



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected. Please see the caveat for interpretation of information provided here.

Report created: 05-Mar-2025

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Summary

Matters of National Environment Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the [Administrative Guidelines on Significance](#).

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar	None
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	4
Listed Threatened Species:	30
Listed Migratory Species:	9

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage>

A [permit](#) may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Lands:	None
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	14
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Australian Marine Parks:	None
Habitat Critical to the Survival of Marine Turtles:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have

State and Territory Reserves:	None
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
EPBC Act Referrals:	42
Key Ecological Features (Marine):	None
Biologically Important Areas:	None
Bioregional Assessments:	None
Geological and Bioregional Assessments:	None

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Listed Threatened Ecological Communities

[Resource Information]

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Status of Vulnerable, Disallowed and Ineligible are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Community Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Brigalow (Acacia harpophylla dominant and co-dominant)	Endangered	Community known to occur within area
Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and northern Fitzroy Basin	Endangered	Community likely to occur within area
Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains	Endangered	Community likely to occur within area
Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions	Endangered	Community likely to occur within area

Listed Threatened Species

[Resource Information]

Status of Conservation Dependent and Extinct are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Number is the current name ID.

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
BIRD		
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Erythroriorchis radiatus Red Goshawk [942]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Falco hypoleucos Grey Falcon [929]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Geophaps scripta scripta Squatter Pigeon (southern) [64440]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Grantiella picta Painted Honeyeater [470]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda Star Finch (eastern), Star Finch (southern) [26027]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Poephila cincta cincta Southern Black-throated Finch [64447]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Rostratula australis Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Stagonopleura guttata Diamond Firetail [59398]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Tringa nebularia Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
MAMMAL		
Dasyurus hallucatus Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu] [331]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Macroderma gigas Ghost Bat [174]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Nyctophilus corbeni Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat [83395]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Petauroides volans		
Greater Glider (southern and central) [254]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)		
Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) [85104]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
PLANT		
Denhamia megacarpa		
Large-fruited Denhamia [91342]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Dichanthium queenslandicum		
King Blue-grass [5481]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Dichanthium setosum		
bluegrass [14159]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Eucalyptus raveretiana		
Black Ironbox [16344]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Polianthion minutiflorum		
[82772]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Ptilotus uncinellus		
[91385]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Samadera bidwillii		
Quassia [29708]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
REPTILE		
Denisonia maculata		
Ornamental Snake [1193]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Egernia rugosa		
Yakka Skink [1420]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Elseya albagula Southern Snapping Turtle, White-throated Snapping Turtle [81648]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Furina dunmalli Dunmall's Snake [59254]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Lerista allanae Allan's Lerista, Retro Slider [1378]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Rheodytes leukops Fitzroy River Turtle, Fitzroy Tortoise, Fitzroy Turtle, White-eyed River Diver [1761]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Listed Migratory Species	[Resource Information]	
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Migratory Marine Birds		
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Migratory Terrestrial Species		
Cuculus optatus Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo [86651]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area

Migratory Wetlands Species		
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Tringa nebularia Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Listed Marine Species	[Resource Information]	
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Bird		
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Anseranas semipalmata Magpie Goose [978]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area
Bubulcus ibis as Ardea ibis Cattle Egret [66521]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Chalcites osculans as Chrysococcyx osculans Black-eared Cuckoo [83425]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Haliaeetus leucogaster White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Merops ornatus Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Rostratula australis as Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato) Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
Tringa nebularia Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area

Extra Information

EPBC Act Referrals			[Resource Information]
Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status
Caval Ridge Mine Horse Pit Extension, Bowen Basin	2021/9031		Post-Approval
Isaac Downs coal mine project, near Moranbah, Qld	2019/8413		Post-Approval
Moranbah North & Grosvenor Mines rail and pipeline realignment	2023/09489		Assessment
Moranbah North Extension Project, Moranbah, Qld	2018/8338		Post-Approval
Winchester South Project Electricity Transmission Line, near Moranbah, Qld	2019/8458		Approval
Winchester South Project Water Pipeline, near Moranbah, Qld	2019/8459		Approval
Controlled action			
Alpha Coal Project - Mine and Rail Development	2008/4648	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Arrow Bowen Pipeline (CSG), QLD	2012/6459	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
BHP Billiton Goonyella to Abbot Point rail project	2011/6082	Controlled Action	Completed
Bowen Gas Project	2012/6377	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Caval Ridge Open Cut Coal Mine Project	2008/4417	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Central Queensland Integrated Rail Project	2012/6321	Controlled Action	Completed
Construct and Operate the Connors River Dam and Pipelines	2008/4429	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Construction and operation of an extension to the existing underground coal mine, Grosvenor Mine, ne	2016/7796	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Ellensfield Underground Coal Mine	2007/3643	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Establishment of Galilee Coal Mine and Associated Infrastructure	2009/4737	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Extension to the existing Isaac Plains Mine, near Moranbah, Qld	2016/7827	Controlled Action	Post-Approval

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status
Controlled action			
Gas pipeline	2002/728	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Goonyella Riverside Coal Mine Expansion	2005/2248	Controlled Action	Completed
Goonyella Riverside Mine to South Walker Creek Mine Dragline Move	2016/7788	Controlled Action	Completed
Grosvenor West Coal Project	2012/6281	Controlled Action	Completed
install & operate gas pipeline	2005/2059	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Millenium Open Cut Coal Mine Expansion Project, QLD	2009/4821	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Moranbah South Project Coal Mine, QLD	2012/6337	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Olive Downs Project Electricity Transmission Line	2017/7869	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Open Cut Coal Mining	2004/1770	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Red Hill Mining Project,20kms north of Moranbah, Qld	2013/6865	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
The Grosvenor Coal Mine Project	2007/3785	Controlled Action	Post-Approval
Not controlled action			
Broadlea North Coal Project open cut mine and associated infrastructure	2005/2179	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Broadlea to Mallowa and Mallowa to Wotonga Rail Duplication	2006/3046	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Carborough Downs mine extension	2006/3085	Not Controlled Action	Completed
construction and operation of Carborough Downs Mine	2005/2064	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Eagle-1 Exploration Drilling, North West Shelf, WA	2019/8578	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Improving rabbit biocontrol: releasing another strain of RHDV, sthrn two thirds of Australia	2015/7522	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Integrated Isaac Plains Project	2006/3043	Not Controlled Action	Completed

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status
Not controlled action			
Moranbah North Coal Mine Methane Power Project	2007/3565	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Moranbah to Alpha Pipeline Project	2012/6257	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Open cut coal mine 7km NE of Moranbah (Isaac Plains)	2005/2070	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Upgrade of a section of the Goonyella Rail System	2011/5857	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Water pipeline	2006/2595	Not Controlled Action	Completed
Not controlled action (particular manner)			
Moranbah South Feasibility Seismic Survey	2010/5497	Not Controlled Action (Particular Manner)	Post-Approval
Referral decision			
Expansion of open cut coal mine and diversion of creeks in existing mine operati	2006/2845	Referral Decision	Completed

Caveat

1 PURPOSE

This report is designed to assist in identifying the location of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and other matters protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) which may be relevant in determining obligations and requirements under the EPBC Act.

The report contains the mapped locations of:

- World and National Heritage properties;
- Wetlands of International and National Importance;
- Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves;
- distribution of listed threatened, migratory and marine species;
- listed threatened ecological communities; and
- other information that may be useful as an indicator of potential habitat value.

2 DISCLAIMER

This report is not intended to be exhaustive and should only be relied upon as a general guide as mapped data is not available for all species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act (see below). Persons seeking to use the information contained in this report to inform the referral of a proposed action under the EPBC Act should consider the limitations noted below and whether additional information is required to determine the existence and location of MNES and other protected matters.

Where data is available to inform the mapping of protected species, the presence type (e.g. known, likely or may occur) that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. It is the responsibility of any person using or relying on the information in this report to ensure that it is suitable for the circumstances of any proposed use. The Commonwealth cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any use of the report or any part thereof. To the maximum extent allowed under governing law, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on the contents of this report.

3 DATA SOURCES

Threatened ecological communities

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are generated based on information contained in recovery plans, State vegetation maps and remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been discerned through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, distributions are inferred from either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc.) together with point locations and described habitat; or modelled (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where little information is available for a species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc.).

In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More detailed distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions when time permits.

4 LIMITATIONS

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in this report:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered vagrants;
- some recently listed species and ecological communities;
- some listed migratory and listed marine species, which are not listed as threatened species; and
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in Australia in small numbers.

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- listed migratory and/or listed marine seabirds, which are not listed as threatened, have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites; and
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

The breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Refer to the metadata for the feature group (using the Resource Information link) for the currency of the information.

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

- [-Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales](#)
- [-Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria](#)
- [-Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania](#)
- [-Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia](#)
- [-Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory](#)
- [-Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland](#)
- [-Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia](#)
- [-Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT](#)
- [-Birdlife Australia](#)
- [-Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme](#)
- [-Australian National Wildlife Collection](#)
- [-Natural history museums of Australia](#)
- [-Museum Victoria](#)
- [-Australian Museum](#)
- [-South Australian Museum](#)
- [-Queensland Museum](#)
- [-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums](#)
- [-Queensland Herbarium](#)
- [-National Herbarium of NSW](#)
- [-Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria](#)
- [-Tasmanian Herbarium](#)
- [-State Herbarium of South Australia](#)
- [-Northern Territory Herbarium](#)
- [-Western Australian Herbarium](#)
- [-Australian National Herbarium, Canberra](#)
- [-University of New England](#)
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- [Forestry Corporation, NSW](#)
- [-Geoscience Australia](#)
- [-CSIRO](#)
- [-Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns](#)
- [-eBird Australia](#)
- [-Australian Government – Australian Antarctic Data Centre](#)
- [-Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory](#)
- [-Australian Government National Environmental Science Program](#)
- [-Australian Institute of Marine Science](#)
- [-Reef Life Survey Australia](#)
- [-American Museum of Natural History](#)
- [-Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania](#)
- [-Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania](#)
- [-Other groups and individuals](#)

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the [Contact us](#) page.

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