



Australian Government

**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**



National environment law

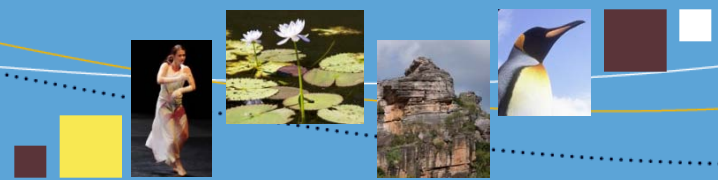
EPBC Act

What farmers need to know



Australian Government

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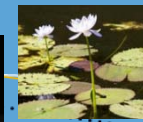


What is Australia's national environment law?

■ *Environment Protection and Biodiversity*

Conservation Act 1999

■ EPBC Act



Protected matters



Ramsar wetlands

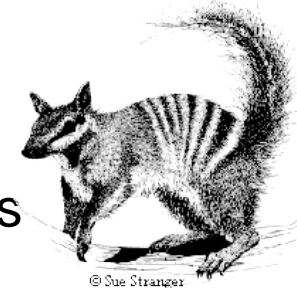
World heritage properties



Migratory species



Threatened species and ecological communities



© Sue Stranger

The Commonwealth marine area

Nuclear actions

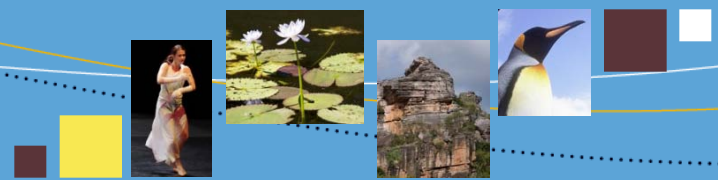


National heritage places



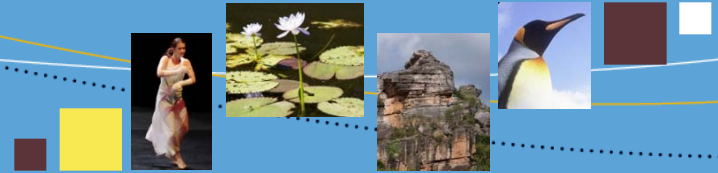
The environment on Commonwealth land





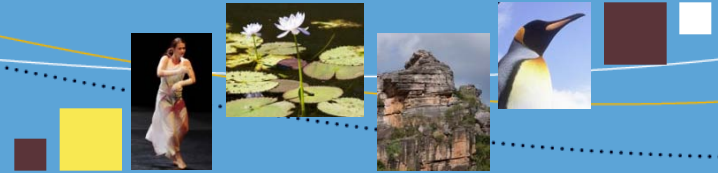
What are our responsibilities?

- Approval is required for activities with significant impacts on protected matters
- There are some exemptions
- If unsure, check!



Significant impacts

- Case by case
 - Status of the protected matter
 - Intensity
 - Extent
 - Duration



Penalties

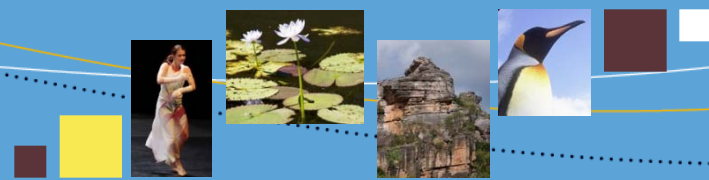
- Maximum penalties are:
 - \$5.5 million
 - 7 years imprisonment

- Court is a last resort



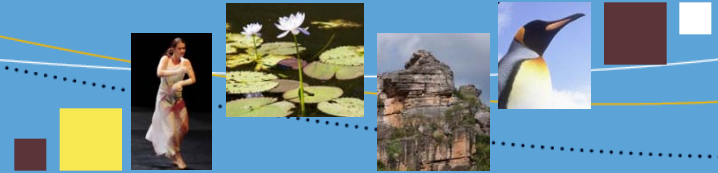
Caring for our Country

- Biodiversity – a national priority



Take home messages

- Farmers need to know about the law
- Business as usual is OK
- Changing land-use or a new activity may require approval
- If unsure, check!
- More info www.environment.gov.au/epbc



Environment liaison officer

- Free help
- Expert advice
- Presentations

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