



June 2025

Echuca-Moama Bridge Project

Compliance Assessment Report No. 07

(June 2024 – June 2025)

EPBC Approval No. 2013/6850

DOC/25/38578

Prepared for

Audit and Assurance Section
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
GPO Box 3090, CANBERRA ACT 2601

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 during the design and construction phase.
ABN:	69 981 208 782 NB. Major Road Projects Victoria is a project office within the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority, which is an administrative office 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 Control Record

Criteria	Details
Document title:	Compliance Assessment Report No. 07 (June 2024 to June 2025) EPBC Approval No. 2013/6850
Document owner:	Major Road Projects Victoria
CM9 Reference no.:	DOC/25/38578
Version:	01
Review Date:	29/05/2025
Issue Date:	30/06/2025

© Document copyright of Major Road Projects Victoria

This document is copyright. This document is published publicly for the purpose of compliance to the EPBC Act Approval requirement and is for general information only.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....3

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY5

2 INTRODUCTION6

2.1 Purpose of this report 6

2.2 Background..... 6

2.3 Description of activities..... 7

3 PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE (EPBC 2013/6850)8

APPENDIX A – APPROVAL NOTICE10

APPENDIX B – PROJECT MAP15

Terms, abbreviations, and definitions

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

Term/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 (formerly Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning, formerly Department of Transport
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Ha	Hectare
MRPV	Major Road Projects Victoria
TfNSW	Transport for New South Wales (formerly Roads and Maritime Services)
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance

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 Victoria's Big Build website. The report must address 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 the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project against the conditions of the EPBC Act Approval No. 2013/6850. This is the seventh compliance report to be prepared for the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project and relates to the reporting period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The Project reached Practical Completion in April 2022.

MRPV has complied with all conditions referenced in EPBC Act Approval No. 2013/6850 for this annual reporting period.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to detail the compliance status of the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project (the Project) in accordance with Condition 4 of Approval No. 2013/6850 under the EPBC Act as shown in Appendix A.

2.2 Background

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 is 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 (Appendix B).

The Project was completed in April 2022. The construction end dates for all stages of the Project are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 Construction progress

Stage	Construction Start	Construction End
EMBP Stage 1 – Murray Valley Highway and Warren Street Intersection	July 2017	June 2018
EMBP Stage 2 – Warren Street Upgrade	August 2018	November 2019
EMBP Stage 3 – Second Murray Crossing	March 2020	April 2022 (Practical Completion)
EMBP Stage 4 – Moama Intersections	February 2020	April 2022

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

2.2.1 EPBC Act 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 Act 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 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW, formerly the Department of Environment and Energy) on 1 May, 2013. A decision issued on 21 October 2016 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.

- To compensate for the loss of up to 2.22 hectares of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, the approval holder must:
 - Secure in perpetuity the offset via an appropriate legal mechanism
 - Implement the approved offset management plan for the agreed offset site.

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 Description of activities

The approved action is to construct a second Murray River crossing at Echuca-Moama based on the Mid-West route option. Construction of the project is complete. Monitoring of the offset site is ongoing.

Item	Key Information
EPBC number	2013/6850
Project Name	Echuca-Moama Bridge Project
Dates for the reporting period	Period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
Activities during the reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Offset Management Site Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ December 2024
Key project dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth approval: 21 October 2016 • Commonwealth variation to conditions approval: 1 June 2018 • Commencement of the Action: 17 January 2022 • Notification to the Department of Action commencement: 18 January 2022 • Expiry of Commonwealth approval: 1 September 2026 • Contract awarded to McConnell Dowell Constructors Pty Ltd (ABN 71 002 929 017): 2 October 2019 • Practical Completion issued April 2022.

