



STUDIES FOR TERRESTRIAL FLORA

Current status: Studies commencing October 2018

Consultant engaged: Biota Environmental Sciences

The Cape Range area is highly valued for its ecological features on land and at sea. The region is a climatic meeting point between the winter rainfall in the south and the northern cyclonic rainfall in the summer. Local plants were assessed as part of an earlier study in the area and 20% are regarded to be at the boundaries of their known distribution. Of almost 200 plant species recorded, none have been previously listed as conservation significant.

What we are doing

The terrestrial flora study will include a detailed desktop study and mapping of vegetation communities to inform the need for field surveys. The study team will undertake the following activities:

1. Conduct new surveys to identify any flora and vegetation of regional and local conservation significance. The study will look for known species, any new species and groundwater dependent ecosystems.
2. Surveys will include areas of direct and indirect impact from the project activities.
3. Assess the impact of the proposed clearing footprint on plants and trees.
4. Assess the indirect impact of the proposed clearing activities on plants and trees.
5. Identify weeds and project activities that might contribute to the spread of invasive species or plant disease.
6. Conduct a review of rehabilitation experience, identify knowledge gaps and propose rehabilitation outcomes.

How we will use the information

The results of the terrestrial flora study will be used to recommend proposed monitoring, management and mitigation measures for construction, operations and closure including:

- An assessment of the effectiveness of mitigation and management strategies.
- Adaptive management responses will be planned to understand the residual impacts on vegetation species.
- Response plans will outline processes for unplanned events such as contamination or outbreaks of plant disease.

The Ashburton Salt Project has the flexibility to avoid and minimise environmental impacts by changing the Project design as environmental studies are completed. Clearing has been minimised across the project and most activity will occur on the salt flats, which are devoid of vegetation. Management measures and response plans will be in place to control any unintended events which might impact on local plants.

Related information

Fact Sheet #5 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

Date of fact sheet review

September 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION: