



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water

OFFICIAL

MC25-008235

Dr Coral Rowston  
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Dear Dr Rowston

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, concerning the New Lenton Coal Project. Minister Watt has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on his behalf.

The department is aware of the issue raised within your letter and correspondence.

The New Lenton Coal Project (EPBC 2020/8778) remains under assessment for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Assessment of the action is focused on the controlling provisions for assessment – in this case (1) listed threatened species and communities, and (2) a water resource, in relation to a large coal mining development. Several of the matters you raise are outside this scope.

However, when the assessment is completed, the minister will have to decide whether or not to approve the taking of an action, and what conditions to attach to an approval if it is approved. In making that decision, he must consider economic and social matters (section 136(1)) and may consider the environmental history of the person proposing to take the action (section 136(4)).

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the government's attention.

Yours sincerely

Declan O'Connor-Cox  
Branch Head  
Environment Assessments Queensland

8 September 2025