3 Performance and Compliance (EPBC 2013/6850)

Condition Number	Condition Reference	Condition of Approval	Compliance Status	Comments / Evidence
1	Conditions Specific to the Action	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 of the EPBC Act approval document.	Compliant	Project is now complete with a total removal amount of 1.79 ha of Grey Box Grassy Woodland cleared by the Project. Accurate records in a spatial format were provided as evidence.
2	Conditions Specific to the Action	<p>To compensate for the loss of up to 2.22 hectares of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, the approval holder must:</p> <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. 	Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Offset has been secured through legal mechanisms and requirements of Condition 2 have been met as per letter to Mr Powers from DoEE 1 June 2018. b. A copy of the 2025 offset management plan annual report has been reviewed by MRPV. All 'year 6' actions are completed as required
3	Compliance records	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.	Compliant	<p>Records substantiating activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of this approval are being maintained and available upon request to the Department.</p> <p>This condition is ongoing.</p>

Condition Number	Condition Reference	Condition of Approval	Compliance Status	Comments / Evidence
		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		
4	Annual compliance reporting	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.	Compliant	2024 annual compliance report published on the MRPV website prior to June 30, 2024. The report can be found here: https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/874844/Compliance-Assessment-Report-6-June-2024.pdf
5	Preparation and publication of plans	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.	Compliant	Offset Management Plan published on MRPV website. The plan can be found here: https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/echuca-moama-bridge-project/environment

Appendix A – Approval Notice



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

VARIATION TO CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO APPROVAL

Construction of a Second Murray River Crossing, Echuca-Moama, Victoria and New South Wales (EPBC No EPBC 2013/6850)

This decision to vary a condition of approval is made under section 143 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Approved action

Person to whom the approval is granted	Roads Corporation trading as VicRoads ABN: 61 760 960 480 New South Wales Roads and Maritime Services ABN: 80 877 326 256
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].

Variation

Variation of conditions of approval	The variation is: Add the conditions specified below to the approval dated 21 October 2016.
Date of effect	This variation has effect on the date the instrument is signed

Person authorised to make decision

name and position	Declan O'Connor-Cox A/g Assistant Secretary Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals Branch
Signature	
Date of decision	1 June 2018

Conditions attached to the approval

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.
2. To compensate for the loss of up to 2.22 hectares of **Grey Box Grassy Woodland**, the approval holder must:
 - 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.
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.
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**.
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**.

Definitions

Department – the Australian Government Department administering the **EPBC Act**.

EPBC Act – the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy - the Australian Government policy document titled: *EPBC Act environmental offsets policy, Department of the Environment, 2013 Policy guiding the use of offsets under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*.

Grey Box Grassy Woodland – the nationally listed threatened ecological community called Grey Box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia.

Legal mechanism – means of securing the offset in perpetuity under Victorian legislation, such as the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972* or a Bush Broker Agreement under the *Conservation, Forestry and Land Act 1987*.

Minister – The Australian Government minister responsible for administering the **EPBC Act** or any nominated delegate.

Offset attributes – an '.xls' file capturing relevant attributes of the offset site, including the **EPBC Act** reference ID number, the physical address of the offset site, coordinates of the boundary points in decimal degrees, the EPBC Act protected matters that the offset compensates for, any additional EPBC Act protected matters that are benefiting from the offset, and the size of the offset in hectares.

