

Roy Hill Rail Project

Roy Hill Infrastructure Ltd



CLIENT:

Roy Hill Infrastructure Pty Ltd

LOCATION:

Eastern Pilbara

SERVICES:

- Level 1 and Level 2 and Targeted Northern Quoll surveys
- Level 2 short-range endemic invertebrate fauna survey
- Impact assessment and mitigation measures
- Implementation of fauna trapping and translocation program for the entire rail alignment (~ 340 km)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Customised step-by-step approach for baseline surveys maximised efficiencies
- State and Federal approval with appropriate conditions
- Completion of fauna trapping and translocation project ahead of schedule and under budget

Phoenix undertook vertebrate and short-range endemic (SRE) invertebrate surveys along the Bonney Downs section of the Roy Hill rail alignment in 2010, providing a complete fauna assessment for the 77 km-long corridor. In 2013, Phoenix was awarded the fauna trapping and translocation contract for the construction phase of the entire Roy Hill Rail Project in partnership with Ecoscape Environmental Consultants.

A preliminary desktop survey highlighted the potential of the area for both conservation significant vertebrate species and short-range endemic (SRE) invertebrate fauna. Level 1 and 2 surveys confirmed the presence or potential occurrence of a number of species, including Northern Quoll and range-restricted *Antichiropus* millipedes. A targeted Northern Quoll survey was undertaken in which areas of potential conservation significant fauna habitat were mapped, forming the basis for a fauna trapping and translocation program to be conducted during the construction of the railway.

The absence of tracks and roads in difficult terrain across much of the proposed rail alignment necessitated the use of a helicopter to airlift all trapping equipment and personnel. Phoenix worked cooperatively with the heritage teams while maintaining the budget, timeframes and ethical obligations in respect to trapped animals.

The project was subsequently approved under several conditions, involving management and mitigation with respect to conservation significant fauna and offset measures for vertebrate and invertebrate fauna.

Subsequently, Phoenix developed a comprehensive project management and manning schedule for the fauna trapping and translocation project required during construction of the rail line - Port Hedland to the Roy Hill mine (~ 340 km x 1km corridor). Phoenix was awarded the contract in 2013 and at its peak in October was managing four clearing fronts and four teams of zoologists. The main program was completed ahead of schedule in February 2014 with Phoenix providing follow-up and ongoing support to various parties involved in the project.



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