

APPENDIX 10.1
GLOSSARY OF IMPACT TERMINOLOGY

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GLOSSARY OF IMPACT TERMINOLOGY

Positive Impact	A change that improved the quality of the environment (for example, by increasing species diversity and the reproductive capacity of the ecosystem, by removing nuisances or improving amenities).
Neutral Impact	A change that does not affect the quality of the environment.
Negative Impact	A change that reduces the quality of the environment (for example, by lessening species diversity and the reproductive capacity of the ecosystem by damaging health, property or by causing nuisance).
Imperceptible Impact	An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
Slight Impact	An impact that causes changes in the character of the environment that is not significant or profound.
Moderate Impact	An impact that causes an appreciable segment of the panorama to be affected or where there is intrusion into the foreground (partial or limited views).
Significant Impact	An impact that, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters an important aspect of the environment.
Profound Impact	An impact that obliterates all previous characteristics.
Temporary Impact	Impact lasting for one year or less.
Short-term Impact	Impact lasting one to seven years.
Medium-term Impact	Impact lasting seven to twenty years.
Long-term Impact	Impact lasting twenty to fifty years
Permanent Impact	Impact lasting over fifty years.
Impact Avoidance	When no change is caused.
Impact Reduction	Where the significance of adverse impacts is lessened.
Impact Remedy	When an adverse effect is eliminated.
Irreversible Impact	When the character, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
Indeterminable Impact	When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
Cumulative Impact	The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.
Synergistic Impact	Where the resultant impact is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents.
“Worse case” Impact	The impacts arising from a development in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
“Do nothing” Impact	The environment as it would be in the future should no development of any kind be carried out.