

# Terrestrial environment

## Fact sheet

Northern Water aims to provide a secure, climate resilient water source for industry located in South Australia's Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North. The Project is located on the traditional lands of the Barngarla and Kokatha Peoples.

### Protecting the environment

The delivery of Northern Water will involve the construction and operation of a large-scale desalination plant and approximately 400 km of transfer pipeline. The Project is being designed to meet regulatory and legislative environmental and planning assessment requirements.

As part of the assessment process, the Project is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), supported by comprehensive ecological studies including habitat and vegetation surveys and mapping.


The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the Project and identify how these will be avoided, minimised or carefully managed.

### Consultation informing project outcomes

To support informed decision making, we meet regularly with our Stakeholder Reference Group, which includes representatives from the Department for Environment and Water, the Environment Protection Authority, landscape boards, local government and conservation groups.

We are working closely with the Traditional Owners, the Barngarla and Kokatha Peoples, to incorporate their knowledge and understanding of Country into the Project.

We will continue to gather insights through each phase of the Project to ensure that all stakeholder perspectives are considered.



Roxby Downs

# Terrestrial environmental investigations

We have undertaken ecological investigations across the Project area, including vegetation mapping and habitat surveys.

The habitat surveys, targeted at threatened and Environment Protection Biodiveristy Conservation (EPBC) Act listed species, include:

- Plains Mouse habitat assessment and camera trapping survey
- Western Grasswren targeted survey
- migratory bird desktop assessment
- bird surveys and song meter deployment.



**Song meter deployment has been carried out across the Project area. Ecologists set up a sound recorder which captures bird songs. This process helps to identify and classify different species.**

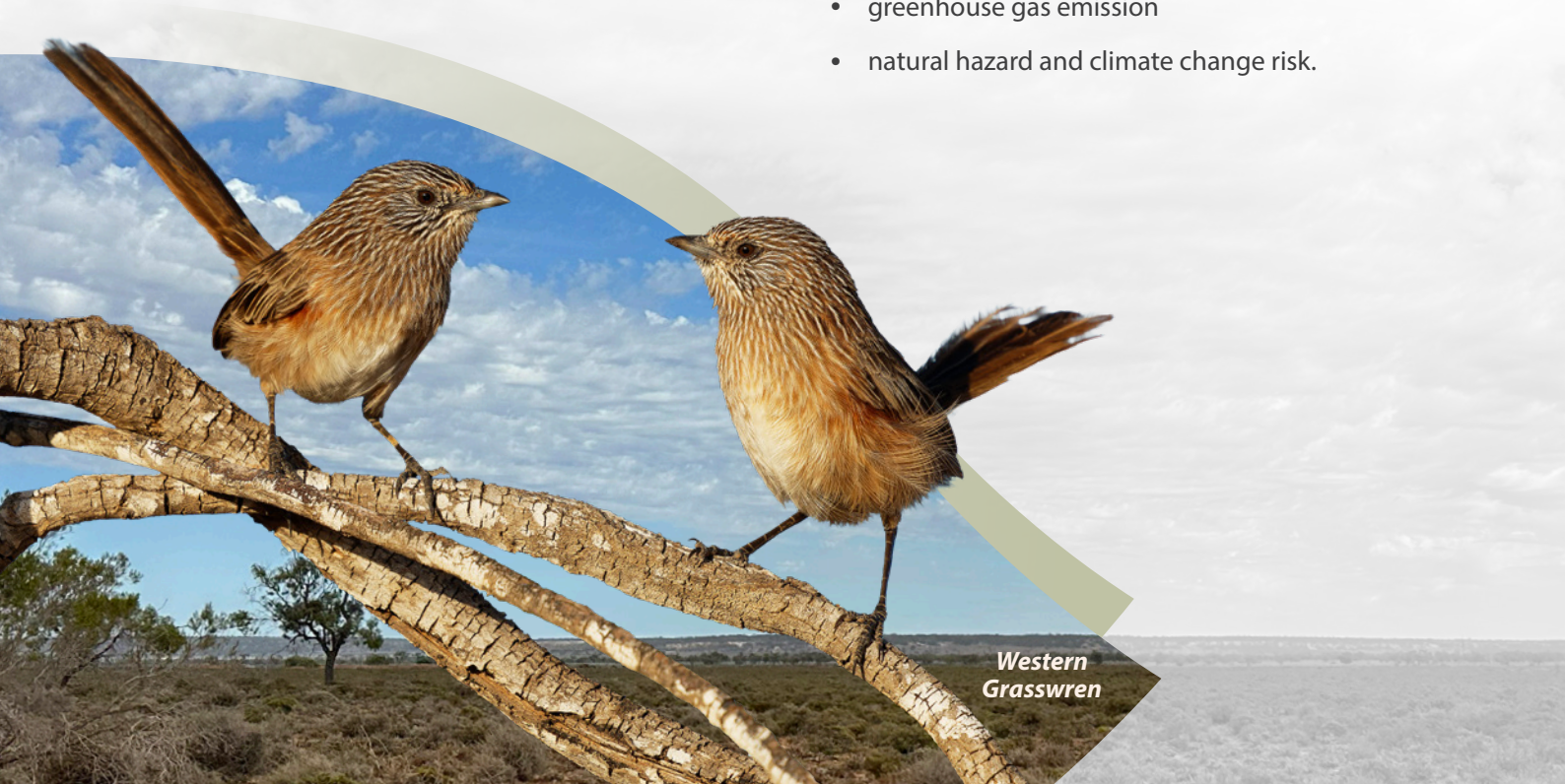


**Camera trapping does not involve the capture of animals. It uses a remotely activated camera with motion or heat sensors to automatically take photos or videos of wildlife. This allows for non-invasive monitoring of animals in remote areas without human presence.**



Other investigations and assessments undertaken to inform the EIS include:

- marine environment
- water quality
- surface water management
- soil quality
- erosion control
- air quality
- noise and vibration
- landscape and visual impact
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- social impact
- greenhouse gas emission
- natural hazard and climate change risk.



*Western  
Grasswren*

# Environmental management

Northern Water is being designed and constructed to minimise impact on the unique and valuable Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North environments.

We will prepare Construction Environmental Management Plans and subplans that set requirements for soil, weed and vegetation management, site rehabilitation and restoration. These plans will help us to meet Project requirements and approval conditions throughout construction and operation.

The mitigation and management approaches will include:

- aligning the pipeline and infrastructure to avoid remnant vegetation and natural waterways, utilising previously cleared or disturbed areas where possible
- implementing construction techniques that reduce impacts
- restricting pipeline width and the construction corridor, while maintaining safe pipeline installation
- obtaining approvals for the removal of vegetation
- minimising the spread of weeds, disease and pests from one area to another through vehicle checks, washdowns and surveillance monitoring
- protecting fauna through regular inspections, monitoring of construction sites and fauna relocation
- restricting travel on access tracks to daylight hours, as far as practicable, to avoid nocturnal species.


To encourage site regeneration of local species, rehabilitation processes are carried out during and after construction. These include:


- low impact vegetation removal
- topsoil retention
- progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas
- seed collection and direct seeding
- tubestock planting
- weed management.




*Ecologists undertaking a vegetation survey near Whyalla*

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*North of Whyalla*

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bamgarla and Kokatha Peoples, and their deep ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

We will work together to share our collective knowledge and recognise the enduring impact of infrastructure on Country.

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