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O'Herns Road and Hume Freeway Interchange Project, Victoria

Compliance Assessment Report No.7, October 2024 to October 2025, EPBC Approval No. 2017/8008



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Glossary

Table 1.0: List of Terms and Abbreviations

Term/Abbreviation	Definition
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (previously the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and before that the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE))
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (previously the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP))
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, former Department of Energy and Environment (dissolved) Department of Environment (superseding), which is now also dissolved and now forms part of DCCEEW
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
MTIA	Major Transport Infrastructure Authority
MRPV	Major Road Projects Victoria
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
VIDA Roads	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority, Roads (previously termed MRPV)
GGF	Growling Grass Frog
GSM	Golden Sun Moth

Executive Summary

The final approval of Referral No. 2017/8008 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) was given to VIDA Roads (formerly VicRoads and Major Road Projects Authority) on June 17 2019 with respect to the construction of the O'Herns Road and Hume Freeway Interchange Project (the Project). VIDA Roads is a project office within the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority, an administrative office within the Department of Transport and Planning (formerly the Department of Transport) (DTP).

Under Condition 21 of the decision notice, an annual compliance report is required to be published on VIDA Roads's 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 current status of the Project against the conditions of the EPBC Act Approval No. 2017/8008. This is the 7th compliance report prepared for the O'Herns Road and Hume Freeway Interchange Project and relates to the period October 31 2024 to October 31 2025.

VIDA Roads has complied with all conditions referenced in the EPBC Act approval 2017/8008 for this annual reporting period.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

This report details compliance with the conditions of Approval No. 2017/8008 under the EPBC Act in accordance with Condition No. 21 of the decision notice.

1.2 Background

O'Herns Road is an east-west route in the growing suburb of Epping. The Project aims to alleviate congestion on existing local roads and the northern suburbs of Melbourne by adding new lanes to an existing section of O'Herns Road and by providing an alternative access onto the Hume Freeway. The Project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the State Government of Victoria.

The Project includes:

- A new diamond interchange with direct access to the Hume Freeway;
- New traffic light intersections at Edgars Road, Gateway Boulevard and Koukoura Drive;
- One new lane in each direction on O'Herns Road between the Hume Freeway and Redding Rise;
- One new lane in each direction on the Hume Freeway between O'Herns Road and Cooper Street; and
- Continuation of on-road bicycle lanes on O'Herns Road from Redding Rise and connecting to the existing Galada Tamboore Pathway.

A Project map is provided in Appendix A of this report.

1.3 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.

A referral to the Minister for the above Project was submitted in 2017. A decision on this referral was issued on September 29, 2017 determined that the proposed action was a 'controlled action' requiring assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The relevant controlling provision under the Act is the Project's impact on listed threatened species and communities (Sections 18 and 18A). In particular:

- Impact on the critically endangered (now vulnerable as of 7 December 2021) Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana*; and
- Potential impact on the vulnerable Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*.

The Project was subsequently approved by the Department as a controlled action on June 17, 2019. The approval to Referral No. 2017/8008 under the EPBC Act was given to the DTP (ABN 69 981 208 782) with respect to the construction of the Project. As an entity of DTP, VIDA Roads is responsible for the delivery of the Action.

2 Project Status and Compliance

2.1 Project Status

The Project was deemed to be completed on the May 15 2024, after the completion of a close out inspection, confirming the completion of all works associated with the action. The Department was notified in writing and provided the project completion data on June 14 2024.

