

Saint Helena Access

Social and Environmental Impact

Environmental Impact

The **Environmental Statement**, publicly available online and as a six-volume paper copy, contains all the analysis and results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to date. The EIA team will work with the selected Contractor during the detailed design process with the aim of continuing to find ways of avoiding or minimising potential adverse impacts. They will also ensure that all necessary legally binding contractual obligations are included in the final version of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).



Issues the Environmental Statement deals with include:

- Keeping the footprint of the airport development area as compact as possible.
- Reducing the amount of agricultural land taken for the development.
- Reducing the nuisance of increased noise, vibration and increased dust levels, particularly to residents in Rupert's Valley and at Deadwood.

- Ensuring that Wirebirds displaced by the development have suitable habitat to move into.



- Assessing the risk of potential adverse effects of landform changes at Prosperous Bay Plain on endemic invertebrate communities.
- Restoring landscape by replacement of invasive plants with endemic and native species.
- Reducing adverse impacts on the quality of people's views over the landscape.
- Recording and conservation of cultural heritage, both buried archaeology and standing structures, within the airport development area.
- Managing construction traffic in the interest of public safety during construction.
- Diversion and temporary closure of post-box walks.
- Impacts on groundwater quality and pollution risks.
- Impacts of the wharf on the ecology and amenity value of Rupert's Bay.

- Managing impacts of dust on fish processing plants.
- Meeting water demand during construction.
- Managing waste during construction.

Social Impact

A **Social Impact Assessment** has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Both positive and negative likely social impacts of air access development and operation have been assessed. Where these are negative, mitigation measures to try to reduce the impacts as much as possible have been considered. These will be agreed with the selected contractor prior to the contract being finalised.



The Government of St Helena has also adopted policies across its departments that will contribute to enhancing the positive impacts whilst at the same time minimising and mitigating against the negative. Details can be found in the Sustainable Development Plan (2007), the Tourism Policy (2006) and the Investment Policy (2006).

Information on the expected social impacts can be found in detail in the socio-economic section of the environmental impact assessment. This document

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forms a part of the airport development application and both the full report and a summary report are publicly available at the Public Library, SHDA Office, National Trust Office, Legal & Lands Office and the Access Office. The full set of documents is also available on the Access Project's new website www.sainthelenaaccess.com.

Issues covered by the socio-economic impact assessment include:

- Managing immigration of workers, newcomers and returning Saints to the benefit of St Helena's economy and social structure.
- Ensuring that economic growth results in the creation of employment and business opportunities that Saints are able to access.
- Protecting the most vulnerable from negative impacts resulting from unequal access to the benefits of economic growth in the short-term.
- Ensuring that improved access to the island positively impacts the education opportunities available to children and young people.
- Managing the increased pressure on the health service in the short-term and maximising the benefits of improved access on health in the long-term. With a growing economy the public revenues available for investment in both health and education will increase over time.
- Ensuring that housing needs on the island are met to accommodate the current population, newcomers and returning Saints.
- Managing the infrastructure and utility needs of investors on the island to ensure that increased demand is met in a cost-effective way.

What infrastructure
improvements
can we expect?

How will
construction
affect my family?

How can we
maximise benefits
for the Island?

Where can I
go to find
out more?

To find out more, visit the Access Project's website at www.sainthelenaaccess.com, or view full copies of the application documents at the Public Library, National Trust Office, St Helena Development Agency Office, Legal and Lands Office or the Access Office

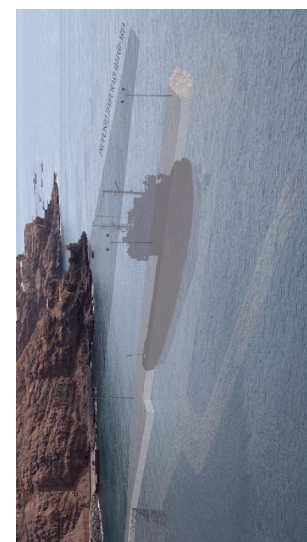
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Passenger Terminal and Runway



Road Improvements



New Wharf at Rupert's Bay