



June 2026

# Echuca Moama Bridge Project

**Annual Compliance Report No. 8**

**June 2025 to June 2026**

**EPBC Approval No. 2013/6850**

DOC/26/46184

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

| Criteria         | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Approval number  | 2013/6850                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Approval holder: | Roads Corporation (trading as VicRoads)<br>Due to Machinery of Government changes VIDA Roads is now responsible for the delivery of the Action.                                                                          |
| ABN:             | 61 760 960 480<br>VIDA Roads is a project office within the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority, which is an administrative office within the Victorian Department of Transport & 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:    | Annual Compliance Report No. 8 (June 2025 to June 2026) (EPBC Approval No. 2013/6850) |
| Document owner:    | VIDA Roads                                                                            |
| CM9 Reference no.: | DOC/26/46184                                                                          |
| Version:           | 1.0                                                                                   |
| Issue Date:        | June 2026                                                                             |

© Document copyright of VIDA Roads

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.

### Acknowledgement of Country

The Echuca Moama Bridge Project is located on the lands of the Yorta Yorta People.

VIDA Roads acknowledges the (<https://yynac.com.au/>) Yorta Yorta people as the Traditional Owners and custodians. We acknowledge their ancestors who cared for the land, rivers, and sea. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and future.

# Table of Contents

|                   |                                                          |           |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1</b>          | <b>Executive Summary .....</b>                           | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>2</b>          | <b>Introduction .....</b>                                | <b>6</b>  |
| 2.1               | Purpose of this Report .....                             | 6         |
| 2.2               | Background .....                                         | 6         |
| 2.2.1             | Description of activities .....                          | 6         |
| 2.2.2             | Project status .....                                     | 7         |
| <b>3</b>          | <b>Performance and Compliance (EPBC 2013/6568) .....</b> | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>4</b>          | <b>New Environmental Risks .....</b>                     | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Appendix A</b> | <b>Project Map .....</b>                                 | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Appendix B</b> | <b>Approval Notice .....</b>                             | <b>12</b> |

## 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                                                                       |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DCCEEW            | Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) |
| EPBC Act          | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>             |
| GGF               | Growling Grass Frog                                                              |
| HA                | Hectare                                                                          |
| DTP               | Department of Transport and Planning (Victoria)                                  |
| VIDA              | Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority                                      |
| VIDA Roads        | VIDA Roads (formerly Major Road Projects Victoria, 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 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 eighth compliance report to be prepared for the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project and relates to the reporting period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. The Project reached Practical Completion in April 2022.

VIDA Roads 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.

The EPBC conditions of Approval No. 2013/6850 are applicable to Stage 3 of the Project only.

### 2.2 Background

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.

#### 2.2.1 Description of activities

The Echuca-Moama Bridge Project provided a second crossing of the Murray River in Echuca, connecting the towns of Echuca, Victoria and Moama, New South Wales (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. Monitoring of the offset site is ongoing.

## 1 Table Description of Activities

| Item                                   | Key Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EPBC number                            | 2013/6850                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Project Name                           | Echuca-Moama Bridge Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Dates for the reporting period         | Period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Activities during the reporting period | Year 7 Offset Management Site Annual Report<br>December 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Key project dates                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commonwealth approval: 21 October 2016</li> <li>Commonwealth variation to conditions approval: 1 June 2018</li> <li>Commencement of the Action: 17 January 2022</li> <li>Notification to the Department of Action commencement: 18 January 2022</li> <li>Expiry of Commonwealth approval: 1 September 2026</li> <li>Contract awarded to McConnell Dowell Constructors Pty Ltd (ABN 71 002 929 017): 2 October 2019</li> <li>Practical Completion issued April 2022.</li> </ul> |

## 2.2.2 Project status

The EPBC conditions of Approval No. 2013/6850 are applicable to Stage 3 of the Project only.

