



# 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.

## HELICOPTER VEGETATION SURVEY

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Our ecology team will be taking visual assessment of the project area by helicopter in late May with Townsville Helicopters.

This investigation will provide an efficient means for our ecology team to survey the broad and vast area from the air. They will have the ability to more closely investigate areas of interest with low level flying or landing in the area to look at rare or endangered vegetation.

This work will allow our field teams to gather information to inform efficient ground investigations in the future.

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## Helicopter Survey Protocol

SMEC's ecology team will be conducting Vegetation Survey from the air via helicopter with Townsville Helicopters. Townsville Helicopters are a specialist helicopter company based in Townsville, with locally experienced pilots from a family owned business, with a mustering background. This work will be conducted as follows:

- This survey will be conducted using a Robinson 44
- Townsville Helicopters are approved for low level work both from a company and pilot experience perspective
- Unless required to fly at low level to identify vegetation, the helicopter will be flying at 500ft AGL, avoiding overflying cattle and properties,
- Pilots have mustering experience so are aware of how to fly around cattle to avoid unnecessary noise,
- The pilot will use the local CTAF but can also monitor a local property radio frequency if required,
- If required, we can provide a contact number on the day for the Pilot,
- All flying will be completed in daylight hours.



**TOWNSVILLE  
HELICOPTERS**

## Consultation

All field investigations will be undertaken in consultation with landholders. Protocols are in place to ensure there will be no effect on landholder operations and activities. These protocols are documented in our the Land Access Protocol developed for the project and available from our team or on website. 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.



[info@hellsgatesproject.com.au](mailto:info@hellsgatesproject.com.au)



[hellsgatesproject.com.au](http://hellsgatesproject.com.au)

ON BEHALF OF

  
**townsville  
enterprise**