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Western Highway Project Section 2, Beaufort to Ararat

Compliance Assessment Report No. 12

July 2024 to June 2025

EPBC Approval No. 2010/5741

Prepared for

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Environment Assessment & Compliance Division

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

Approval Information

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Approval holder:	Roads Corporation (trading as VicRoads) NB. Due to Machinery of Government changes Vida Roads is now responsible for the delivery of the Action.
ABN:	61 760 960 480 NB. Vida Roads is an administrative agency within the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (ABN 69 981 208 782).
Approved action:	To upgrade the Western Highway between Beaufort and Ararat, Victoria

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Terms, abbreviations, and definitions

Table 1 List of Terms and Abbreviations

Terms / Abbreviation	Definition
The Approval	EPBC 2010/5741
Approved action	To upgrade the Western Highway between Beaufort and Ararat, Victoria [See EPBC Act referral 2010/5741]
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan under the Victorian <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>
DEECA	Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DTP	Victorian Department of Transport and Planning
The Department	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth)
GEWVVP	Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains
GSM	Golden Sun Moth
MRPV	Major Road Projects Victoria
NGZ	No go zone
NTGVVP	Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains
NVMP	Native Vegetation Management Plan
NVOMP	Native Vegetation Offset Management Plan
Section 2A	Western Highway Project between Beaufort and Buangor, Victoria
Section 2B	Western Highway Project between Buangor and Ararat, Victoria
SRF	Spiny Rice-flower
TSMP	Threatened Species Management Plan
VIDA	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority

1 Executive Summary

EPBC Approval No. 2010/5741 under the EBPC Act (the Approval) was granted to the Roads Corporation (trading as VicRoads) on 17 April 2014 in relation to the construction of the Western Highway Project Section 2, Beaufort to Ararat, Victoria (the 'approved action' or 'Project'). The Approval was varied on 10 April 2015, 23 September 2020 and 13 January 2021.

Condition 21 of the Approval provides that:

'Within three months of June 30 each year following the commencement of **construction activities**, the person taking the action must publish an annual report of compliance on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. 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 annual report of compliance is published. The annual report of compliance must document the outcomes of the management plan(s) against the performance indicators of the management plan(s).'

This compliance report addresses the requirements of condition 21 for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (reporting period). Proof of publication will be provided to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (The Department) at the same time as the compliance report is published. This is the twelfth compliance report to be prepared for the approved action.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this Document

This report provides a compliance assessment with each of the conditions of the Approval for the 2024/2025 reporting period, in accordance with the requirements of Condition 21.

2.2 Project Background

The Approval applies to the 'approved action', which involves the upgrade of approximately 33km of the Western Highway between Beaufort and Ararat. The approved action is being delivered in stages, as follows:

- Section 2A (Beaufort to Buangor) (completed April 2016)
- Buangor Bypass (completed November 2016)
- Section 2B (Buangor to Ararat).

Construction activities for the approved action commenced on 5 June 2014, and Section 2A and the Buangor Bypass were both completed in 2016. Section 2B of the approved action is partially constructed and involves the upgrade of a 12.5 km section of the Western Highway between Buangor and Ararat. Key elements of Section 2B include:

- Adding two lanes in each direction, including extra turning lanes
- Building a new bridge over the railway line
- Building two bridges over Hopkins River
- Adding an interchange at Hillside Road, with entry and exit ramps.
- Building 6km of new road to the south of the existing Western Highway.

The Approval relates to the following matters of national environmental significance (MNES) which are listed threatened species and communities under the EPBC Act:

- Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (GEWVVP)
- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP)
- Spiny Rice-flower (SRF)
- Button Wrinklewort (BW)
- Dwarf Galaxias (DG)
- Golden Sun Moth (GSM).

A map of the Project Area is provided as Annex 1 of the Approval.

2.3 EPBC Act Approval Holder Details

The Approval was granted to the Roads Corporation (trading as VicRoads) (ABN 61 760 960 480) on 17 April 2014.

