



EPBC ACT – LISTING THREATENED SPECIES, ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND KEY THREATENING PROCESSES

Amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) have established a new process for listing threatened species, ecological communities and key threatening processes.

The amendments commenced on 19 February 2007.

The new process is designed to improve the effectiveness of listing with a more strategic approach focussing on those species and ecological communities in greatest need of protection.

The key changes to the listing process are:

- the option for the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources (the Minister) to establish a conservation theme *and*
- the establishment of an assessment cycle.

Conservation theme

The Minister may determine a conservation theme, and invite nominations for species, ecological communities and key threatening processes that reflect this theme. Themes could include, for instance, particular species or groups of species, or geographic regions, which would benefit from particular attention. The Minister may consider advice from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (the Committee) in determining the theme.

The establishment of a conservation theme is optional.

Nomination and assessment cycle

The establishment of an assessment cycle will allow priorities and work programmes focussing on those species and ecological communities in greatest need of protection to be set.

The process will commence with a public call for nominations of at least 40 business days within which nominations can be made to the Minister. Nominations will then be forwarded by the Minister to the Committee, who will prepare a proposed priority assessment list of nominations. Inclusion of nominations on this list will take into account the conservation theme (if one is established) and the Committee's views about which nominations are of high conservation priority, as well as the Committee's capacity to undertake assessments.

The Minister will consider the proposed priority assessment list developed by the Committee and may make changes to the list. The final priority assessment list will be made publicly available.

Nominations included on the priority assessment list will be assessed within the 12-month assessment period (or over a longer time frame if suggested by the Committee and agreed by the Minister). The Committee will invite public and expert comment on the nominations during the assessment period.

At the end of the assessment period, the Committee's advice will be provided to the Minister, who will make a decision regarding whether a species, ecological community or key threatening process is eligible for listing under the EPBC Act.

Flowchart of the listing process for threatened species, ecological communities and key threatening processes nominations



Further information about the EPBC Act is available from the Department of the Environment and Water Resources web site www.environment.gov.au/epbc, or by contacting the Department's Community Information Unit, email ciu@environment.gov.au, or freecall 1800 803 772.

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Printed February 2007