

ATTACHMENT B: LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE PORTFOLIO

Legislation and Object(s)	Relevant divisions / agencies
<p><i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i> Object of the Act: To enable Indigenous Australians to make requests to protect their traditional areas and objects from threats of injury or desecration. The Act's purpose is to protect areas and objects that are of particular significance to Indigenous Australians in accordance with their Indigenous traditions. Under this Act, the Minister can make declarations to protect these areas and objects from specific threats of injury or desecration if it appears that state or territory laws do not provide effective protection. However, the Minister cannot make a declaration unless he or she has received a legally valid application.</p>	<p>Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division</p>
<p><i>Antarctic Marine Living Resources Conservation Act 1981</i> Object of the Act: To give effect to Australia's obligations under the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). It regulates harvesting of, or research into, all living organisms that are found in the marine environment within the Convention area.</p>	<p>Australian Antarctic Division</p>
<p><i>Antarctic Treaty Act 1960</i> Object of the Act: To give effect to Australia's obligations under the Antarctic Treaty of 1959, the main objective of which is to ensure in the interests of all humankind that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord.</p>	<p>Australian Antarctic Division</p>
<p><i>Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Act 1980</i> Object of the Act: To give effect to Australia's obligations under the Antarctic Treaty, Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol), and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals. These environmental protection measures relate to environmental impact assessment, conservation of flora and fauna, waste management and protected areas.</p>	<p>Australian Antarctic Division</p>
<p><i>Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act 1933</i> Object of the Act: To name the Australian Antarctic Territory and to facilitate the acceptance by the Commonwealth of the Australian Antarctic Territory as a Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth.</p>	<p>Australian Antarctic Division</p>
<p><i>Australian Antarctic Territory Act 1954</i> Object of the Act: To establish the legal regime for governing the Australian Antarctic Territory.</p>	<p>Australian Antarctic Division</p>
<p><i>Australian Heritage Council Act 2003</i> Object of the Act: To establish the Australian Heritage Council as the principal adviser to the Australian Government Minister responsible for the Act on heritage issues, including the listing and protection of heritage places.</p>	<p>Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division</p>

Legislation and Object(s)	Relevant divisions / agencies
<p><i>Captains Flat (Abatement of Pollution) Agreement Act 1975</i> Object of the Act: To approve an agreement between the Commonwealth and New South Wales for the grant of financial assistance to New South Wales for measures to abate pollution of the Molonglo River emanating from the mine and mine waste dumps at Captain Flat in order to protect the river and Lake Burley Griffin.</p>	<p>Policy and Communications Division</p>
<p><i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> This Act is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the EPBC Act as 'matters of national environmental significance' (MNES). The objects of the Act are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance; • promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources; • promote the conservation of biodiversity; • provide for the protection and conservation of heritage; • promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples; • assist in the co-operative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities; • recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity; and • promote the use of Indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in co-operation with, the owners of the knowledge. 	<p>Environment Assessment and Compliance Division Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division Director of National Parks Parks Australia Division Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Office of Water Science Water Reform Division Australian Antarctic Division</p>
<p><i>Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978</i> Object of the Act: To protect the environment of the Alligator Rivers Region, including Kakadu National Park, from the potential environmental impacts of mining activities, through programs of research, monitoring and supervision. The Act established the position of the Supervising Scientist for the Alligator Rivers Region and two scientific and stakeholder advisory committees.</p>	<p>Supervising Scientist Division</p>
<p><i>Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981</i> Object of the Act: To protect the environment by regulating dumping into the sea, incineration at sea and artificial reef placements, and for other related purposes in accordance with Australia's international obligations under the London Convention and its 1996 protocol.</p>	<p>Environment Assessment and Compliance Division Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</p>

