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Echuca-Moama Bridge Project

Compliance Assessment Report No. 03

(June 2020 to June 2021)

EPBC Approval No. 2013/6850

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Terms, Abbreviations and Definitions

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

Table 1.0: List of Terms and Abbreviations

| Terms / Abbreviation | Definition |
|----------------------|---|
| DELWP | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning |
| EES | Environment Effects Statement |
| EPBC Act | Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 |
| Ha | Hectare |
| MRPV | Major Road Projects Victoria |
| RMS | Roads & Maritime Services (Now Transport for NSW) |

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* (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 current status of Echuca-Moama Bridge Project against the EPBC Act Approval No. 2013/6850 conditions. This is the third compliance report to be prepared for the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project and relates to the period 27 June 2020 to 01 June 2021.

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 Purpose of This Document

This report 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 Project Background

The Echuca-Moama Bridge Project will provide 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 is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the state governments of Victoria and New South Wales.

The Project is being delivered in 4 stages: stages 1 to 3, to be delivered by MRPV, include 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 link road connecting Warren Street and the Cobb Highway in Moama to include bridges over the Campaspe and Murray Rivers. Stage 4, to be delivered by Transport for NSW (formerly RMS), includes the construction of the 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.

2.3 Environment Effects Statement

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

2.4 EPBC Act 1999 Requirements

The objective of the EPBC Act is to manage and protect flora and fauna of national and international significance including ecological communities and heritage places of national environmental significance.

2.5 Construction

The construction end dates for all stages of the Project are detailed in Table 2.0.

Table 2.0: Progress of Works by Section

| | Construction Start | Construction End |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| EMBP Stage 1 – Murray Valley HWY and Warren Street Intersection | JUL 2017 | JUN 2018 |
| EMBP Stage 2 – Warren Street Upgrade | AUG 2018 | DEC 2019 |
| EMBP Stage 3 – Second Murray Crossing | MAR 2020 | MID 2022 |
| EMBP Stage 4 – Moama Intersections | FEB 2020 | LATE 2021 |

3 PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE OF THE ECHUCA-MOAMA BRIDGE PROJECT, VICTORIA (EPBC 2013/6850)

Table 3.0: EPBC Act Approval Notice 2013/6850 compliance results

| Condition | Conditions of the Approval | Actions | Comments / Evidence |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| 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. | Ongoing. The bulk of tree clearing activities are complete. No-go zones have been established for stage 3 construction activities. In total 1.75 hectares of Grey Box Grassy Woodland has been cleared as of 01 June 2021. |
| 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completed. b. A copy of the 2021 offset management plan annual report has been reviewed by MRPV. All 'year 2' 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. | 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 and 2020 reporting periods. | Ongoing. |
| 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. | Completed. Offset management plan posted on MRPV web page. |

4 APPENDIX A – Project Map

