

Attachment D: Strategic Assessment Report - draft Terms of Reference

D.1 Purpose and description

The Report must describe:

- (a) the purpose of this strategic assessment;
- (b) how the Report has been developed, including governance, consultation and scientific studies used in preparing the Report and assessment of impacts on MNES; and
- (c) the strategic assessment process.

D.2 Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

The Report must describe how the Program meets the objects of the EPBC Act, in particular that:

- (a) long and short-term economic, environmental and social considerations have been identified and integrated into the Program's design and implementation;
- (b) threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage will be avoided by implementing scientifically rigorous measures and applying the precautionary principle;
- (c) the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;
- (d) biological diversity and ecological integrity will be conserved, in particular MNES; and
- (e) improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms are promoted.

D.3 The impacts of actions under the Program on MNES

The Report must assess the impacts on MNES³ from actions proposed under the Program. To this end the Report must describe:

- (a) MNES potentially impacted by actions proposed under the Program;
- (b) the nature of potential impacts on MNES, including whether direct or indirect, short, long term or irreversible, local or regional, discrete or cumulative, and whether the impacts are exacerbated by the likely effects of climate change (including floods, fire, and coastal erosion), or vice versa;
- (c) potential impacts on Commonwealth land and Commonwealth activities; and
- (d) the confidence associated with the likelihood and consequence(s) of potential impacts, including reference to scientific and other information relied upon in identifying, assessing and analysing those impacts.

D.4 Addressing the impacts of actions under the Program

The Report must describe how the impacts from actions described in the Program have been addressed, including:

- (a) through the consideration of alternative locations for undertaking those actions;
- (b) the analysis of measures for avoiding, mitigating and offsetting impacts on each MNES;
- (c) the predicted effectiveness of the measures referred in Item D.4(b), and related assumptions, to protect MNES. Claims regarding effectiveness of measures must be substantiated;

³ includes matters potentially eligible for listing as a MNES

- (d) how EPBC Act policies and recovery plans will be implemented through the Program;
- (e) how potential impacts on MNES from events that are impossible to avoid, e.g. catastrophic bushfires, flooding or coastal erosion, have been considered in the Program design;
- (f) an analysis of adaptive measures to protect and enhance each MNES; and
- (g) how conservation outcomes and commitments will continue be met should the Program be reviewed, modified or abandoned.

D.5 Information sources

For information used in this Report, the Report must state:

- (a) the source of the information;
- (b) how recent the information is; and
- (c) the reliability and limitations of the information.