Legislation and Object(s)	Relevant divisions / agencies
<p>Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000 Object of the Act: To regulate the quality of fuel supplied in Australia in order to reduce the level of pollutants and emissions arising from the use of fuel that may cause environmental and health problems; facilitate the adoption of better engine technology and emission control technology; and allow the more effective operation of engines. To ensure that, where appropriate, information about fuel is provided when the fuel is supplied.</p>	Environment Quality Division
<p>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 Object of the Act: To make provision for the establishment, control, care and development of a marine park in the Great Barrier Reef Region and to establish the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.</p>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<p>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge - Excise) Act 1993 Object of the Act: To impose a charge on the grant or transfer of certain permissions granted under the <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983</i>, so far as that charge is a duty of excise.</p>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<p>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge - General) Act 1993 Object of the Act: To impose a charge on the grant or transfer of certain permissions granted under the <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983</i>, so far as that charge is neither a duty of customs nor a duty of excise.</p>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<p>Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989 Object of the Act: To give effect to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The Act regulates the export, import and transit of hazardous waste to ensure that exported, imported or transited waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner so that human beings and the environment, both within and outside Australia, are protected.</p>	Environment Quality Division
<p>Heard Island and McDonald Islands Act 1953 Object of the Act: To establish the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands and to provide a legal regime for governing the Territory.</p>	Australian Antarctic Division
<p>Hindmarsh Island Bridge Act 1997 Object of the Act: Facilitated the construction of the Hindmarsh Island bridge. Specifically, the Act prevents the making of a declaration under the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i> in relation to the preservation or protection of an area or object from the construction or use of a bridge in the Hindmarsh Island Bridge Area.</p>	Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division
<p>Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 Object of the Act: In cooperation with the States, to protect historic shipwrecks located in Australian waters and the articles associated with these wrecks.</p>	Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division
<p>Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Act 2001 Object of the Act: To give Commonwealth recognition of, and approval to, the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement.</p>	Water Reform Division

Legislation and Object(s)	Relevant divisions / agencies
<p><i>Meteorology Act 1955</i> Object of the Act: To establish the Bureau of Meteorology and provide the legal basis for its operation and to prescribe its purpose, functions and powers.</p>	<p>Bureau of Meteorology Water Reform Division Sustainability Policy and Analysis Division</p>
<p><i>National Environment Protection Council Act 1994</i> Objects of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure that all Australians enjoy the benefit of equivalent protection from air, water or soil pollution and from noise • to ensure that business decisions are not distorted and markets are not fragmented by variations in the adoption or implementation of major environment protection measures. <p>The Act also establishes the National Environment Protection Council Service Corporation, which provides assistance and support to the COAG Standing Council on Environment and Water (which incorporates the National Environment Protection Council).</p>	<p>Environment Quality Division Policy and Communications Division</p>
<p><i>National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998</i> Objects of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make provision for the implementation of national environment protection measures in respect of certain activities carried on by or on behalf of the Australian Government and Australian Government authorities • to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment in Australia, having regard to the need to maintain ecologically sustainable development • to ensure that the community has access to relevant and meaningful information about pollution. 	<p>Environment Quality Division Policy and Communications Division</p>
<p><i>National Water Commission Act 2004</i> Object of the Act: To establish the National Water Commission as an independent statutory body.</p>	<p>National Water Commission Water Reform Division</p>
<p><i>Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997</i> Object of the Act: To establish the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Account to conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure through expenditure of funds on the environment, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management. The Act also establishes the Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee, which is tasked with advising the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board.</p>	<p>Biodiversity Conservation Division</p>

Legislation and Object(s)	Relevant divisions / agencies
<p><i>Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989</i> Object of the Act: To enable Australia to fulfil its international obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol), the objective of which is to phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances to protect and restore the ozone layer. In addition the Act establishes a licensing system to regulate the import, export and use in Australia of ozone-depleting substances as required by the Montreal Protocol. The Act contains offences and civil penalty provisions and grants monitoring and enforcement powers.</p>	Environment Quality Division
<p><i>Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Act 1995</i> Object of the Act: To provide for payment of fees in respect of the importation of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), methyl bromide, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) under licences granted under the <i>Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989</i>.</p>	Environment Quality Division
<p><i>Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Manufacture Levy) Act 1995</i> Object of the Act: To provide for payment of fees in respect of the manufacture of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), methyl bromide, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) under licences granted under the <i>Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989</i>.</p>	Environment Quality Division
<p><i>Product Stewardship Act 2011</i> Object of the Act: To provide the framework to effectively manage the environmental, health and safety impacts of products, and in particular those impacts associated with the disposal of products. Product stewardship is an approach to reducing the environmental and other impacts of products by encouraging or requiring manufacturers, importers, distributors and other persons to take responsibility for those products. The Act provides a framework for three kinds of product stewardship: <i>Voluntary product stewardship; Co-regulatory product stewardship; and Mandatory product stewardship.</i></p>	Environment Quality Division
<p><i>Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000</i> Object of the Act: To develop a product stewardship arrangement for waste oils; ensure the environmentally sustainable management, re-refining and reuse of waste oil; and support economic recycling options for waste oil.</p>	Environment Quality Division
<p><i>Removal of Prisoners (Territories) Act 1923 (insofar as it relates to the Territory of Heard and McDonald Islands and the Australian Antarctic Territory)</i> Object of the Act: To provide for the removal from the Antarctic territories of prisoners and detained persons for trial in mainland Australia.</p>	Australian Antarctic Division