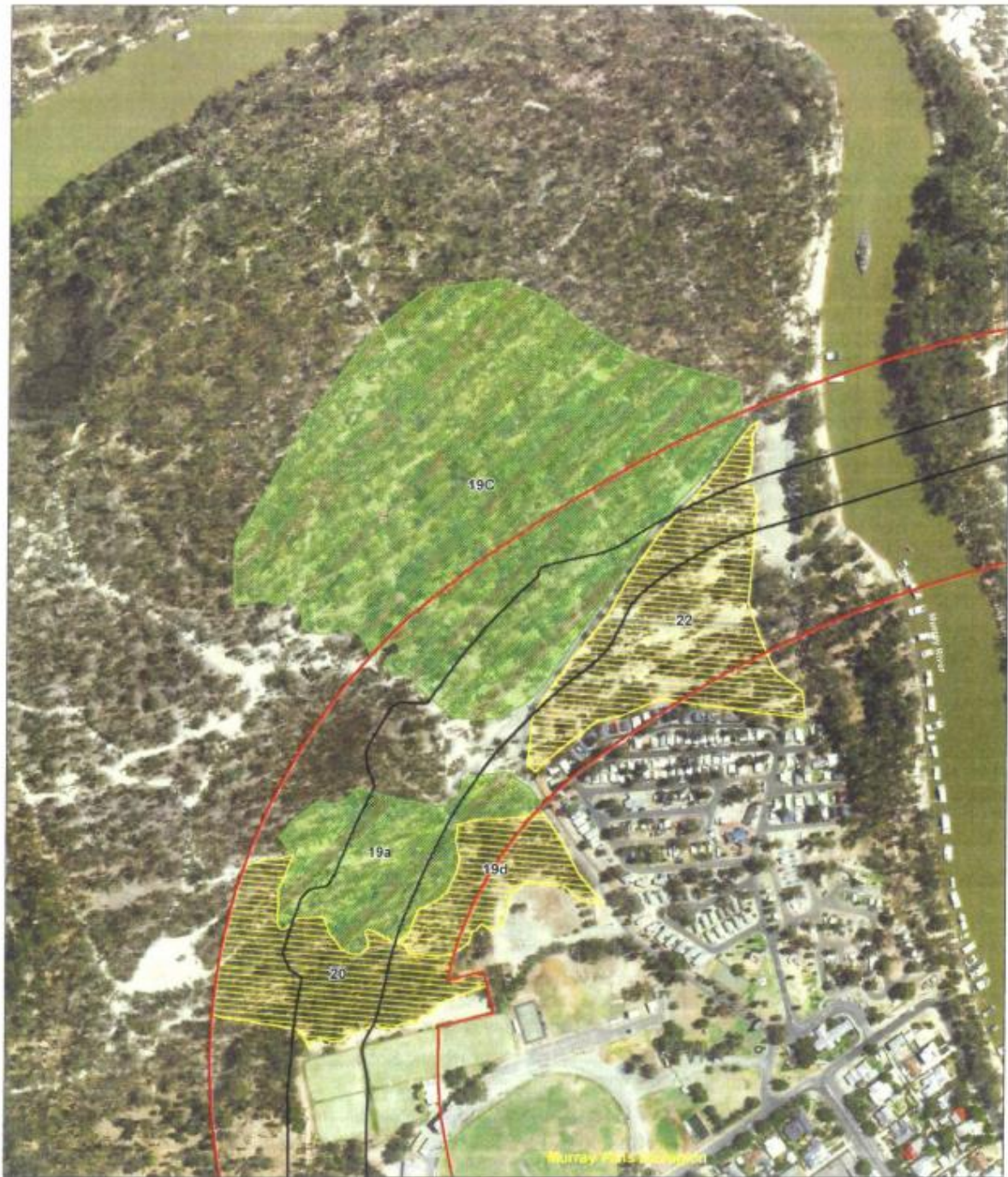
Offset management plan – the approved document which outlines the management actions for the **offset site for Grey Box Grassy Woodland** (*Echuca-Moama Project: Offset Management Plan for impacts to the EPBC Act listed Grey Box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) Grassy Woodland and Derived Native grassland of South-eastern Australia, Version 01, 12 January 2018*)

The offset management plan must:

- include baseline information for the offset site(s);
- include details of how the offset(s) are consistent with the **EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy**;
- demonstrates how the offset site(s) will be protected for long term conservation purposes;
- include details of short and long term management measures, include timeframes for management measures for the site(s);
- and identify the short and long term arrangements and responsibilities of parties in the management of the site(s).

Offset site: 10.7 ha site located within Lot 172, Boort – Kurtling Road, Riery Flat 3518 and shown at Annexure 2

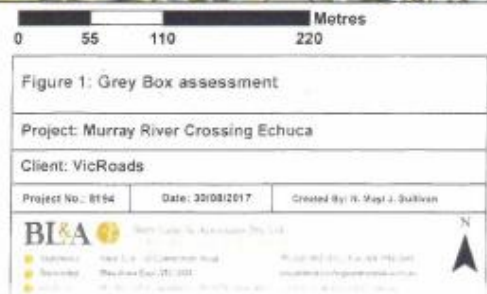
Shapefiles –an ESRI Shapefile containing '.shp', '.shx' and '.dbf' files and other files capturing attributes of the offset site, including the shape, **EPBC Act** reference ID number and **EPBC Act** protected matters present at the relevant site. Attributes should also be captured in '.xls' format.