Due to Machinery of Government changes within the Victorian State Government, the Project is now being delivered by VIDA Roads (formerly the Major Road Projects Victoria), which is a division of the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (an administrative office of the Department of Transport and Planning (ABN 69 981 208 782)).

2.4 Project Status

Key activities undertaken as part of the Project during the compliance reporting period (July 2024 – June 2025) include:

- Maintenance of No Go Zones (NGZ)
- Ongoing visual environmental monitoring and surveillance

- Maintenance of erosion and sediment controls
- Implementation of the Weed Management Plan, Threatened Species Management Plan and Offset Management Plans.

Since 28 October 2020, construction works for Section 2B of the approved action have been on hold. Works for the Project will not re-commence until a new Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is prepared and approved in accordance with the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

On 3 May 2024, the Department commenced an audit of the Project to assess compliance with the conditions of the Approval. The audit concluded in January 2025, and the audit findings were published on the Department's website.

2.4.1 EPBC Approval Variation

A request for a variation to the Approval was submitted to the Department on 20 December 2022 and is currently under consideration at the time of publishing this report.

2.4.2 Amendment of Threatened Species Management Plan (TSMP)

The version of the TSMP that was implemented for the Project during the reporting period is Issue No.6 dated May 2020. The version reflects design changes required to facilitate the avoidance of several trees in the project area identified as significant by some members of the Aboriginal community. This version of the TSMP was approved by the delegate of the Commonwealth Environment Minister on 22 October 2020 and by the Secretary – DEECA on 27 November 2020.

A further version of the TSMP was prepared during the compliance reporting period of June 2020 to July 2021. The amended TSMP is Issue No. 7 and was submitted to the Department for approval on 27 November 2020 pursuant to Condition 24 of the Approval and was approved on 13 January 2021. The amended TSMP was also submitted to DEECA for approval on 7 December 2020 as part of the State approval process. DEECA's assessment of the application is presently on-hold due to Project construction being on hold (see Section 2.4 above).

MRPV advised the Department of its intention to continue to operate under and implement Issue No. 6 of the TSMP in relation to all Project activities, and that Issue No. 7 would not be published on its website, until such time as the amended TSMP is approved by DEECA (formerly DELWP). On 2 February 2021, the Department confirmed that it approved of this approach and that the amended TSMP must be published within 10 business days of approval by the State.

3 Performance and compliance

Table 2 EPBC Act Approval Notice 2010/5741 compliance results

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
Original dated 17/4/2014	To minimise impacts of construction on listed threatened species and ecological communities: 1. The person taking the action must ensure that the action does not occur outside of the project area as illustrated at Annex 1.	Compliant	Project works are currently paused, and no construction works were undertaken during the reporting period. All project activities that have been undertaken have occurred within the approved project area.
Original dated 17/4/2014	2. The person taking the action must ensure that project activities do not impact more than five (5) Spiny Rice-flower plants.	Compliant	There were no impacts to any Spiny Rice-flower plants during the reporting period.
Original dated 17/4/2014	3. The person taking the action must ensure the approved Weed Management Plan is implemented.	Compliant	The Weed Management Plan was implemented during the reporting period. Key weed management activities implemented in response to key performance indicators on Section 2B (Buangor to Ararat) during the reporting period included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and use of vehicle access points for all vehicles that enter the Project Area. • Management and use of washdown bays (including wash down bay signage). • Weed management inspections. The other stages of the action are more than 2 years post construction and there were no weed management actions required to be implemented on Stage 2A (Beaufort to Buangor) or the Buangor Bypass during the reporting period.
Variation dated 10/4/2015	4. The person taking the action must, in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist revise the Threatened Species Management Plan(s) for the conservation and enhancement of	Compliant	The revised Threatened Species Management Plan (TSMP) required by condition 4 was developed in consultation with DEECA and the