Legislation and Object(s)	Relevant divisions / agencies
<p>Sea Installations Act 1987</p> <p>Objects of the Act: To ensure that sea installations installed in adjacent areas are operated with regard to the safety of the people using them and of the people, ships and aircraft near them; apply appropriate laws in relation to such sea installations; and ensure that such sea installations are operated in a manner that is consistent with the protection of the environment.</p>	<p>Environment Assessment and Compliance Division</p> <p>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</p>
<p>Sea Installations Levy Act 1987</p> <p>Object of the Act: To provide a framework to impose levies in respect of sea installations installed in Commonwealth waters.</p>	<p>Environment Assessment and Compliance Division</p>
<p>Sewerage Agreements Act 1973</p> <p>Object of the Act: This Act relates to agreements between the Commonwealth and each of the States in respect of the provision of financial assistance for sewerage works. The aim of the agreement is for the Commonwealth to make available financial assistance to the States with the objective of eliminating within the shortest feasible time the backlog of sewerage works in the principal Australian cities whereby the Commonwealth made available \$30 million to the States.</p>	<p>Water Reform Division</p>
<p>Sewerage Agreements Act 1974</p> <p>Object of the Act: Relates to agreements between the Commonwealth, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia in respect of the provision of further financial assistance for sewerage works in those states.</p>	<p>Water Reform Division</p>
<p>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Act 2001</p> <p>Object of the Act: To enhance Sydney Harbour by protecting, conserving and interpreting the environmental and heritage values of a range of Australian Government sites around the Harbour. To maximise public access to the land and establish and manage suitable land as park on behalf of the Australian Government. Establishes the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.</p>	<p>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust</p>
<p>Water Act 2007</p> <p>Object of the Act: To enable the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the Basin States, to manage the Basin water resources in the national interest. To collect, analyse and disseminate information about Australia's water resources and to achieve efficient and cost effective water management and administration practices in the MDB. The Act establishes the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, and the position of Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.</p>	<p>Water Reform Division</p> <p>Water Efficiency Division</p> <p>Commonwealth Environmental Water Office</p> <p>Bureau of Meteorology</p> <p>National Water Commission</p> <p>Murray-Darling Basin Authority</p>

Legislation and Object(s)	Relevant divisions / agencies
<p><i>Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005</i> Object of the Act: To conserve water supplies by reducing water consumption; provide information for purchasers of water-use and water-saving products; and promote the adoption of efficient and effective water-use and water-saving technologies.</p>	<p>Environment Quality Division</p>
<p><i>Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Conservation Act 1994</i> Object of the Act: Gives effect to an agreement made between the Commonwealth and Queensland on 16 November 1990 and to facilitate in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area the implementation of Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.</p>	<p>Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division</p>

ATTACHMENT C: INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

The table below provides a comprehensive list of international treaties, agreements and arrangements to which Australia is party and where the department represents the Government.

The department has responsibility for the domestic implementation of a wide range of multilateral treaties and conventions, as well as holding the Australian Government policy lead in a number of areas. These agreements provide the foundation for a large proportion of the legislation administered by the department, including the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the Acts dealing with chemicals and other hazardous materials.

Definitions

- **Convention:** is a formal agreement between States (synonymous with the term treaty).
- **Protocol:** is an additional legal instrument that complements or adds to a treaty.
- **Treaty:** is a formally concluded and ratified agreement between States. It is used generically to refer to instruments binding in international law.

