the Amulet Development and has already been produced but was abandoned in 1992.

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area is approximately 353km southwest of the expected position of the proposed mobile offshore production unit and Shark Bay World Heritage Area is approximately 669km away. Both are identified in the proposal as within the outer extent of the environment that may be affected based on the results of stochastic oil spill modelling.

The honeybee production system includes a mobile offshore production unit capable of separating and processing oil, gas and water. Some of the components of the Amulet Development include to undertake survey of subsea infrastructure, drilling of up to two production wells, installation and decommissioning of a mobile offshore production unit and removal of subsea and subsurface infrastructure. The project life is estimated to take at least five years from mobilisation to decommissioning.

If the Talisman oil field is developed, up to two production wells will be drilled. The preferred option is to use the mobile offshore production unit based at the Amulet Development.

The project is being assessed by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority’s (NOPSEMA), which 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 have effect under the EPBC Act.

For more information on this proposal go to the NOPSEMA website at the link:

<https://www.nopsema.gov.au/environmental-management/assessment-process/offshore-project-proposals/public-comment/>