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	<p>the Spiny Rice-flower, Button Wrinklewort, Golden Sun Moth habitat, and Dwarf Galaxias habitat in accordance with the requirements set out below, and submit the revised plan(s) for the Minister's approval. Construction activities must not commence within 100m of each of the matters identified above (as illustrated in Annex 1) until the Minister approves the revised plan(s) in relation to that matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. base line data and other supporting evidence that documents the baseline condition of populations of Spiny Rice-flower, Button Wrinklewort, Golden Sun Moth and Dwarf Galaxias habitat and populations within the project area. b. specific management actions to maintain and/or improve Spiny Rice-flower, Button Wrinklewort, Golden Sun Moth, and Dwarf Galaxias populations and habitat within the project area, including but not limited to details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. establishing no-go zone(s) with a minimum 3m buffer around Spiny Rice-flower patch(s), Button Wrinklewort patch(s), Golden Sun Moth habitat, and Dwarf Galaxias habitat to be avoided. Clearly marking no-go zone(s) with high visibility fencing and signage for at least the duration that construction activities are within 100m of the no-go zone(s). ii. a plan and schedule for revegetation, rehabilitation and weed removal works for the improvement of Golden Sun Moth habitat impacted by the proposed action. iii. how any pipes, culverts and/or bridges constructed within Dwarf Galaxias habitat will not restrict habitat connectivity or hinder the dispersal of Dwarf Galaxias; iv. revoked 10 April 2015 v. revoked 10 April 2015 vi. the method and schedule for water quality monitoring of Dwarf Galaxias habitat during construction activities; vii. a plan and schedule for revegetation, rehabilitation and weed removal works within Dwarf Galaxias habitat, 		<p>Department and was approved by the Department on 11 June 2014.</p>

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	<p>including establishment of in-stream habitat with suitable features such as woody debris and native riparian and aquatic species.</p> <p>viii. implementing sediment, erosion and pollution control protocols, in accordance with Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA Publication No. 275, 1991); and Environmental Guidelines for Major Construction Sites (EPA Publication No. 480, February 1996); and ix. ensuring chemicals and fuels are stored and handled in accordance with the relevant Material Safety Data Sheets. Ensuring chemicals and fuels are not stockpiled within 100m of waterways, and a spill kit must be kept onsite for the duration of construction. Implementing an emergency response procedure in the event of a chemical or fuel spill near waterways.</p> <p>c. information and commitments about monitoring and reporting on the improvements in the condition of the project area; and</p> <p>d. corrective actions and contingency measures to be implemented where monitoring under the Threatened Species Management Plan(s) indicates a degradation of Spiny Rice-flower, Button Wrinklewort, Golden Sun Moth habitat, and/or Dwarf Galaxias habitat.</p>		
Original dated 17/4/2014	5. The person taking the action must ensure the approved Threatened Species Management Plan(s) is implemented.	Compliant	<p>Issue No. 6 of the TSMP dated May 2020, as approved by the Department on 22 October 2020, was implemented during the reporting period – refer to the response to Condition 24 below.</p> <p>Key TSMP activities implemented during the reporting period included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and monitoring of No Go Zones (NGZ). • Maintenance of erosion and sediment controls.

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing visual environmental monitoring and surveillance, including in respect of the Button Wrinklewort. Use of vehicle access points and washdown bay. Rubbish and litter removal. <p>As required by section 15 of the TSMP (Issue No. 6 dated May 2020), an annual report detailing compliance with the TSMP will be provided to the Department prior to 30 September 2025.</p>
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p><i>Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (GEWVVP)</i></p> <p>6. The person taking the action must ensure that construction activities do not impact more than 11.14 ha of GEWVVP.</p>	Compliant	Impact of construction activities to GEWVVP to date is below 11.14ha. No construction works have taken place during the reporting period.
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p>7. Unless approved by the Minister, the person taking the action must establish a 33.5 ha GEWVVP Offset at the Dunkeld Property, to compensate for the loss of GEWVVP. Within 9 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> enters into Agreement with the landowner under section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, or a Trust for Nature covenant mechanism to secure a 33.5 ha GEWVVP Offset at the Dunkeld Property. provides the Department with a signed copy of the Agreement and evidence of lodgement with the Titles Office, within 2 weeks of lodgement. provides the Department with the offset attributes, shapefile and map(s) clearly defining the location and boundaries of the GEWVVP Offset, within 2 weeks of lodgement; and ensure that the Agreement is registered on the title on which the GEWVVP Offset is located. The Department must be 	Compliant	<p>The requirements of Condition 7 were completed prior to the reporting period.</p> <p>The s.173 Agreement was registered on the title of the Dunkeld Property on 7 July 2016. Evidence of this registration was submitted to the Department electronically on 25 July 2016.</p>