Table 2.0 Completion date of Works by Section

Section	Construction Start	Construction End
O'Herns Rd Stage 2 - Complete	September 2019	May 2024

3 Performance and compliance (EPBC 2017/8008)

Table 3.0 EPBC Act Approval Notice 2017/8008 compliance results.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
1	Conditions specific to the action	The approval holder must ensure that the proposed action is undertaken within the Project area	Compliant	The road is in operation and all works were completed within the project area.
2	Conditions specific to the action	The approval holder must not cause impacts to more than 10.88 hectares of Golden Sun Moth (GSM) habitat within the Project area	Compliant	The final extent of disturbance to confirmed GSM habitat was measured at 7.03 hectares, significantly under the maximum limit of impact of 10.88 hectares. Shapefile data demonstrating the areas of disturbance have been provided to the Department as part of the completion of the action.
3	Conditions specific to the action	The approval holder must construct the culverts in accordance with the preliminary documentation and the Growling Grass Frog (GGF) Conservation Management Plan	Compliant	The road is in operation and all works have been completed. Culverts and landscaping were constructed in accordance with the preliminary documentation and GGF Conservation Management Plan (GGFCMP).
4	Conditions specific to the action	The approval holder must implement the GGF Conservation Management Plan for the life of the approval (CMP)	Compliant	Requirements of the GGFCMP were implemented throughout the project as documented in project inspection and audits.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
5	Environmental Offsets	To compensate for the loss of 10.88 hectares of GSM habitat, prior to commencement of the action, the approval holder must: Enter into a written bond agreement with Trust for Nature to hold funds in trust for the purpose of securing and managing an offset area of at least 78.8 hectares of Golden Sun Moth habitat at Sievers Lane, Glenhope, Victoria as identified in Appendix 4 of the Preliminary Documentation, or another offset area agreed to by the Minister in writing. A copy of the bond agreement must be provided to the Department within seven days following execution. Provide a sum of \$6,000,000 (excluding GST) to Trust for Nature to be held until such time as the offset area is identified and secured in accordance with condition 6a, at which time that sum will form the basis of the payment to purchase environmental services for the offset area.	Compliant	The Bond Agreement with Trust for Nature (TFN) was executed on July 2, 2019. A copy of this agreement was provided to the Department on July 8, 2019. A sum of \$6,000,000 (excluding GST) was sent to TFN on July 17, 2019. Upon completion of condition 6, the bond payment was released and provided back to VIDA Roads June 28, 2021.
6	Environmental Offsets	To provide for the conservation and enhancement of GSM habitat the approval holder must: Within 12 months of the date of this approval, execute a Credit Trading Agreement for the provision of environmental services at the offset	Compliant	The Credit Trade Agreement (CTA) was executed on June 17, 2020. A copy of this agreement was provided to the Department on June 30, 2020.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		area. The approval holder must not execute a Credit Trading Agreement until the Minister has approved the Offset Management Plan (OMP) required under condition 8 b. The Department must be provided with a copy of the signed Credit Trading Agreement within 4 weeks following its execution. c. Within 12 months of the date of signing the Credit Trading Agreement, provide written evidence to the Department that the signed conservation covenant for the offset area has been registered on the title of the offset area. The Department must be provided with a copy of the signed conservation covenant within 4 weeks following registration on the title of the offset area		On the March 12, 2021, VIDA Roads was informed by TFN that the conservation covenant had been signed and registered to the land title for the offset site associated with EPBC approval 2017/8008. The Department was provided a copy of the signed conservation covenant April 6, 2021.
7	Environmental Offsets	Within 14 days of the offset, required under condition 6, being secured the approval holder must provide the Department with: a. Written evidence demonstrating that the offset has been secured Shapefiles and offset attributes that clearly define the location and boundaries of the offset area	Compliant	Written evidence demonstrating that the offset had been secured under condition 6a was given to the Department on June 30, 2020 by providing a copy of the CTA executed on June 17, 2020. Notification of the signing and registration of the conservation covenant was also given to the Department on April 6, 2021 in accordance with condition 6d. Shapefiles and attributes clearly defining the location and boundaries of the offset were provided to the Department as part of the GSM Offset Management Plan (GSMOMP) submitted on September 9, 2019 and approved on May 28, 2020.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
				The shapefiles and attributes were again provided to the Department on February 20, 2020. Accordingly, the Department had this information at the time that a copy of the CTA was provided on June 30, 2020, and at the time that the conservation covenant was entered into and registered as advised to the Department on April 6, 2021.
8	Environmental Offsets	The approval holder must submit to the Department an Offset Management Plan (OMP) for the offset area. The OMP must: a. Be prepared by a suitably qualified person, and be consistent with the Department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines and the EPBC Act Environmental Offset Policy b. Demonstrate how the offset area and environmental services will compensate for the loss of 10.88 hectares of GSM habitat consistent with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy c. include, but not be limited to i. a description of the offset area including location, size, condition, environmental values present and surrounding land uses; ii. baseline data and other supporting evidence that	Compliant	GSMOMP was submitted to the Department on September 9, 2019, and was approved by the Department on May 28, 2020.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		- documents the presence and baseline quality of the Golden Sun Moth habitat within the offset area; iii. maps and shapefiles of the offset area; iv. specific objectives to demonstrate Golden Sun Moth habitat quality improvement over the life of the approval; v. specific management actions, and timeframes for implementation, to be carried out to meet the specific objectives to improve the quality of the Golden Sun Moth habitat within the offset area; vi. key performance indicators to demonstrate the improvement to the quality of Golden Sun Moth habitat; vii. the nature, timing and frequency of monitoring to determine the success of management actions against key performance indicators; viii. indicative corrective actions that will be implemented in the event monitoring activities indicate key performance indicators are not or are unlikely to be achieved; ix. the roles and responsibilities for implementing the management actions;		