The Project was completed in April 2022. The construction end dates for all stages of the Project are detailed in Table 2. Monitoring of the offset site is ongoing.

| Stage                                 | Construction Start | Construction End |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| EMBP Stage 3 – Second Murray Crossing | March 2020         | 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                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2                | Conditions Specific to the Action | To compensate for the loss of up to 2.22 hectares of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, the approval holder must:<br>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<br>Implement the approved offset management | Compliant         | 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.<br><br>A copy of the 2025 offset management plan annual report has been reviewed by VIDA Roads. All 'year 7' 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         | Records substantiating activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of this approval are being maintained and available upon request to the Department.<br><br>This condition is ongoing.                                                                                           |

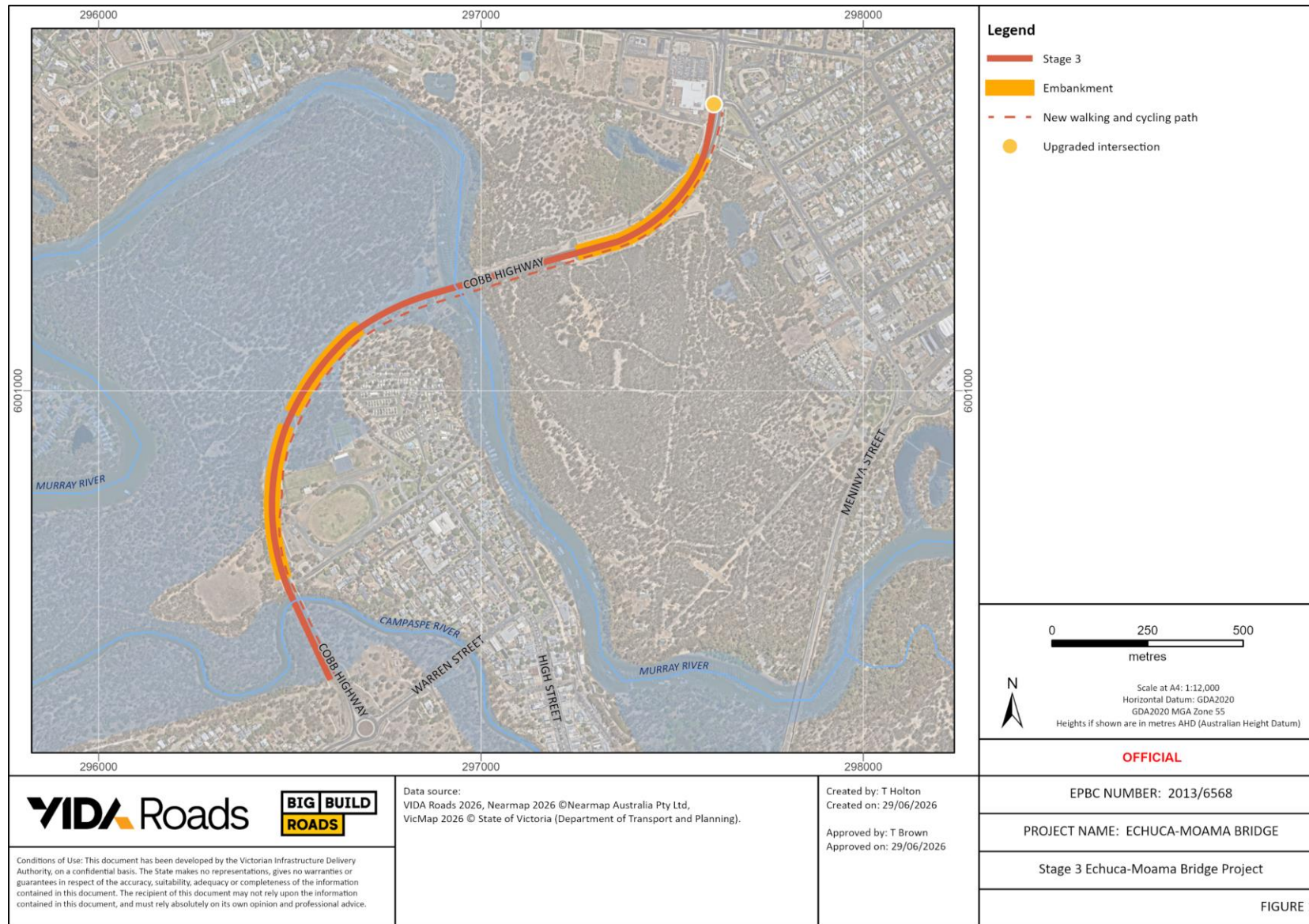


| Condition Number | Condition Reference                  | Condition of Approval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Compliance Status | Comments / Evidence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4                | Annual compliance reporting          | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | Compliant         | <p>2025 annual compliance report published on the Big Build Roads website prior to June 30, 2025. The report can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/943876/20250514-EPBC-Compliance-Report-No.7-EPBC-2013-6850-Echuca-Moama-Bridge-Project.pdf">https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/943876/20250514-EPBC-Compliance-Report-No.7-EPBC-2013-6850-Echuca-Moama-Bridge-Project.pdf</a></p> |