Treaties
<p>Antarctic</p> <p><u>Antarctic Treaty system</u>, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctic Treaty; • the Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection; • the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); • the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS); and • the measures in effect under those agreements. <p>Engagement advances Australia's strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, by protecting the region.</p>
<p>Biodiversity</p> <p><u>International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW):</u> In 1946, the International Whaling Commission was established under this Convention. Australia is working hard to transform the Commission into a 21st Century multilateral conservation organisation.</p> <p><u>Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)</u>, also known as the <u>Bonn Convention</u>, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks; • the MOU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region; and • the MOU on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range. <p>This convention aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.</p>

Treaties

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

Australia's engagement in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ) is led by the department, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. A new implementing agreement under UNCLOS addressing biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction is being considered by the international community.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

The three main objectives of this convention are: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing:

This global agreement implements the access and benefit sharing obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES):

CITES is an international treaty to protect wildlife against over-exploitation.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar):

Adopted in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, the Convention provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP):

This treaty aims to halt the decline of seabird populations in the Southern Hemisphere.

Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA); China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA); and Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA):

Australia provides critical non-breeding habitat for millions of migratory waterbirds each year. The Australian Government has fostered international cooperation to conserve migratory waterbird populations and their habitats through a range of important agreements, including the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species, bilateral agreements, and through the recently launched East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership.

United Nations Convention on Desertification (UNCCD):

This Convention aims to reverse and prevent desertification and land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Chemicals/Waste/Pacific

Minamata Convention on Mercury:

The draft of this legally binding instrument on mercury is agreed, and will be open for signature from 10-11 October 2013 at a diplomatic conference in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan.

The London Protocol amendment on marine geo-engineering and ocean fertilisation:

The London Protocol is an additional legal instrument that modernised the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention), one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment. Australia, Nigeria and South Korea have jointly proposed an amendment that would add a list of geoengineering activities to be regulated under the London Protocol. It will be put to the forthcoming meeting in October 2013.

Treaties

Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (Noumea Convention):

This is an umbrella agreement for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the South Pacific Region.

Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP):

Australia is a founding member of SPREP, which promotes regional cooperation on environmental matters. It was established by the Noumea Convention. It was previously titled the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal:

This Convention places obligations on exporting countries to ensure that hazardous wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner in the country of import. It establishes a global control system for the shipment of hazardous waste.

Convention to ban the importation into Forum Island Countries of hazardous and radioactive wastes and to control the transboundary movement and management of hazardous wastes within the South Pacific region (Waigani Convention):

Signed in Waigani, Papua New Guinea, this Convention bans the import of all hazardous and radioactive wastes into South Pacific Forum Island Countries and allows Australia to receive hazardous wastes from South Pacific Forum Island Countries that are not parties to the Basel Convention.

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior and Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade:

The Convention covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants:

Persistent Organic Pollutants are carbon-based chemical substances that remain intact for many years, and are toxic to humans and wildlife. The Convention aims to eliminate the production of some chemicals, restrict the production and use of others, and reduce the unintentional releases of a third category of chemicals.

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer:

The Vienna Convention served as a framework to protect the ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol under the Convention requires the parties to take concrete action to control ozone depleting substances.

Heritage

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention):

The Convention aims to promote cultural cooperation among nations to protect heritage from around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.

Torres Strait

Environmental Management Committee under the Torres Strait Protected Zone Treaty:

The Torres Strait Protected Zone Treaty defines the border between Australia and Papua New Guinea and provides a framework for the management of the common border area. The Environmental Management Committee assists in protecting the land, sea and air of the Torres Strait, including the native plant and animal life.

Treaties

Trade

Free Trade Agreements in force:

- ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement
- Australia-Chile Free Trade Agreement
- Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations
- Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement
- Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement
- Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement
- Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement

Free Trade Agreements under negotiation:

- Australia-China Free Trade Agreement
- Australia-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Free Trade Agreement
- Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement
- Australia-Japan Free Trade Agreement
- Australia-Korea Free Trade Agreement
- Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
- Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Free Trade Agreements negotiated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade include specific environment chapters or chapters with environment implications such as Government Procurement, Services, Technical Barriers to Trade, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement is a pathway for realising the vision of a free trade area of the Asia-Pacific. The department provides advice to The Department of Foreign Affairs on these negotiations.