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		x. Evidence of consistency with relevant conservation advice, recovery plans and/or threat abatement plans; Commitments to maintain or improve the extent and quality of habitat and populations of other EPBC Act listed threatened species and ecological communities in the offset area.		
9	Environmental Offsets	The approval holder must ensure the offset area is managed in accordance with the OMP, as required by condition 8, for the life of the approval commencing from the day the offset area is secured.	Compliant	Ongoing action; tracking to completion. The Year 4 OMP management actions are documented in the Year 4 annual report, which was provided to MRPV and TFN on December 19, 2024. This report demonstrates that the offset area is being managed in accordance with the OMP. The Year 4 annual compliance statement 2024 is provided in Appendix B.
10	Revision of Management Plans	The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the Minister for a variation to a management plan approved by the Minister under condition 4 and condition 8, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act. If the Minister approved a revised	Compliant	On April 28, 2022, VIDA Roads notified the Department of proposed changes and justification to revise Section 3.10 of the GSMOMP. On May 11, 2022, VIDA Roads and the Department had a meeting to discuss the proposed changes and justification to Section 3.10 of the GSMOMP. On the May 17, 2022, the Department acknowledged and noted the proposed changes to the GSMOMP.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		management plan, then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the new management plan in place of the previous management plan		VIDA Roads provided a final copy of the revised GSMOMP on May 18, 2022, and on May 23, 2022, the Department acknowledged that revised GSMOMP must be implemented in place of the previous GSMOMP.
11	Revision of Management Plans	The approval holder may choose to revise a management plan approved by the Minister, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the new management plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact	Not Applicable	As above.
12	Revision of Management Plans	If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 11 to revise an action management plan without submitting for approval, the approval holder must: a. notify the Department in writing that the approved management plan has been revised and provide the Department with: i. an electronic copy of the new management plan; ii. an electronic copy of the new management plan marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved management plan and the RAMP;	Not Applicable	As above; As per condition 10.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the new management plan; iv. the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the new management plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact; and v. written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the new management plan (implementation date), being at least 20 business days after the date of providing notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the Department. subject to condition 11, implement the new management plan from the new management plan implementation date		
13	Revision of Management Plans	The approval holder may revoke their choice to implement a new management plan under condition 12 at any time by giving written notice to the Department. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 12, the approval holder must implement the	Not Applicable	Noted.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		previous action management plan by the Minister		
14	Revision of Management Plans	If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the new management plan would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then: a. condition 11 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the new management plan, and the approval holder must implement the management plan specified by the Minister in the notice	Not Applicable	Noted.
15	Revision of Management Plans	At the time of giving the notice under condition 14, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 11 does not apply for one or more specified management plan	Not Applicable	Noted.
16	Notification of date of commencement of the action	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action	Compliant	Notification was sent to the Department on September 4, 2019, advising that the action commenced on September 2, 2019.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
17	Notification of date of commencement of the action	If the commencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the prior written agreement of the Minister	Compliant	The action commenced on September 2, 2019; the Department was notified on September 4, 2019.
18	Compliance records	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records	Compliant	Ongoing; records of compliance are maintained through VIDA Roads electronic file storage system.
19	Compliance records	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request	Not Applicable	Noted – records will be supplied upon request.
20	Preparation and publication of plans	The approval holder must: Publish each plan on its website within 20 business days of the finalisation of the plan, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister	Compliant	The finalisation of the GSMOMP and GGFCMP were previously reported in Compliance Report 1 and Compliance Report 2 respectively and are available on VIDA Roads website. The revised GSMOMP has also been published on VIDA Roads website.
21	Annual compliance reporting	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the	Compliant	This report is published on VIDA Roads website, and the Department has been notified.