| 5                | Preparation and publication of plans | <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Compliant         | <p>Offset Management Plan published on Big Build Roads website. The plan can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/599596/MRPV-Echuca-Moama-Biosis-Offset-Management-Plan-for-EPBC-August-2018.pdf">https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/599596/MRPV-Echuca-Moama-Biosis-Offset-Management-Plan-for-EPBC-August-2018.pdf</a></p>                                                           |

## **4 New Environmental Risks**

Nil. Works associated with activity were complete in April 2022.

## Appendix A Project Map



# Appendix B Approval Notice



## 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<br>ABN: 61 760 960 480<br><br>New South Wales Roads and Maritime Services<br>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:<br>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<br>A/g Assistant Secretary<br>Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals Branch |
| Signature         |                                                                                                      |
| Date of decision  | 1 June 2018                                                                                          |

#### Conditions attached to the approval

- 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.
- 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 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
  - implement the approved **offset management plan** for the agreed offset site.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.

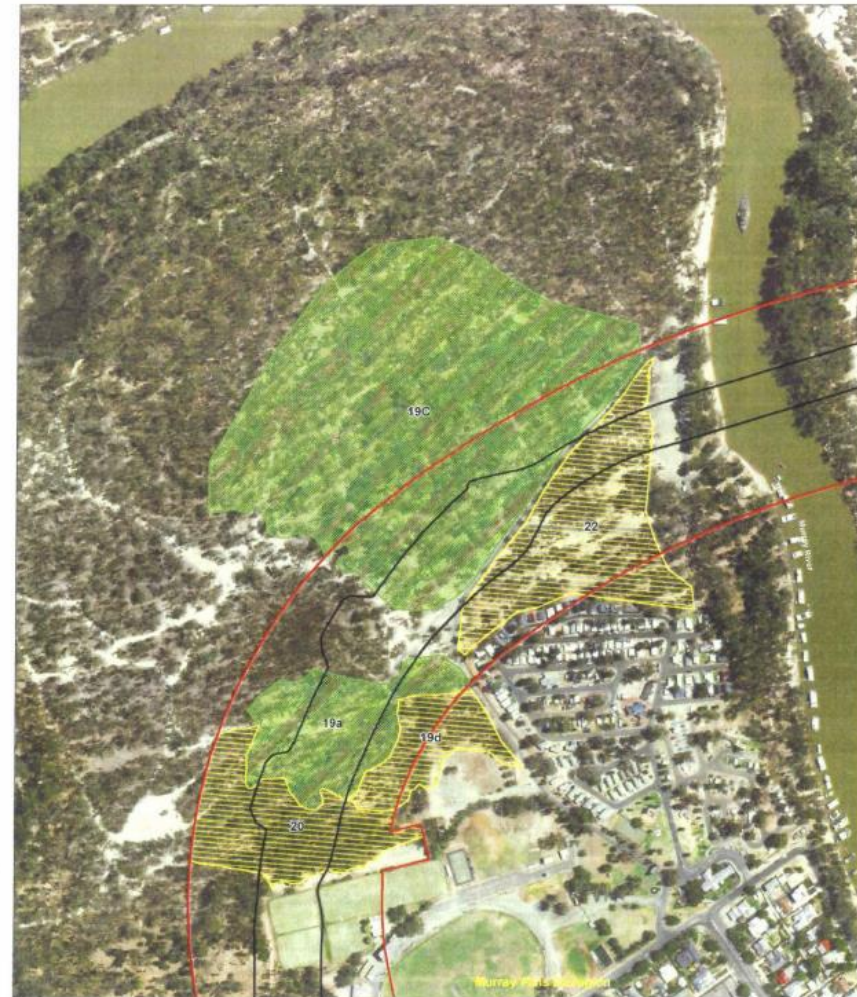
**Offset management plan** – the approved document which outlines the management actions for the **offset site** for **Grey Box Grassy Woodland** (*Echuca-Moama Project: Offset Management Plan for impacts to the EPBC Act listed Grey Box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) Grassy Woodland and Derived Native grassland 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

