



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT**  
**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

MS25-000489

The Hon Madeleine King MP  
Minister for Resources and  
Minister for Northern Australia  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

[epbc@industry.gov.au](mailto:epbc@industry.gov.au)

Dear Minister

I am writing to you about a proposal to continue and extend the operating life of the North West Shelf (NWS) Project through the long-term processing of third-party gas and fluids and NWS Joint Venture field resources through the NWS Project facilities, Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia (WA) (see EPBC Act referral EPBC 2018/8335).

The above proposal was referred and assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for its impacts on National Heritage values of a national heritage place (section 15B and section 15C). I am proposing to approve this proposal, subject to conditions. My proposed decision is attached.

I understand that you may have administrative responsibilities relating to the action. I invite you to provide comments on my proposed decision within 10 business days of the date of this letter, including on any matters of economic or social concern that should be considered consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

You can find the assessment documentation for this project on the WA EPA's website:  
<https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/north-west-shelf-project-extension>

Please quote the title of the action and EPBC reference, as shown at the beginning of this letter, in any correspondence. You can send information to us:

By letter:  
North WA Section  
Environment Assessments West Branch  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
GPO Box 3090  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: [NorthWA.Section@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:NorthWA.Section@dcceew.gov.au)

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact the North WA Director, s 22  
s 22 by email to s 22 @dcceew.gov.au, or telephone s 22 and quote the  
EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

s 22

MURRAY WATT

28/5 /2025

Enc Notice recording proposed approval decision (EPBC 2018/8335)

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**From:** [Sarah ANDERSON \(via LaborMedia list\)](#)  
**Subject:** MINISTER MURRAY WATT - STATEMENT ON NORTH WEST SHELF GAS PROCESSING PROJECT - WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 May 2025 1:42:27 PM

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### **STATEMENT ON NORTH WEST SHELF GAS PROCESSING PROJECT**

The Australian Government has been considering a proposal to continue the use and extend the operating life of the North West Shelf gas processing plant in Karratha, Western Australia, beyond the expiry of its current approval in 2030.

Following the consideration of rigorous scientific and other advice including submissions from a wide cross-section of the community, I have today made a proposed decision to approve this development, subject to strict conditions, particularly relating to the impact of air emissions levels from the operation of an expanded on-shore Karratha gas plant.

In making my proposed decision I was required to consider:

- the potential impacts of extending the life of the plant on the national heritage values of nearby ancient rock art, and
- economic and social matters concerning the proposed development.

Based on the evidence before me and the Department's recommendations, my proposed decision is subject to strict conditions.

My responsibility is to consider the acceptability of the project's impact on protected matters. In this case, the impact of air emissions on the Murujuga rock art that forms part

of the Dampier Archipelago was considered as part of the assessment process. I have ensured that adequate protection for the rock art is central to my proposed decision.

I have provided the proponent with an opportunity to comment within the statutory timeframe of 10 business days, and I will consider the proponent's comments before a final decision is made.

While this process is ongoing, I will not be making further comment.

**WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025**

**MEDIA CONTACT: s 22**

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