

Gold Coast Rapid Transit

Protecting our environment

Respecting and protecting the local environment is a priority for the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project. Throughout the construction of the Gold Coast University Hospital Station Shell, we will work to minimise impacts on the surrounding environment.

The project team is committed to caring for the environment and will maintain the highest standards in environmental practices.

The Gold Coast Rapid Transit route between Griffith University and Broadbeach follows the existing road corridor and therefore the impact to the environment is minimised. However the creeks, parks and green space are highly valued by the local community and offer refuge for a variety of local flora and fauna.

For each package of work we have developed an Environmental Management Plan specifically created for that area to reduce construction impacts on the environment. This plan establishes the guidelines and steps the team must follow to protect the local environment, including flora and fauna during construction.

Environmental protection and biodiversity

Due to the significance of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project, a referral to the Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act was made.

Environmental studies on the impact of the project were conducted, which detected how the project intends to protect wildlife and significant habitats during construction and operation. Impacts were largely avoided by changes to the alignment of the route and the development of mitigation strategies to protect the environment.



We will work to minimise environmental impacts during these early works.

Protecting local wildlife

Parks and green space surrounding the Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) Station Shell project site offer refuge for a range of flora and fauna species. To minimise impacts on this area, the project will use a number of wildlife management techniques during the life of the project, including:

- Engaging a wildlife spotter to survey the project area prior to clearing.
- Marking hollow or potential hollow habitat trees within the project area.
- Inspecting all habitat trees in the area for wildlife and relocating any wildlife found.
- Engaging an on-call handler to relocate wildlife where required.



Regular water testing will be carried out during construction of the station shell early works.

Flora management

During construction, the team will work towards minimising construction impacts on surrounding vegetation. The Environmental Management Plan outlines vegetation management processes to minimise clearing and construction impacts, including:

- Ensuring that retained trees do not have their roots disturbed.
- Erecting fencing where possible to outline areas around retained trees.
- Reusing cleared vegetation and mulch onsite where appropriate.
- Implementing landscaping works progressively to limit the potential for erosion and minimise weed infestations.

Caring for our waterways

The construction team is conscious of the potential impacts activities can have on surrounding waterways. To ensure these local waterways are protected, a range of management processes will be implemented, including:

- Establishing concrete washout areas to make sure plant and equipment do not release construction debris into local waterways.
- Regular water quality testing of treated water before it is released from site.
- Weekly water testing and monitoring of waterways surrounding the construction area.

About the project

The GCUH Station Shell is the first in a series of Early Works to be carried out as part of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project. This project is limited to the construction of the below-ground station structure and approach ramps, with fit out being constructed as part of the main Gold Coast Rapid Transit project construction. The station shell is due for completion in late 2011.

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