



Sediment controls in place to protect Dwarf Galaxias habitat.

Native flora and fauna

Peninsula Link is one of the largest road projects to be undertaken on the Mornington Peninsula. Work began in February 2010 and is due for completion in early 2013. Southern Way has been selected to finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the new freeway. Southern Way, and its construction contractor Abigroup, are making every effort to minimise the environmental impact of Peninsula Link.

Our commitment to protecting native flora and fauna

Southern Way recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing native flora and fauna habitats and maintaining a healthy environment. Some areas along the road reservation (including The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve) support vegetation and fauna habitats for diverse native species. Peninsula Link, like other major roads projects, may create some environmental challenges. The project team is committed to protecting and wherever possible, improving the natural environment along the route.

Flora in the region

Parts of the Peninsula Link alignment have been cleared previously for agricultural use or urban development. Extensive flora surveys have been undertaken within and adjacent to the Peninsula Link project area. A range of native and introduced species was found. One flora species of national significance, River Swamp Wallaby Grass (*Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) and another of state significance, Purple Blown Grass (*Fauna and Flora Guarantee Act 1989*) were recorded.

A range of threatened flora species, including Clover Glycine, Swamp Fireweed, Purple Diuris, Maroon Leek Orchid and the Frankston Spider Orchid may be present within the alignment. Substantial efforts are being made to minimise design and construction impacts in areas of known or possible flora habitat.



Artist's impression of fauna underpass in The Pines.

A Threatened Species Management Plan which included targeted pre-construction surveys has been prepared.

The pre-construction surveys did not find any of these species. However, if they are found during construction, further mitigation measures will be implemented.

Fauna in the region

Various types of fauna habitat exist around Peninsula Link. These include heathland, swamp scrub, woodland, forest, water bodies and pasture.

Extensive fauna surveys for the project were completed as part of a two and a half year planning study known as an Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

Two nationally listed fauna species were identified during the EES survey: the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Dwarf Galaxias.

The Southern Brown Bandicoot is thought to be present in The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve in small numbers. This area also offers potential habitat for the Swamp Skink.

The fish species Dwarf Galaxias was recorded in a number of waterways along the alignment, including the Balcombe, Tuerong and Devilbend creeks. There is also habitat along the project alignment potentially suitable for Growling Grass Frogs.

Protecting flora and fauna through design

A major feature of the project is careful consideration of native wildlife habitats found along the 27 kilometre corridor.

Abigroup has developed an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) that outlines measures to minimise and avoid potential impacts of design and construction activities on flora, fauna and the natural environment.

These design responses include:

- ▶ seeking to use areas of poorer quality native vegetation rather than areas with significant biodiversity values in the design of the road alignment
- ▶ designing waterway and fauna crossings to maintain and promote habitat connectivity
- ▶ minimising the construction footprint through the use of retaining walls
- ▶ incorporating 'Water Sensitive Road Design' elements
- ▶ using appropriate design to reduce light from the road affecting nocturnal animals in The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve.



An environmental rescue officer monitoring vegetation clearing.

Protecting flora and fauna during construction

Abigroup will implement a range of onsite mitigation measures and controls during construction to protect flora and fauna species within the project area and to reduce the impacts from works on known habitats.

These measures include:

- ▶ targeted flora and fauna surveys along the alignment prior to construction
- ▶ working closely with project ecologists and the construction team to determine the best methods to avoid impacts to known fauna habitats, including waterways and flora reserves

- ▶ using wildlife carers to assist with handling of fauna species found on site
- ▶ inspecting tree hollows for signs of fauna
- ▶ setting aside tree hollows for future landscaping and for use as fauna furniture across the alignment
- ▶ translocating listed Plains Grassy Wetland species
- ▶ collecting seeds from native flora species to be stored in a seed bank for future revegetation, landscape and enhancement plantings
- ▶ establishing 'no go' zones with fencing and signage prior to construction
- ▶ salvaging vegetation, with assistance from the community, in significant areas prior to clearing of non-threatened species of native plants, including The Willow Road Wetland, The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve and the Westerfield property
- ▶ ongoing weed management to prevent weeds, disease and pest species from spreading across the project area
- ▶ avoiding night construction in significant areas, including The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve, to minimise disturbance to fauna species
- ▶ specific measures to protect aquatic fauna.

What is fauna furniture?

Fauna furniture, as the name suggests, are pieces of 'furniture' similar to the natural environment that assist safer fauna movement. Fauna furniture items include logs, boulders and boxes.

Fauna furniture will be placed within and adjacent to fauna underpasses to further encourage wildlife movement. Fauna furniture will also be used within rehabilitation areas to encourage faster re-establishment of local ecosystems.

Do you need information?

The Peninsula Link Community Relations team works with stakeholders affected by the project and keeps the community well informed about construction progress.

You can get in touch with us by phoning our project community line on 1300 453 035. This number will operate 24 hours during major construction so you can reach us at any time.

You can find out more about the project by visiting: www.peninsulalink.com.au.



Contact Details

Phone 1300 453 035
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If you require the assistance of an interpreter please phone (03) 9280 0753

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Wednesdays to Fridays: 10am - 4pm
Third Saturday of the month: 10am-1pm

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