

from DoE website: http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999/public-0#Invitations_for_public_comment

Invitations for public comment on Referrals

The EPBC Act provides for a public comment period of 10 business days (with no extensions). A decision on whether a proposed action requires approval will be made within 20 business days. The outcome of the decision will be made publicly available on the web site.

The PDF documents which may be accessed via the Invitations to Comment screen are complete copies of the referral.

Please note that all public comments will be considered by the decision-maker. However, we cannot guarantee that all comments will be acknowledged or responded to.

Ensuring your comments are effective :

- Clearly reference the referral (EPBC number and proposal title) in your submission.
- State clearly whether, and how, you believe the proposal would have a significant impact on matters protected by the EPBC Act.

The Minister, or their delegate, can only take into account comments, concerns or issues in respect to the specific matters of national environmental significance or matters protected under the EPBC Act. Be specific by stating which aspects of the proposal would impact on matters (e.g. a particular listed species or heritage value).

- If you believe the information in the referral is *misleading or incorrect*, you should state the reasons why and provide correct information, if available.
- Give the source of any key information used in reaching your conclusion.
- Provide *clear contact details* if the Department needs to get in touch with you to seek clarification.
- Provide comments *by the due date*.
If your comments are going to be late, please contact the Department before the due date, and advise of your intention to provide comment, and the date the comment will be provided. The Department will advise you **if** the comments can be accepted.

Please note: Submissions may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, and may be provided to third parties for procedural fairness purposes (also known as natural justice).

Public submissions are not normally confidential, however if you wish your submission to be treated by the Department as confidential, please mark it clearly as 'confidential' and provide your reasons for it to be considered as such. The Department will use its best endeavours to deal with the submission accordingly but this does not make it automatically exempt from release.

If you require further information you can contact the Department's Community Information Unit by email: ciu@environment.gov.au, or freecall 1800 803 772.

Submitting your comments send your comments, quoting reference number & title of the referral to:

Email: epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au

Fax: 02 6274 1789

Post:

Referral Business Entry Point, EIA Policy Section (EPBC Act)
Approvals and Wildlife Division
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
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