



Wildlife rescuers monitor the project site during construction activities.

Protected species

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.

Protected species in the Peninsula Link Reservation

While much of the Peninsula Link road reservation has been previously cleared for agricultural use or urban development there are key areas across the alignment supporting threatened flora and fauna species.

The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve (The Pines) is a biosite of state significance and offers 220 hectares of habitat for a range of flora and fauna species. One threatened flora species, River Swamp Wallaby Grass, and two nationally listed fauna species, the Southern Brown Bandicoot and one of eastern Australia's native fish species, the Dwarf Galaxias, have been identified in the reserve.

One species listed in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Purple Blown-Grass, has been recorded in the Plains Grassy Wetland near the EastLink Interchange. A range of other threatened flora species may possibly occur along the alignment.

These include Clover Glycine, Swamp Fireweed, Maroon Leek Orchid, Purple Diuris and the Frankston Spider Orchid. These species were not identified during the range of targeted flora surveys completed to date for the project. Threatened fauna species that may occur in or adjacent to the project corridor include the Growling Grass Frog and the Swamp Skink.



River Swamp Wallaby Grass.

The project has a dedicated team of ecologists who will implement established flora and fauna salvage protocols if any threatened species are found on site during works.

River Swamp Wallaby Grass

River Swamp Wallaby Grass is an aquatic plant with flowering stems which has been identified around the Tamarisk Creek wetland area within The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve.

The project has sought to retain a substantial area containing this species and will only disturb a small area during works.

Seed collection from the species will be undertaken and the wetland area will be retained during works and fenced off as a 'no go' zone.

The area will be monitored and all personnel and vehicles restricted from accessing the wetland site.

To ensure the longevity and health of the River Swamp Wallaby Grass, the flow of water in and out of the Tamarisk Creek wetland area will be maintained and monitored during construction. The realignment of Tamarisk Creek will result in increased water flows into the wetland area and improve the long-term habitat for the species.



Dwarf Galaxias.



Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Protecting flora and fauna through design

The Dwarf Galaxias is a small freshwater fish, native to eastern Australia. A number of creeks and waterways supporting populations of this fish species are crossed by the Peninsula Link alignment.

Local populations are known from Balcombe, Devilbend and Tuerong creeks. Design and future construction of the Devilbend Creek and Tuerong Creek waterway crossings will ensure that fish passage is maintained and necessary controls will be implemented to ensure no disturbance to the population or habitat. In addition the project will implement the following measures to protect and enhance habitat for the Dwarf Galaxias:

- ▶ regular pre-construction and construction monitoring of the species throughout the project by dedicated aquatic ecologist
- ▶ Creation and enhancement of habitats within and adjacent to Tamarisk Creek
- ▶ Use of water sensitive road design to minimise alterations to waterway flows, maintain and improve water quality
- ▶ Revegetation of areas within the immediate vicinity of waterway crossings
- ▶ Designing treatment and retention ponds in a manner which may provide new habitat
- ▶ Designing waterway crossings to allow for unimpeded fish crossings.



Contact Details



If you require the assistance of an interpreter please phone (03) 9280 0753

Southern Brown Bandicoot

The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve is home to the Southern Brown Bandicoot. This ground-dwelling marsupial is listed as 'near threatened' in Victoria. The project is committed to the ongoing survival of the species in this reserve.

Numerous targeted surveys have been carried out and a site specific Bandicoot Management Plan prepared to ensure the necessary controls and management measures are implemented to ensure protection of this species during vegetation clearing and construction.

The following measures will be undertaken to protect the Southern Brown Bandicoot during construction:

- ▶ project zoologists and wildlife carers will conduct inspections of the project corridor before any vegetation clearing. An approved program of trapping and monitoring will ensure no bandicoots are present in the area
- ▶ fauna exclusion fencing will be erected to prevent fauna species from entering the project alignment and construction area
- ▶ areas of vegetation to be retained will be fenced as 'no go zones'
- ▶ temporary fauna connectivity points will be installed at appropriate intervals through The Pines to allow for the safe passage of the Southern Brown Bandicoot and other fauna species during works.

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.

Phone 1300 453 035
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