

TERRESTRIAL FLORA AND FAUNA



Experience growth.

Local flora and fauna surveys conducted for the historical Yannarie project in 2005 found:

- The Cape Range area is a meeting area between two different climates: southwest WA with its winter rainfall, and northern WA with its cyclonic summer rainfall. As a result of this climate meeting zone, 20% of the recorded plants were at the boundaries of their known distribution. None of the 192 plant species recorded were listed as conservation significant.
- Eleven terrestrial vegetation types, representing three broad groupings based on landform: none of these vegetation types were of special conservation significance.
- 138 vertebrate fauna species: this included 57 bird species, 28 of which are protected under Federal Legislation. No other protected fauna were recorded.

K+S will collect further information on terrestrial flora and fauna relevant to the Ashburton Salt Project as part of environmental studies planned.

HOW WILL K+S AVOID AND MINIMISE IMPACTS TO TERRESTRIAL FLORA AND FAUNA?

The Project has the flexibility to avoid and minimise environmental impacts by changing the Project design as environmental studies are completed.

Clearing has been minimised by locating the majority of the Project (salt ponds) on the salt flats, which are devoid of flora and fauna habitat.

Clearing of vegetation and fauna habitat for roads and pipes outside the salt ponds, will be minimised.

Any migratory bird foraging and roosting sites will be identified before any disturbance takes place, and the Project will be designed and managed to avoid impacts to important foraging and roosting sites.

Management measures will be in place for vehicles and boats to avoid collisions with fauna, and to manage noise, lighting and food waste so that fauna are not affected.

It is possible that migratory birds and other shorebirds may even benefit from the Project: other salt projects are known to provide refuge for migratory species within their salt ponds.

Benthic communities and habitat will be protected as outlined in Fact Sheet #1.

Marine water quality will be protected as outlined in Fact Sheet #3.

K+S recognise that the flora and fauna is an important part of the local environment, and are committed to minimising any impacts to them.