Non-binding Agreements

Bilateral engagement

- Joint Understanding between Papua New Guinea and Australia on the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and the Kokoda Track Region
- Australia-Indonesia Joint Working Group on Environment and Climate Change
- China Council on International Cooperation on Environment and Development

Regional engagement

- The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)
- The Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Programme (ATSEA)
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC)
- Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR ARC)
- The East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership

Non-binding Agreements
Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)• Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT)• UN General Assembly Regular Process (global and regional assessment of the state of the marine environment)• World Bank Global Oceans Partnership
Chemicals/Waste/Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (under UNEP)
Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Indigenous Network (WIN)• World Parks Congress (under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN))• International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals• The United Nations High Level Political Forum – replacing the Commission on Sustainable Development
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Water Forum

ATTACHMENT D: MINISTERIAL COUNCILS, BOARDS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

There are a range of fora of which you are, or may be, a member, including intergovernmental ministerial councils and ministerial boards. In addition, the portfolio has a wide range of advisory bodies responsible for providing you, the department and portfolio agencies with information and recommendations in relation to specific portfolio issues. This attachment provides details on these ministerial councils, boards and advisory bodies.

COAG Ministerial Councils

1. Standing Council on Environment and Water
2. National Environment Protection Council

Other Ministerial Councils

1. Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum
2. Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum
3. Legislative and Governance Forum on the Murray-Darling Basin (Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council)

Advisory Bodies

1. Alligator Rivers Region Advisory
2. Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee
3. Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee
4. Antarctic Science Advisory Committee
5. Australia and the Netherlands Concerning Old Dutch Shipwrecks Committee
6. Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Advisory Committee
7. Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee
8. Australian Heritage Council
9. Australian Landcare Council
10. Basin Officials Committee
11. Biological Diversity Advisory Committee
12. Booderee National Park Board of Management
13. Bureau of Meteorology Advisory Board
14. Environmental Water Scientific Advisory Panel
15. Environmental Water Stakeholder Reference Panel
16. Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity
17. Expert Panel for Major Coal Seam Gas Projects
18. Fuel Standards Consultative Committee
19. Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee
20. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board

21. Hazardous Waste Technical Group
22. Iconic Sites Taskforce
23. Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development
24. Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone
25. Indigenous Advisory Committee
26. Indigenous Protected Areas sub-committee
27. Indigenous Water Advisory Committee
28. Kakadu National Park Board of Management
29. Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee
30. Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel
31. Lake Eyre Basin Senior Officers Group
32. Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board
33. Murray Darling Basin Authority
34. Murray Darling Basin Community Committee
35. National Sustainability Council
36. National Water Commission
37. National Wildlife Corridors Committee
38. Natural Heritage Ministerial Board
39. Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee
40. Oil Stewardship Advisory Council
41. Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council
42. Product Stewardship Advisory Group
43. Rock Art Foundation Committee
44. Sydney Harbour Federation Trust
45. Threatened Species Scientific Committee
46. Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management
47. Urban Water Stakeholder Reference Panel

COAG Ministerial Councils

Standing Council on Environment and Water

Current Chair	Australian Government Minister for the Environment
Secretariat	National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) Service Corporation Secretariat contact: Theo Hooy, NEPC Executive Officer (02) 6274 1445
Role/Terms of Reference	<p>The Standing Council on Environment and Water (the Council) is one of 12 COAG Standing Councils created following a review of the Ministerial Council system in 2010. It is a council of ministers responsible for environment and water from the Commonwealth, all states and territories and New Zealand. The Australian Local Government Association is also represented. The Council first met in September 2011 and operates concurrently with NEPC.</p> <p>The purpose of the Council is to promote the protection of the environment and sustainable water management in order to enhance social, human health and economic and environmental outcomes in a sustainable manner for current and future generations. It provides a forum for governments to agree actions to address key national environmental protection and water management issues and challenges. It also enables governments to coordinate environment and water related programs and funding.</p> <p>The Council addresses broad national policy issues relating to environmental management and protection, particularly in regards to air, land, water, waste and biodiversity matters. It also addresses broad national policy and reform issues to promote the sustainable use and management of water. The scope of the Council can also include natural, historic and Indigenous heritage responsibilities.</p> <p>The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) supports the Council to achieve its priorities and responsibilities by pursuing and monitoring priority issues of national significance, and overseeing a range of policy, implementation and governance functions. SOC creates Thematic Oversight Groups (TOGs) to progress workplans for each priority and provide advice to SOC.</p> <p>The Council's priority issues of national significance, as agreed by COAG, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pursuing seamless environmental regulation and regulatory practice across jurisdictions; • progressing national water reform, including through implementing the National Water Initiative (NWI), the outcomes of the COAG review of the NWI, and other COAG commitments on water; • implementing the National Waste Policy; • implementing a national partnership approach to the conservation and management of land, waters, the marine environment and biodiversity at the landscape and ecosystem scale, and to building resilience in a changing climate; and • developing and implementing a National Plan for Clean Air to improve air quality and community health and wellbeing. <p>In pursuing its priority issues of national significance, the Council will take into account the cross-cutting issues of Indigenous disadvantage, regional Australia, bio-security, climate change and sustainable population.</p> <p>The Council has responsibilities under the following instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Environment Protection Council Act 1994 (Cth)</i>;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005 (Cth)</i>; • Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement 2009; and • Australian Underwater Cultural Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement 2010.
Meetings	<p>Meetings are held approximately every eight months. The most recent meeting was held in Wellington, New Zealand on 11 April 2013, and the next meeting is scheduled for 5 December 2013, to be held in Canberra.</p> <p>The location rotates through the states, territories and New Zealand.</p> <p>Given that the Council and NEPC have closely overlapping membership, it is usual for the Council meeting agenda to incorporate NEPC matters and for the two Councils to meet concurrently.</p> <p>Each meeting is preceded (6-8 weeks earlier) by a joint meeting of the Senior Officials Committee and the National Environment Protection Council Committee.</p>

