The Wave
Stages 1 and 2 (Rail)

EPBC Act Assessment

November 2026

Assessment under the EPBC Act

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is Australia's national environmental law.

The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 was referred under the EPBC Act as the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project and is being assessed through a Public Environment Report (PER).

The assessment focuses on matters protected under the Act, including threatened species, threatened ecological communities, migratory species and the Moreton Bay Ramsar site.

What is in the Draft Public Environment Report?

The Draft PER brings together field surveys, monitoring, modelling and technical investigations undertaken between 2022 and 2026. It assesses potential environmental impacts and sets out proposed measures to avoid, reduce and manage them.

The assessments cover ecology, water, contaminated land, acid sulfate soils, noise and vibration, and social and economic impacts.

The Draft PER identifies significant impacts likely to remain after measures to avoid and reduce them, requiring environmental offsets. It also identifies construction impacts and risks expected to be localised, temporary or manageable through design, mitigation and monitoring.

How the findings have informed the design

Environmental investigations have informed the reference design and proposed measures to manage impacts. These measures include:

- avoiding impacts where practicable, then minimising and managing impacts that cannot be avoided
- using bridges, elevated structures and tunnelling where these approaches reduce disturbance or help maintain wildlife movement and water flows
- managing construction impacts through the project's Environmental Management Plan, supported by monitoring, reporting and adjustments where needed.

What happens next?

Following public notification, submissions will be considered and responded to in a submissions report. The PER will be updated where required and submitted to the Australian Government. The government will consider the final PER, public submissions and agency advice before deciding whether to approve the project under the EPBC Act and what conditions would apply.

Find out more

Read The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) Draft PER for the detailed findings and proposed environmental management measures.