

8. Overall Impact Assessment

Route selection and the design and incorporation of mitigation measures were undertaken in consultation with Koala Survey and Management Services and with NPWS Northern Zone. The overall impact of this proposal is likely to be **high local** for the following reasons:

- Route selection incorporated consideration of flora and fauna values.
- Significant mitigation measures have been incorporated into the proposal in order to minimise habitat fragmentation and barrier effects and to reduce or eliminate Koala road kills. These are likely to reduce the impacts of the existing Pacific Highway.
- No significant flora species will be removed as a result of the proposal based on the latest survey for the Rusty Plum located during the preliminary survey.
- All of the vegetation communities along the proposed route are represented elsewhere in the region.
- Habitat to be lost as a result of the proposal will be partially compensated for by mitigation measures, which will reduce roadkills and may increase the availability of fauna habitat on the roadside.
- The replacement of habitat Lost as a result of the proposal near Bongil Bongil National Park is presently being negotiated between the RTA and NPWS.
- The integrity of two corridors of regional significance to Koalas and possibly other fauna groups will be maintained through the incorporation of major fauna underpasses.
- Aquatic impacts are likely to be minimised through the construction of major structures over larger creeks.