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Timber company appoints SA environmental team

Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers has commissioned two separate ecological studies at its proposed Smith Bay multi-user wharf site on the north coast of Kangaroo Island.

A terrestrial ecology survey will be undertaken by South Australian firm EBS Ecology. The scope of works includes research of threatened species to understand habitat and identify if the species are likely to occur at the project area.

It will also assess the possible impacts of the project on species of national, state or local significance and make recommendations to minimise potential impacts.

A marine study is being undertaken by SEA Pty Ltd, an Adelaide-based firm. The work includes diving the proposed development site and surveying the marine communities that will be affected; listing significant species that inhabit the site, or may depend on habitat within or near the site; assessing the likely direct and indirect impacts of the development on the seagrass and associated communities, including fauna, during the construction and operational phases of the project; and providing recommendations on mitigating and offsetting any potential impacts.

KIPT director Shauna Black, of Kingscote, said the studies reflected the company's commitment to protecting the Kangaroo Island environment and were an important step towards securing planning consent from the South Australian Government.

"The use of State-based firms wherever possible is in keeping with the company's stated objective of maximising the extent to which the economic benefits of the Smith Bay deep water wharf project are captured in South Australia," she said.