

# Environment

July 2021

## Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade - Stage 1

The Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade (B2N) project will provide additional track capacity and reliability on the North Coast Line, creating travel time savings and increased passenger and freight services to the growing Sunshine Coast region.

The project will be delivered in stages, with the full scope of the business case including duplication of the North Coast Line between Beerburrum and Landsborough stations (around 20km in length) as well as station upgrades, new park 'n' ride facilities and new rail passing loops between Landsborough and Nambour.

The project will be delivered in stages, with preconstruction activities for Stage 1 now underway.

### Environmental considerations

The B2N project is committed to the protection and sustainability of our unique Sunshine Coast environment and heritage. The project team aims to minimise and mitigate impacts, and to replenish or enhance where possible.

TMR is currently assessing the environment within the project footprint, while also considering the broader landscape and other planned or active developments in surrounding areas. The project team is engaging with key stakeholders and other conservation projects, including Sunshine Coast Council, University of the Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Environment Council and the Department of Environment and Science, to share data and knowledge to better understand effective ways to lessen any potential development impacts.

### Biodiversity conservation

TMR is undertaking a range of environmental, cultural and heritage surveys and assessments to support the project's submission for assessment and approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

TMR is committed to minimising environmental impacts on all infrastructure projects and the B2N project team plans to achieve formal Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) ratings of 'excellent' for both design and as built phases of construction.



Flora survey map

Flora and fauna surveys began in 2020 and, to ensure the assessment accounts for the seasonality of some species, surveys will continue across the entire project footprint and surrounding buffer areas throughout 2021.

The surveys are non-invasive, mainly comprising of a walk through by ecologists/scientists to observe, map and count important habitat and matters of national and state environmental significance (MNES and MSES). In some locations, cameras will be installed for short periods to help identify species and understand fauna movements at these locations.

All information will be analysed to assist in developing the detailed design for the project. It will also help determine effective mitigation measures and commitments under the EPBC referral to provide improved environmental outcomes.



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## Species of significance

As a priority, the EPBC listed species targeted for assessment in the surveys include:

### Mammals

- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
- Water mouse (*Xeromys myoides*).

### Amphibians

- Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*)
- Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*).

### Flora

- Mt Emu She-oak (*Allocasuarina emuina*)
- Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*)
- Native Guava (*Rhodomyrtus psidioides*)
- Scented Acronychia (*Acronychia littoralis*)
- Marbled Balogia (*Baloghia marmorata*)
- Ravine Orchid (*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*).

### Insects

- Pink underwing moth (*Phyllodes imperialis smithersi*).

The ravine orchid (*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*) is one of the many species targeted for assessment in the project footprint and surrounding area.



Photograph by Arne and Bent Larsen.

### Birds (including migratory species)

- Black-faced Monarch (*Monarcha melanopsis*)
- Spectacled Monarch (*Symposiachrus trivirgatus*)
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)
- Coxen's fig-parrot (*Cyclopsitta dophthalma coxeni*);
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*)
- Australian fairy tern (*Sternula nereis nereis*)
- Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
- Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
- Pectoral sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)
- Red knot (*Calidris canutus*)
- Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*).

## Koala detection surveys

TMR used the University of the Sunshine Coast Detection Dogs for Conservation (DDC) to investigate the presence or absence of koalas in the B2N project footprint.

Surveys were completed in August 2020 and repeated again in January 2021 during the koala breeding season.

The DDC use highly skilled, well-trained detection dogs. A team consisting of two handlers and two koala detection dogs conducted surveys in the field, with the dogs fitted with unique GPS tracking collars.

No evidence of koala activity (scat or koalas) was found during either survey. The final reports noted that if koalas were present in the surrounding areas, it is likely they would be in low densities.

This data will be included in the project's submission to the Australian Government in compliance with the EPBC Act.



USC Detection Dogs for Conservation, Maya and Baxter, completed two surveys in the B2N project footprint looking for evidence of koalas.

## Contact details

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\* Free call from anywhere in Australia, call charges apply for mobile phones and payphones. Check with your service provider for call costs.

## Have your say



TMR welcomes your feedback on the B2N project.

Scan the QR code to go directly to the online consultation page where you can add your comments.

**13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

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