



Australian Government

SM20/0801/NATCAB

24 July 2020

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0801	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT
--------------------	------------------	---

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the oral update by the Prime Minister on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).
2. Agreed in principle to adopt reforms to the EPBC Act approval process to move towards a single-touch approach, with the Commonwealth Government to enter into bilateral approval agreements with States and Territories.
3. Noted the 15 major projects which will be fast-tracked under bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth Government and States and Territories.
4. Noted national standards for environmental approvals will be developed simultaneously through further public consultation.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM20/1328/NATCAB
11 December 2020

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

Paper	SM20/1328	ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND JOBS
--------------	------------------	--------------------------------------


The National Cabinet:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

5. Considered the paper Infrastructure Delivery.
6. Agreed:
 - (a) to reaffirm the National Cabinet's commitment to implement single-touch environmental approvals under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 ('EPBC Act') to speed up projects, support economic recovery and create jobs
 - (b) the immediate priorities are to pass legislation streamlining approval processes and to develop national environmental standards reflecting the current requirements of the EPBC Act
 - (c) subsequent phases will build on these streamlining efforts and address any further changes and improvements, including to environmental



standards, taking into account the recommendations of the Independent Review of the EPBC Act (Samuel Review).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



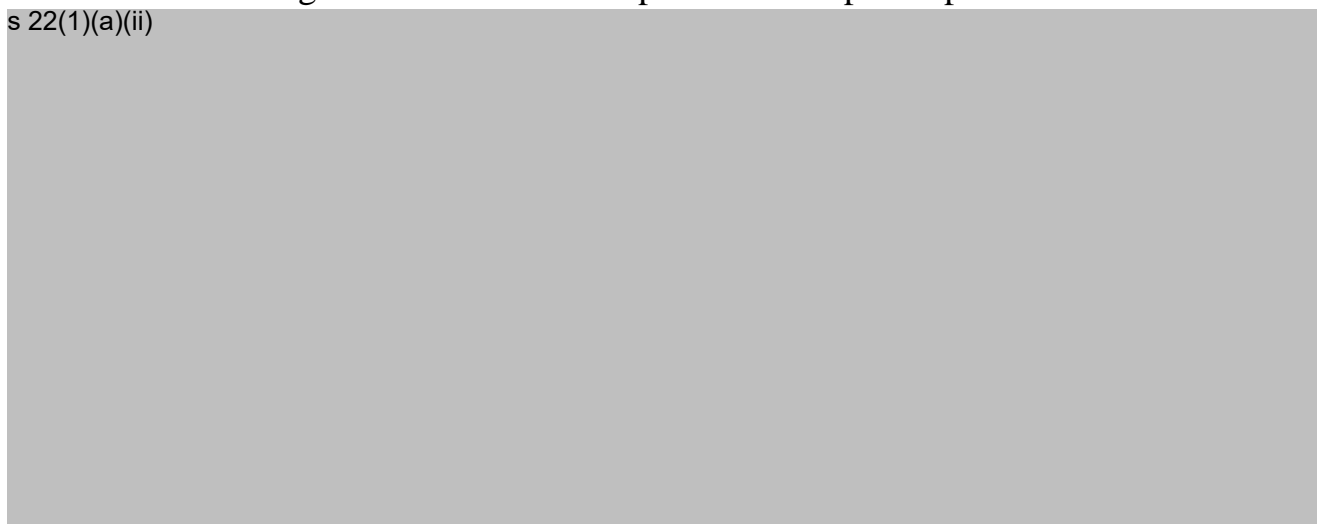
9. Agreed all jurisdictions will implement or continue prioritising the following actions to ensure timely delivery of infrastructure projects to meet economic objectives:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

(b) State and Territory governments and the Commonwealth will partner to prioritise and expedite planning and approval processes, including sharing draft material where possible to expedite processes

s 22(1)(a)(ii)





Australian, State and Territory
Governments

National Cabinet Paper

Title	Infrastructure Delivery
Sponsoring Minister(s)	Prime Minister

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



1 Proposed Actions

I recommend the National Cabinet

1. Note that the National Cabinet has previously tasked Infrastructure and Transport Reform Committee with expediting major projects through approvals processes, building on actions governments have already taken such as:
 - a. the Australian Government applying additional resources to accelerate the 15 major projects endorsed by National Cabinet on 24 July 2020 through Commonwealth environmental assessment processes; and
 - b. state and territory governments fast-tracking pre-construction planning and assessment processes for priority infrastructure projects.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)


3. Agree to implement or continue prioritising the following actions to ensure timely delivery of infrastructure projects to meet these economic objectives:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- b. State and territory governments and the Australian Government partner to prioritise and expedite planning and approval processes, including sharing draft material where possible to expedite processes;


s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



- 2.17 It is also important that wherever possible we partner and prioritise to expedite processes where we can. For example, the agreement earlier this year to expedite environmental approvals at the Commonwealth and state/territory level for 15 major projects is a significant step forward. Where multiple approvals are required for a project, looking for opportunities for these to occur in parallel can help reduce the lead times for projects. By partnering where possible we can ensure that key projects are delivered as quickly as possible.
- 2.18 Through the June 2020 meeting of the former Council of Australian Government Transport and Infrastructure Council, ministers committed to a streamlining reform agenda that included the Australian Government reviewing the threshold of Australian Government funding that triggers the requirement for a project proponent to submit a business case to Infrastructure Australia as a prerequisite to accessing Australian Government funding under the Infrastructure Investment Program. The Deputy Prime Minister has requested states provide their views on an appropriate threshold. The Australian Government welcomes views of states and territories as soon as practicable. Senior officials are preparing advice for Infrastructure and Transport Ministerial Meeting to consider in the new year.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)





Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 7

Friday 24 July 2020

10AM to 1PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

NO

RESPONSIBLE

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

(b) Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
(*Oral Update*)

Prime Minister

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