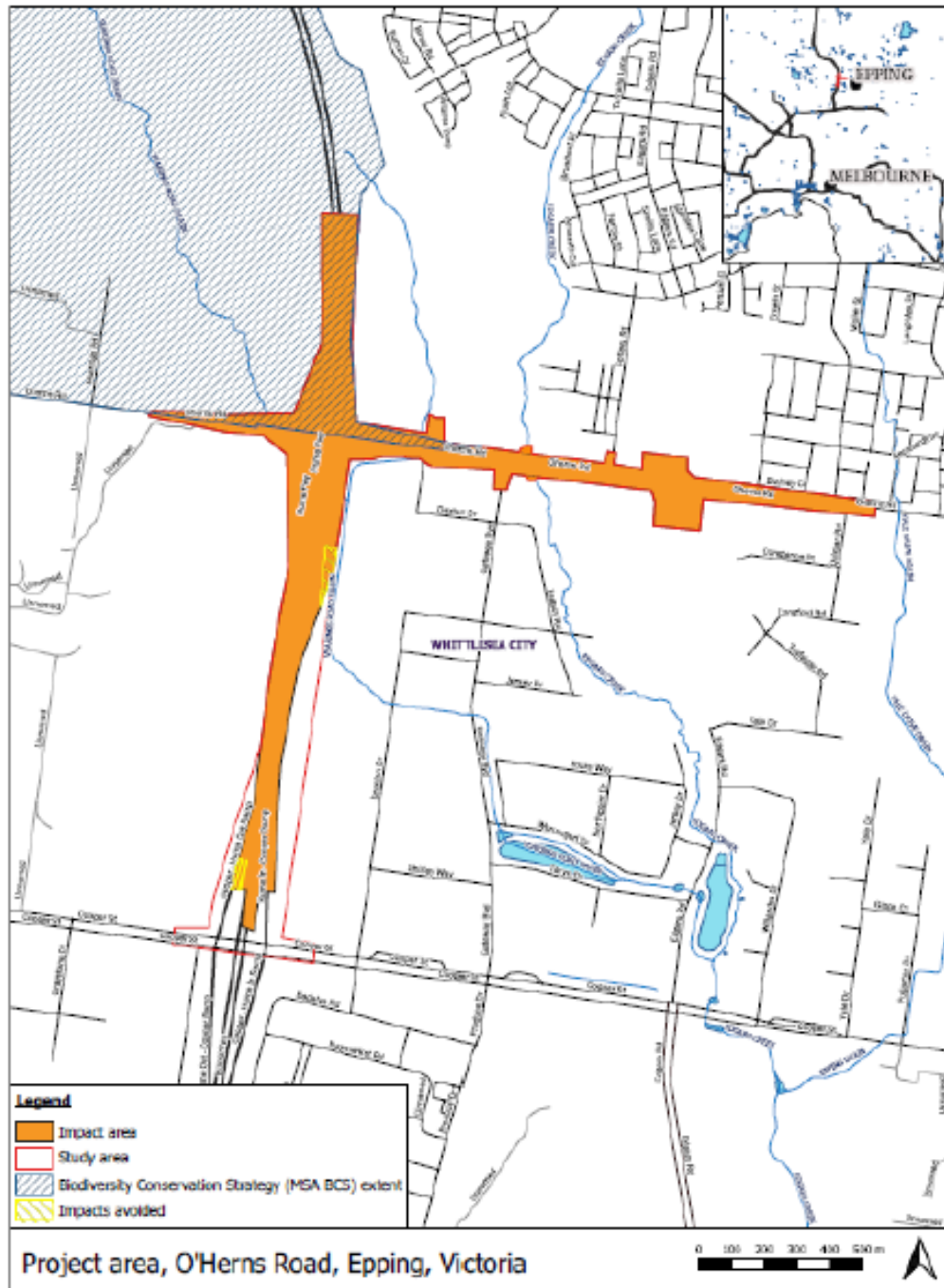
Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		action, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must: a. publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12-month period; b. notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website within five business days of the date of publication; c. keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires; d. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication		
22	Reporting non-compliance	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident, non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in the plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:	Compliant	Noted, no non-conformances noted during the reporting period.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		a. the condition which is or may be in breach; and a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance.		
23	Reporting non-compliance	The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying: a. any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future; b. the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.	Compliant	Noted, no non-conformances noted during the reporting period.
24	Independent audit	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the Minister	Not Applicable	Noted, no audits have been requested during the reporting period.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
25	Independent audit	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: Provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department; Only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and Submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.	Not Applicable	Noted, no audits have been requested during the reporting period.
26	Independent audit	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval	Not Applicable	Noted.
27	Completion of the action	Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data	Compliant	Final completion of the project occurred on May 15 2024. The Department was notified in writing and provided the project completion data on June 14 2024.

