

JUNE 2023

Echuca-Moama Bridge Project

Compliance Assessment Report No. 05

(June 2022 to June 2023)

EPBC Approval No. 2013/6850

Approval Information

Approval number:	2013/6850
Approval holder:	Roads Corporation (trading as VicRoads) NB. Due to Machinery of Government changes Major Road Projects Victoria is now responsible for the delivery of the Action.
ABN:	61 760 960 480 NB. Major Road Projects Victoria is an administrative agency within the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (ABN 69 981 208 782).
Approved action:	To construct a second Murray River crossing at Echuca-Moama based on the Mid-West route option [see EPBC Act referral 2013/6850 and variation request letter received 11 December 2014]

Document Information

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Terms, Abbreviations and Definitions

The terms, abbreviations and definitions that have been used in this document are listed in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: List of Terms and Abbreviations

Terms / Abbreviation	Definition
Approval Holder	Roads Corporations (VicRoads, now Major Road Projects Victoria)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formally DELWP)
DoEE	Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
Ha	Hectare
MRPV	Major Road Projects Victoria
TfNSW	Transport for New South Wales (formerly Roads & Maritime Services)
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance

Machinery of Government Changes

As of February 2019, The Echuca-Moama Bridge Project commenced under the governance of VicRoads. When Major Roads Projects Authority (MRPA) was formed in 2018, the Project was moved from VicRoads to MRPA. MRPA became Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) in early 2019. The responsibility (approval holder) for the compliance and reporting for this EPBC Approval No. 2013/6850 was transferred from VicRoads to MRPV.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The final approval to Referral No. 2013/6850 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* (EPBC Act) was given to Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV, formerly VicRoads and Major Road Projects Authority) for the construction of the Echuca-Moama Bridge to include the construction of a second Murray River crossing at Echuca-Moama based on the Mid-West route option.

Under Condition 4 of the decision notice, an annual compliance report is required to be published on MRPV's website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of the approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions.

This compliance report addresses the status of Echuca-Moama Bridge Project against the EPBC Act Approval No. 2013/6850 conditions. This is the fifth compliance report to be prepared for the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project and relates to the period 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2023. The Project reached Practical Completion in April 2022.

MRPV has complied with all conditions referenced in the EPBC Act approval 2013/6850 for this annual reporting period. All five conditions have been complied with.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Overview

The Echuca-Moama Bridge Project provided a second crossing of the Murray River in Echuca, connecting the towns of Echuca, Victoria and Moama, NSW and supplementing the existing but at-capacity bridge over the Murray River, constructed in 1878. The Project was jointly funded by the Australian Government and the state governments of Victoria and New South Wales.

The Project was delivered in 4 stages: stages 1 to 3, delivered by MRPV, included the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of Murray Valley Highway and Warren Street, the upgrade of Warren Street, and the construction of a new road (declared as Cobb Highway in April 2022) connecting Warren Street and the Cobb Highway in Moama and including bridges over the Campaspe and Murray Rivers. Stage 4, delivered by Transport for NSW (formerly Roads & Maritime Services), included the construction of two intersections at the interface of Stage 3 and Cobb Highway.

The EPBC conditions of Approval No. 2013/6850 are applicable to Stage 3 of the Project only. A Project map is provided in Appendix A of this report.

2.2 Purpose of this Document

This document details compliance with the conditions of Approval No. 2013/6850 under the EPBC Act in accordance with Condition No. 4 of the decision notice.

2.2.1 EPBC Act 1999 Requirements

The EPBC Act has several objectives including the protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) such as nationally threatened species and ecological communities and heritage places.

2.2.1.1 EPBC Approval

Approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is required under the EPBC Act if an 'action' will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a MNES. Due to potential impacts on protected native vegetation, the Project was referred to the Department of Environment and Energy (formerly the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment, now the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) (the Department) on 20 September 2017. A decision issued on 1 June 2018 determined that the Project is a controlled action requiring assessment by preliminary documentation and approval under the EPBC Act. The relevant controlling provision under the EPBC Act is the Project's impact on listed threatened species and communities (Sections 18 and 18A). In particular, *the approval holder must not clear more than 2.22 hectares of the listed Grey Box Grassy Woodland ecological community within the Construction Area.*

2.2.2 Environment Effects Statement

The Project was subject to an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under Victoria's *Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)* which led to the adoption of Amendment C103 to the Campaspe Planning Scheme by the Victorian Minister for Planning on 1 December 2016.

2.3 Construction

The construction end dates for all stages of the Project are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Progress of Works by Section

Stage	Construction Start	Construction End
EMBP Stage 1 – Murray Valley Highway and Warren Street Intersection	JUL 2017	JUN 2018
EMBP Stage 2 – Warren Street Upgrade	AUG 2018	NOV 2019
EMBP Stage 3 – Second Murray Crossing	MAR 2020	APR 2022 (practical completion)
EMBP Stage 4 – Moama Intersections	FEB 2020	APR 2022

3 Compliance Assessment Report

Table 3 below contains the compliance assessment against the conditions approved under EPBC 2013/6850 for activities carried out between 1 June 2022 and 1 June 2023.

Table 3 EPBC Act Approval Notice 2013/6850 compliance assessment

Condition	Conditions of the Approval	Actions	Compliance Status
1	The approval holder must not clear more than 2.22 hectares of the listed Grey Box Grassy Woodland ecological community within the Construction Area shown in Annexure 1.	Management of vegetation losses during construction to ensure the Project does not clear more than 2.22 hectares of Grey Box Grassy Woodland ecological community within the Construction Area.	Compliant All 4 stages of Echuca Moama Bridge Construction are complete. In total 1.79 hectares of Grey Box Grassy Woodland was cleared by the Project.
2	To compensate for the loss of up to 2.22 hectares of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, the approval holder must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Secure in perpetuity the offset site (Annexure 2) via an appropriate legal mechanism and provide written evidence of this to the Department, accompanied by the relevant offset attributes and shapefiles by 31 December 2018; and b. Implement the approved offset management plan for the agreed offset site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Offset has been secured b. Offset Management Plan for Echuca-Moama Bridge Project approved by the Department and implemented. 	Compliant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completed. b. A copy of the 2023 offset management plan annual report has been reviewed by MRPV. All 'year 4' actions are completed as required.
3	The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the offset management plan required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Records substantiating activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of this approval are being maintained and available upon request to the Department.	Compliant Ongoing.
4	The approval holder must publish reports on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions, with the first report due by 30 June 2019 and annually thereafter. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published. Reports must remain published for the life of the approval. The approval holder must continue to publish reports until such time as advised in writing by the Minister.	The annual compliance report will be published on the MRPV website by 30 June each year. Completed for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 reporting periods.	Compliant The 2023 annual compliance report published on the MRPV website by 30 June 2023.
5	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all management plans referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each management plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved by the Minister.	Offset Management Plan has been published on MRPV website within 1 month of being approved by the Minister.	Compliant Offset management plan posted on MRPV web page.

APPENDIX A – Project Map

