NATURE CONSERVATION

A study of the terrestrial and aquatic ecology of the proposed site and surrounds was undertaken. The studies examined the potential impact that the construction and operation of the marina might have on flora and fauna in the area.

The study found that:

- no Commonwealth or State 'significant' or 'threatened' species of flora were identified
- the area has no likely significance as a wildlife corridor for amphibians, reptiles or birds
- native animals that could be found in the area include the Northern Quoll, the Proserpine Rock-wallaby, the Spectacled Flying-fox and the Water Mouse/False Water Rat, but these were unlikely to be affected by the development
- riparian buffers, in the form of the grassed stormwater diversion swale, will provide protection for amphibians and reptiles that may occur on the site

Studies show that overall the development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the terrestrial fauna and habitats.

To enable construction of the marina, it is proposed that 0.15 hectares of low eucalypt woodland and 1.65 hectares of mangrove shrubland be removed on the southern side of Shute Harbour Road.

Suitable native vegetation will be used for landscaping of the project.

Aquatic ecology

The majority of potential impacts are expected in the marine environment of the Shute Harbour Marina Resort site. Direct habitat loss will be offset by:

- colonisation of the marina structure by marina flora and fauna
- installation of fish friendly structures which create habitat complexity and allow free movement
- replacement of 57 standard swing moorings with low impact seagrass friendly moorings resulting the colonisation of 950m^2 of seabed by seagrass
- development of a **Reef Conservation Fund** incorporating education and awareness initiatives
- construction of environmentally sensitive public moorings
- education through a **Marine Interpretive Centre** and a **Cultural Centre**
- implementation of a Marine Mega Fauna Management Plan

SHUTE HARBOUR
MARINA