Appendix A Project Map

Attachment A



Appendix B Annual Monitoring Compliance Statement



CASSINIA
ENVIRONMENTAL

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT 2024

Golden Sun Moth Offset, Sievers Lane, Glenhope, Victoria
EPBC 2017/8008, Trust for Nature Reference: C2050_02
Landowner of Offset Site: Kinrara Pty Ltd
Approval Holder: Major Roads Project Victoria

The following management actions were undertaken between December 2023 and November 2024, in accordance with the requirements for Year 4 of the management plan, specified in Table 4 of the Offset Management Plan.

1. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS: Year 4

- Weed monitoring and control, fencing maintenance, pest animal monitoring and control
- Grazing regime appropriate to habitat requirements of Golden Sun Moth
- Annual vegetation condition monitoring, including recording of annual photopoints
- Ecological thinning as recommended by independent audit
- Annual Report submitted to Trust for Nature by 23 December 2024

2. TRACKING RESULTS WITH MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND COMPLETION CRITERIA

Key Performance Criteria (Section 3.4.2)	Tracking to Completion
Continuous improvement in average site condition as described in 3.4.1	Yes
Effective threat abatement, including control of stock grazing, weeds and pests as specified in 3.8	Yes
Completion of scheduled management actions (Section 3.8 and Tables 4 & 6)	Yes
Completion of scheduled monitoring activities (Section 3.9 and Table 6)	Yes
Completion of scheduled reports & audits (Section 3.10, 3.11 and Table 7)	Yes

3. DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the information contained within this statement and related reports are accurate and complies with all the reporting requirements under the Offset Management Plan.

Kim Cornford
Landscape Operations Manager, Cassinia Environmental
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Date: 18 December 2024