



# Hells Gates



A range of field surveys will be undertaken for the Hells Gates Project to document the current environmental conditions across the project area. These studies will be supplemented by desktop assessment of existing information. The results will inform the Business Case and environmental assessment.

## FLORA & FAUNA SURVEYS

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Flora and fauna surveys will be conducted by suitably qualified ecologists to identify plant and animal species present in the project area and assess their distribution.

The flora and fauna surveys will be conducted in a range of terrestrial and aquatic environments (e.g. wetlands, open woodlands, creeks, rivers) using multiple methods.

The method used will depend on the type of environment, the species that may occur and conditions at the time of sampling.

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## Fauna

### Terrestrial

- Visual observations/surveys, either ad hoc or using transects (e.g. spotlighting, sightings, scat and sign searches)
- Setting of traps (e.g. Elliot traps, camera traps, pitfall traps)
- Call playback surveys & acoustic recordings

### Aquatic

- Ad hoc visual observation
- Using nets (e.g. sweep nets for aquatic bugs or seine nets for fish)
- Setting of traps (e.g. box traps for crustaceans and fish, cathedral traps for turtles)
- Electrofishing (i.e. the use of low voltage electricity to capture or control fish) by boat or backpack.

## Flora

- Visual observation using systematic transects, timed meanders and ad hoc survey

The setting of traps and nets will require equipment to be left on-site for specific periods of time (a set number of hours or overnight). Ecologists may also have to stay on site to conduct night surveys (e.g. spotlighting for nocturnal species) and to monitor traps.

## Consultation

All field investigations will be undertaken in consultation with landowners. Specific measures which ensure that there will be no effect on landholder operations and activities will be identified through engaging with landowners and enshrined in the Project Land Access Protocol. All field work will be conducted in accordance with landholder requests and consider the location of sampling sites, how these sites are to be access and the timing of access.



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ON BEHALF OF

**townsville  
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