

To: Minister for the Environment (For Decision)

DECISION TO AMEND THE EPBC ACT LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES FOR 10 SPECIES FROM TSSC73

Timing: 6 February 2019 (statutory deadline).

Recommendations:

s22

3. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for twelve assessments as proposed in Attachment A.

Agreed / Not agreed

Minister:

Date:

Comments:

Clearing Officer: Sent: 28/09/18	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division	s22
Contact Officer:	s22	s22	s22

Key Points:

1. This brief provides threatened species listing assessments for s22 from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's September 2018 meeting. Your statutory decisions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for considering the Committee's advice and amending the list are provided in Attachment A. s22

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Attachments

A: Statutory decisions

s22

PDR: MS18-001273

To: Minister for the Environment (For Decision)

DECISION TO AMEND THE EPBC ACT LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES FOR 10 SPECIES FROM TSSC73

Timing: 6 February 2019 (statutory deadline).



Recommendations:

s22

3. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for twelve assessments as proposed in Attachment A.

Agreed / Not agreed

Minister:

Date:

Comments:

mrb

15/2/19

Clearing Officer: Sent: 28/09/18	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division	s22
Contact Officer:	s22	s22	s22

Key Points:

1. This brief provides threatened species listing assessments for **s22** **s22** from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's September 2018 meeting. Your statutory decisions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for considering the Committee's advice and amending the list are provided in **Attachment A**. **s22** **s22**

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s22

Attachments

A: Statutory decisions

s22

Statutory Decisions

Statutory Decisions for amending the list of threatened species

FOI 190402
Document 2a

s22

s22

s22

s22

Statutory decisions for extending the completion timeframe for assessments

12. The Committee determined that it cannot meet the assessment completion timeframe for s22 *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion), s22

Further time is required to work with the relevant stakeholders to resolve technical points relating to the assessments.

13. The Committee requests an extension of the assessment completion time for the Australian Sea Lion, s22 from 30 September 2018 until 30 March 2019 as provided for by s.194P(2) of the EPBC Act. The Department supports the Committee's proposal to extend this timeframe.

14.

s22

15. Section 194P of the EPBC Act allows the Committee to request that you extend an assessment completion timeframe. You may extend the assessment timeframe, provided the total length of the assessment is not more than 5 years under s194P(3), s22. The extensions requested in this brief do not exceed the 5 year timeframe. If you agree to the extensions, reasons for the extensions will be published on the Department's website as per standard practice under (s194P(5)).

Recommendations: Extending the completion timeframe for assessments

- i. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion), from 30 September 2018 until 30 March 2019.

Agreed / Not agreed

s22

s22

To: Minister for the Environment (For Decision)

DECISION TO AMEND THE EPBC ACT LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES FOR 34 SPECIES FROM TSSC74

Timing: 9 August 2019 (statutory deadline)

Recommendations:



- 3. Agree to extend the Committee’s timeframe for nine assessments as proposed in Attachment A.

Agreed / Not agreed

Minister:

Date:

Comments:

Clearing Officer: Sent: 29 Mar 19	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division	s22
Contact Officer:	s22	s22	s22

Key Points:

- 1. This brief provides threatened species listing assessments for s22 from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee’s November 2018 meeting. Your statutory decisions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for considering the Committee’s advice and amending the list are provided in Attachment A. s22

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Attachments

A: Statutory decisions

s22

Statutory Decisions

Statutory Decisions for amending the list of threatened species

FOI 190402
Document 3a

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Statutory decisions for extending the completion timeframe for assessments

16. The Committee determined that it cannot meet the assessment completion timeframe for s22 species currently included in the Finalised Priority Assessment List. Additional time is required to work with the relevant stakeholders to resolve technical points relating to the assessments. The Department supports the Committee's request to extend these timeframes.
17. Section 194P of the EPBC Act allows the Committee to request that you extend an assessment completion timeframe. You may extend the assessment timeframe, provided the total length of the assessment is not more than 5 years under s194P(3), s22 [redacted].
[redacted] The extensions requested in this brief do not exceed the

5 year timeframe. If you agree to the extensions, reasons for the extensions will be published on the Department's website as per standard practice under (s194P(5)).