National Environment Protection Council

Current Chair	Australian Government Minister for the Environment
Secretariat	National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) Service Corporation Secretariat contact: Theo Hooy, NEPC Executive Officer (02) 6274 1445
Role/Terms of Reference	<p>The National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) is a statutory body of ministers from the Commonwealth and all states and territories, established under the <i>National Environment Protection Council 1994 Act</i> and mirror legislation in other jurisdictions.</p> <p>A key role of NEPC is to make national environment protection measures (NEPMs). Once adopted by NEPC, NEPMs are implemented in each Australian jurisdiction through mirror legislation. NEPMs developed to date are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Pollutant Inventory; • Ambient Air Quality; • Assessment of Site Contamination; • Used Packaging Materials; • Movement of Controlled Waste; • Diesel Vehicle Emissions; and • Air Toxics.
Meetings	<p>Meetings are held approximately every eight months. The most recent meeting was held in Wellington, New Zealand on 11 April 2013, and the next meeting is scheduled for 5 December 2013, to be held in Canberra.</p> <p>The location rotates through the states, territories and New Zealand.</p> <p>Given that NEPC and the Standing Council on Environment and Water (Council) have closely overlapping ministerial representation, it is usual for the NEPC agenda to be incorporated into the Council meetings.</p> <p>Each meeting is preceded (6-8 weeks earlier) by a joint meeting of the Senior Officials Committee and the National Environment Protection Council Committee.</p>

Other Ministerial Councils

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum

Current Chair	Australian Government Minister for the Environment
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Mary Colreavy (02) 6274 1964
Role/Terms of Reference	<p>In June 2009, the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland agreed on a new Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement. The new Intergovernmental Agreement replaces the 1979 "Emerald Agreement", recognising challenges not contemplated at that time. It provides the framework for a new era of cooperation between the governments to protect the globally significant Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>Following a review of the Ministerial Council system in 2010, the former Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council has been referred to as the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum (the Forum) from 1 July 2011. The Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement provides the Ministerial Forum with a clear charter to progress coordinated and complementary action by the Australian and Queensland Governments to ensure the long term protection and ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>The Ministerial Forum is comprised of two ministers each from the Australian and Queensland Governments with responsibility for matters relating to the environment and marine parks, science, tourism and/or natural resource management. Ministers responsible for mining may not be members.</p>
Meetings	Under the Agreement, the Forum is expected to meet at least once per year, and can conduct business out of session. The Forum last met in July 2013, and is anticipated to meet again in December 2013.

Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum

Current Chair	Australian Government Minister for the Environment
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Tony Slatyer (02) 6274 1919
Role/Terms of Reference	<p>The Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum (the Forum) was established under the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement (the Agreement), signed by the Australian, Queensland and South Australian Governments in 2000, and the Northern Territory Government in June 2004.</p> <p>Its role is to implement the Agreement by developing or adopting policies and strategies for the management of the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement Area in accordance with the purpose, objectives and principles set out in the agreement.</p> <p>The Forum may also adopt management plans prepared by the states/territory in the Lake Eyre Basin if those plans are consistent with the Agreement and with the policies developed or adopted by the Forum.</p>
Meetings	Annually

**Legislative and Governance Forum on the Murray-Darling Basin
(Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council)**

Current Chair	Australian Government Minister for the Environment
Secretariat	<p>Secretariat support is provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and the department</p> <p>Contact: Lailey Wallace (02) 6279 0116 (MDBA)</p>
Role/Terms of Reference	<p>The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council (the Council) is established by the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, Schedule 1 to the <i>Water Act 2007</i>.</p> <p>Following a review of the Ministerial Council system in 2010, the former Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council is now known as the Legislative and Governance Forum on the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>When exercising powers and functions under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement and the <i>Water Act 2007</i>, ministers with responsibility for the Murray-Darling Basin convene as the Council as established by the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, Schedule 1 to the <i>Water Act 2007</i>.</p> <p>The Council considers and determines outcomes and objectives on major policy issues of common interest to governments on water and natural resource management in the Murray-Darling Basin. The Council also approves MDBA's annual corporate plan and budget. It has policy and decision-making roles for matters such as state water shares, critical human water needs and the funding and delivery of natural resource management programs. It also had an advisory role in the preparation of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>The Council may give directions to the Basin Officials Committee concerning the committee's functions and powers under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, and may also seek the advice of the Basin Community Committee.</p> <p>The council had an advisory role in the preparation of the Basin Plan by the MDBA. When the Basin Plan was made, the MDBA advised the council on the socio-economic implications of any reductions in the sustainable diversion limits in the Basin Plan. The MDBA is required to provide advice to the Council on the impacts of the Basin Plan five years after it first takes effect.</p>
Meetings	Meetings are held biannually but it is expected that only one meeting will be held in 2013 on 15 November 2013.

Advisory Bodies

Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee

Current Chair	Professor Charles Webb
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Mr Richard McAllister (08) 8920 1102
Role/Terms of Reference	The Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee is a statutory stakeholder advisory committee established under the Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978. The Committee facilitates consultation and communication between relevant community, industry and government stakeholders in relation to the protection of the Alligator Rivers Region environment from uranium mining impacts.
Meetings	The Committee meets twice a year.

Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee

Current Chair	Dr Simon Barry
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Mr Richard McAllister (08) 8920 1102
Role/Terms of Reference	The Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC) is a statutory scientific advisory committee established under the Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978. ARRTC independently reviews and advises the Minister on the quality of scientific research, monitoring and assessment undertaken into the potential environmental impacts of uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region.
Meetings	The Committee meets twice a year.

Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee (AAEC)

Current Chair	Ms Anita King
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact : Ms Jenny Foley (03) 6232 3530
Role/Terms of Reference	The Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee is an advisory committee whose primary role is to ensure that all animal research conducted within the Australian Antarctic program complies with the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition (the Code).
Meetings	The Committee meets once a year.

Antarctic Science Advisory Committee

Current Chair	Professor Will Steffen
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Dr Gwen Fenton (03) 6232 3396
Role/Terms of Reference	The Antarctic Science Advisory Committee assists the Minister and the department in the development of science strategy, evaluation of science quality, advice on the infrastructure and capability required to support the science program, and alignment with national and international science programs.
Meetings	The Committee meets twice a year.

Australia and the Netherlands Concerning Old Dutch Shipwrecks Committee

Current Chair	Ms Alex Rankin
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Andrew Viduka (02) 6274 2116
Role/Terms of Reference	The Agreement between the Netherlands and Australia concerning old Dutch shipwrecks found off the Western Australian coast was signed on 6 November 1972 and was a schedule to the Commonwealth <i>Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976</i> . The function of the Australia and the Netherlands Concerning Old Dutch Shipwrecks Committee is to determine the ownership and subsequent disposition between the Netherlands and Australia of the artefacts recovered from Dutch shipwrecks off the coast of Western Australia.
Meetings	The Committee meets on an 'as required' basis and the last meeting was held in 2009.

Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Advisory Committee

Current Chair	Currently vacant
Secretariat	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Rebecca Malcolm (03) 6232 3402
Role/Terms of Reference	The Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Advisory Committee was established to advise the Australian Government on names for features in the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands, and on nominations to be made to the Governor General for the award of the Australian Antarctic Medal.
Meetings	Held annually in March.