



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

For the period from 1 December 2019 to 29 February 2020, one new proposed offshore oil and gas project was identified as requiring further assessment for potential impact on a World Heritage property.

<p>World Heritage Property: Ningaloo Coast Title: Corowa Development Project, WA</p>
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The proponent (KATO Energy Pty Ltd) proposes a project to develop the Corowa field off the Western Australian coastline by installing and operating a facility to drill and collect petroleum. Kato Energy proposes installing a temporary facility off the Western Australia coastline in Commonwealth waters approximately 20 km from the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area. The facility is proposed to operate for a duration of between two and four and a half years. At completion, the facility infrastructure will be removed, and the wells blocked.

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.

Ningaloo Coast was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2011 for terrestrial and marine natural values. Off-shore hydrocarbon extraction in the region surrounding the property will require careful consideration in order to prevent potential pollution and disturbance to the marine elements of Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was listed. These include productive and biodiverse ecosystems, including one of the longest near-shore coral reefs in the world, and extraordinarily large and rare aggregations of whale sharks (300-500 individuals), fish and marine mammals. Ningaloo's Outstanding Universal Value also includes the landscapes and seascapes, which are comprised of mostly intact and large-scale marine, coastal and terrestrial environments.

For more information on this proposal go to the NOPSEMA website at the link <https://www.nopsema.gov.au/environmental-management/offshore-project-proposals/offshore-project-proposals-public-comment/corowa-development-project/>



**Report on previously notified proposal under assessment under the
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) for
Australia's World Heritage properties**

For the period 1 December 2019 and 29 February 2020, one proposal was approved under the EPBC Act, following detailed assessment of the potential impact on a World Heritage property.

World Heritage Property: Sydney Opera House
EPBC Number: 2017/7955
Title: Sydney Opera House Building Renewal Program – Concert Hall and associated works, NSW
Category: Tourism and Recreation

In the September 2017 notification report, we advised the World Heritage Centre that on 17 July 2017 the Sydney Opera House Trust's proposal to progress various projects under the Sydney Opera House Building and Renewal Program was determined to be a controlled action, and would not proceed unless approval was granted under the EPBC Act.

On 21 January 2020, the proposed activity – to undertake works in the Concert Hall and Creative Learning Centre as part of the Sydney Opera House Building Renewal Program - was approved with conditions under the EPBC Act. The approval decision notice is available at:

<http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/4d6be17f-a13c-ea11-a9f9-005056842ad1/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1584938995688>