Recommendations: Extending the completion timeframe for assessments

s22

- ii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion) from 30 March 2019 until 30 September 2019.

s22

Copy to

To: Assistant Minister for the Environment (For Information)

Cc: Minister for the Environment and Energy

- Secretary
- Mr Cahill
- Ms Evans
- Mr Knudson
- Mr Heferen
- Ms Goodwin
- Ms Jonasson
- Mr Oxley
- Ms Bacon
- Mr Tregurtha
- Ms Collins

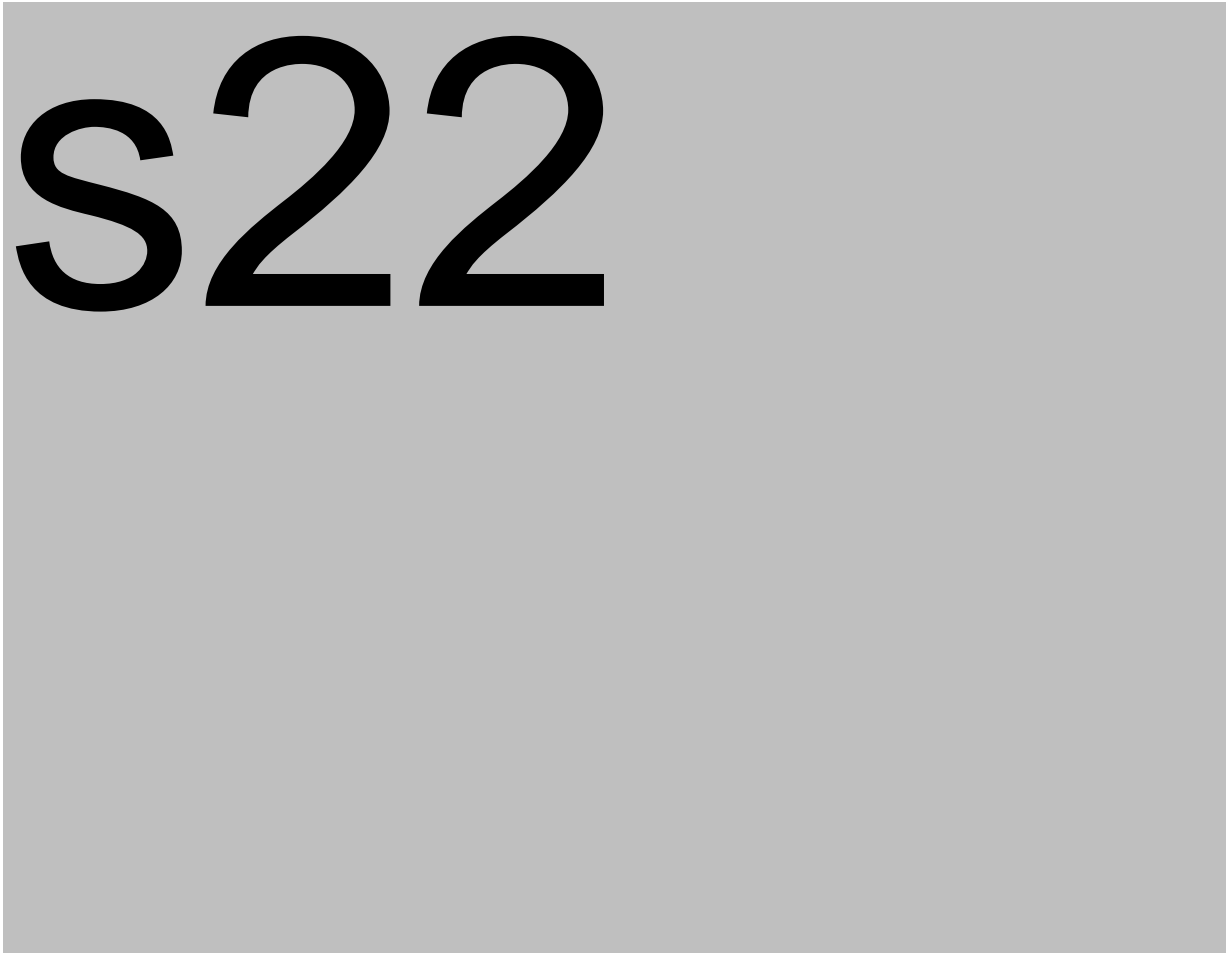
MEETING WITH ERICA MARTIN (CEO), AND NICOLA BEYNON (HEAD OF CAMPAIGNS), HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA

Timing: For meeting on 10:45am Wednesday 28 March

Chief of Staff
s22

Recommendation:			
1. That you note the contents in preparation for your meeting.			
			Noted / Please discuss
Assistant Minister:		Date:	
Clearing Officer: Sent:26/03/2018	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities / BCD	s22
Contact Officer:	s22	s22	s22

Meeting with: Humane Society International (HSI) – Australia: Ms Erica Martin (CEO) and Nicola Beynon (Head of Campaigns)



s22

5. HSI also have campaigns or concerns on the conservation of particular species:
 - a. prevent the impacts of bycatch to Australian sea lions in Western Australian waters (Attachment F).

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ATTACHMENTS

s22

F: Issues & Talking points – Threatened species: Australian sea lions in WA

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Threatened species: Australian Sea Lions in WA

Issues and Sensitivities:

1. Australian sea lion populations in the wild are declining. The Threatened Species Scientific Committee is currently assessing a nomination from HSI to uplist the Australian sea lion from Vulnerable to Endangered under the EPBC Act. The statutory date for the Committee to provide its advice on this assessment is 30 September 2018.
2. Australian sea lions are susceptible to drowning in bottom-set gillnets used to target sharks, such as in the Western Australian (WA) Temperate Shark Fisheries. While reported deaths are rare, even low mortality of adult females may lead to permanent loss of smaller breeding colonies.
3. The Department has been working with the WA Government to improve protection for Australian sea lions from these fisheries through an iterative process over a number of years. These fisheries were last assessed under the EPBC Act in August 2015. Ongoing approval was conditional on the WA Government implementing a negotiated network of zones to exclude gillnet fishing around sea lion breeding colonies by mid-2016.
4. The WA Government was unable to implement the agreed gillnet exclusion zones by mid-2016, citing unreasonable impacts on the local fishing industry. Minister Frydenberg agreed to extend the deadline to 30 June 2018, to allow the WA Government to negotiate a new network of closures that would still effectively protect Australian sea lions but with less impact on local fishing businesses. The WA Government also undertook to develop and invest in improved monitoring of Australian sea lion breeding colonies.
5. The WA Government advised the Department in early March 2018 that it was finalising the new network of gillnet exclusion zones ready for implementation later in 2018. The current EPBC Act approvals for these fisheries expire in August 2018.

Talking Points

If asked about protection for Australian sea lions in Western Australia

- My Department is working closely with the WA Government on reducing the risk of Australian sea lions drowning in commercial gillnets used in WA's southern shark fisheries.
- The WA Government has advised it is currently finalising gillnet exclusion zones that will be implemented around Australian sea lion breeding colonies in WA in 2018.
- I am confident that, once implemented, these gillnet exclusion zones will prove an important measure to protect this nationally threatened species from potentially fatal interactions with fishing gear.

If asked about the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's consideration of HSI's nomination to uplist the conservation status of the Australian Sea Lion:

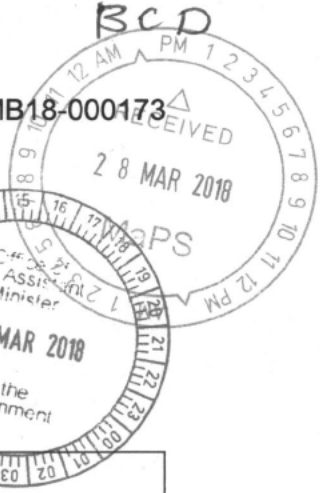
- The Threatened Species Scientific Committee is currently assessing the nomination to uplist the Australian sea lion from Vulnerable to Endangered under the EPBC Act. The statutory due date for the Committee to provide its advice to me on this assessment is 30 September 2018.

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s22

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s22



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MEETING WITH ERICA MARTIN (CEO), AND NICOLA BEYNON (HEAD OF CAMPAIGNS), HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA

Timing: For meeting on 10:45am Wednesday 28 March

Chief of Staff
s22

Recommendation:

1. That you note the contents in preparation for your meeting.

Noted by the Minister's Office

Noted / Please discuss

Assistant Minister:

Date:

Clearing Officer: Sent: 26/03/2018	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities / BCD	s22
Contact Officer:	s22	s22	s22

Meeting with: Humane Society International (HSI) – Australia: Ms Erica Martin (CEO) and Nicola Beynon (Head of Campaigns)

s22

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5. HSI also have campaigns or concerns on the conservation of particular species:
 - a. prevent the impacts of bycatch to Australian sea lions in Western Australian waters (**Attachment F**).

s22

ATTACHMENTS

s22

F: Issues & Talking points – Threatened species: Australian sea lions in WA

s22