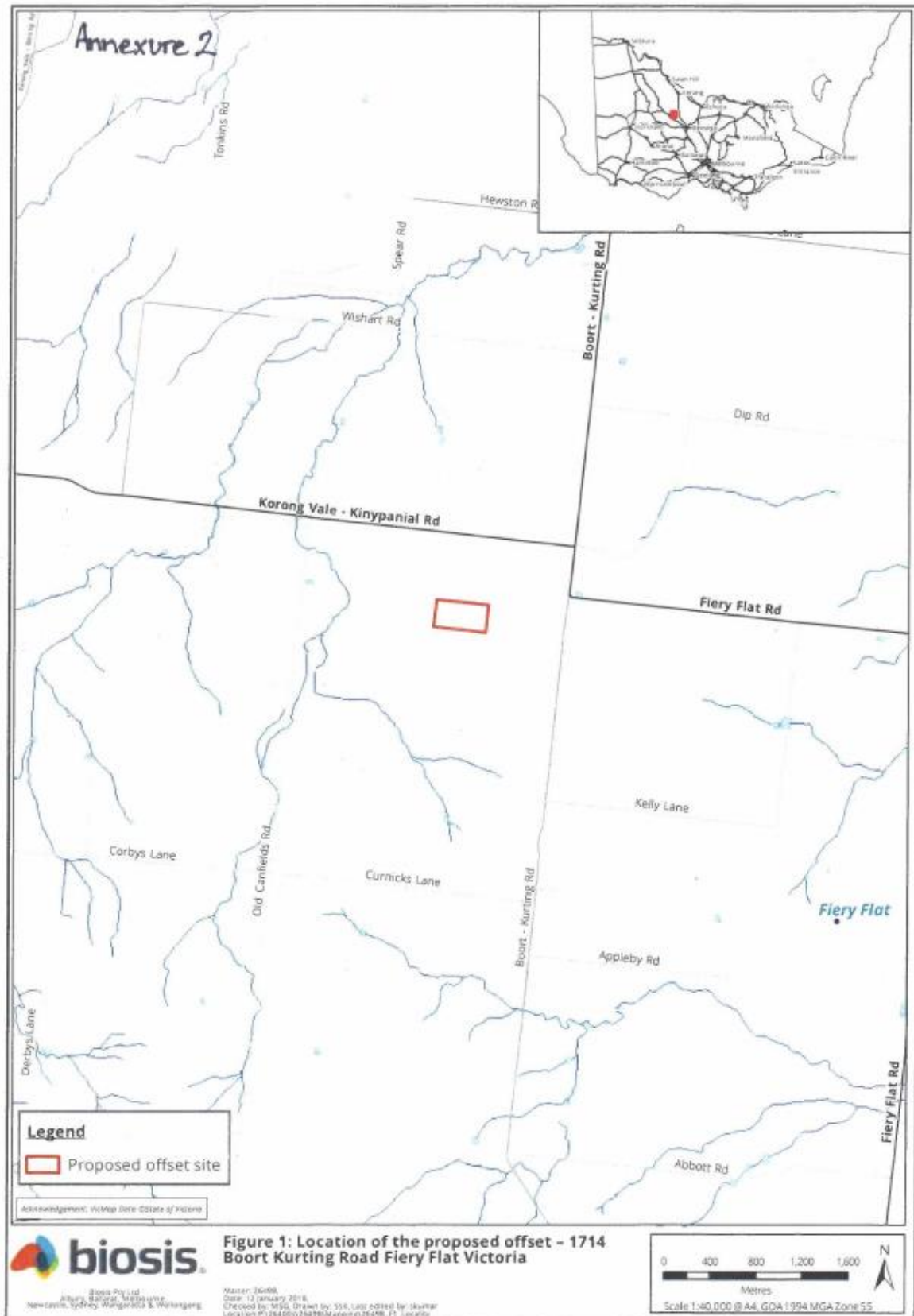


Legend

- Study area
- Construction Area
- Areas dominated by Grey Box
 - EPBC Act listed community
 - Not EPBC Act listed community

Annexure 1





Appendix B – Project Map