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	provided with evidence of registration within 2 weeks of registration.		
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p>8. Within 9 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must submit a draft GEWVVP Offset Management Plan to the Department for the Minister's approval. The GEWVVP Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist and provide for the conservation and enhancement of GEWVVP within the GEWVVP Offset(s), and must include details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. base line data and other supporting evidence that documents the baseline condition of GEWVVP on the GEWVVP Offset(s). b. description, key performance indicator, and timeframe for implementing specific management actions to improve the condition of GEWVVP within the GEWVVP Offset(s), including but not limited to control of weed and pest species, control of access to the protected land, strategic fire and grazing management (acknowledging that such impacts may be positive or negative depending on circumstances); c. measures to ensure that actions taken have no detrimental impact on the populations or habitat of other listed threatened species and communities that are likely to occur or utilise the GEWVVP Offset(s). d. information and commitments about monitoring and reporting on the improvements in condition of the offset site; and e. corrective actions and contingency measures to be implemented where monitoring under the GEWVVP Offset Management Plan indicates a degradation of the GEWVVP. 	Complaint	The requirements of Condition 8 were completed prior to the reporting period. The GEWVVP Offset Management Plan (dated March 2015) was approved by the Department on 17 April 2015.
Original dated 17/4/2014	9. The person taking the action must ensure the GEWVVP Offset(s) is managed in accordance with the approved GEWVVP Offset Management Plan for a period of at least 10 years from the date of execution of the Agreement.	Compliant, except in respect of the Landowner's	The GEWVVP Offset was managed during the reporting period in accordance with the GEWVVP Offset Management Plan (OMP). Key management actions undertaken in response to the key performance indicators during the reporting period included:

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
		reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed management control, including thistle control in September 2024. • Maintenance and repair of fencing. • Monitoring of pest animals. • Biomass control including grazing activities in Spring 2024. <p>An issue has been identified in respect of the timing of the Landowner's reporting requirements. The landowner monitoring form was completed on 10 January 2025 and should have been completed in Autumn 2025.</p> <p>A progress report was completed on 15 April 2025. All key performance indicators were met for the reporting period.</p>
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p><i>Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP)</i></p> <p>10. The person taking the action must ensure that construction activities do not impact more than 5.25 ha of NTGVVP.</p>	Compliant	Impact of construction activities to NTGVVP to date is below 5.25ha. No construction works have taken place during the reporting period.
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p>11. Unless approved by the Minister, the person taking the action must establish a 20.3 ha NTGVVP Offset at the Darlington Property to compensate for the loss of NTGVVP. Within 9 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must:</p> <p>a. enters into Agreement with the landowner under section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, or a Trust for Nature covenant mechanism to secure a 20.3 ha NTGVVP Offset at the Darlington Property.</p> <p>b. provides the Department with a signed copy of the Agreement and evidence of lodgement with the Titles Office, within 2 weeks of lodgement.</p> <p>c. provides the Department with the offset attributes, shapefile and map(s) clearly defining the location and boundaries of the NTGVVP Offset, within 2 weeks of lodgement; and</p>	Compliant	<p>The requirements of Condition 11 were completed prior to the reporting period.</p> <p>The s.173 Agreement was registered on the title of the Darlington Property on 2 June 2015. Evidence of this registration was submitted to the Department electronically on 25 July 2016.</p>

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	d. ensure that the Agreement is registered on the title on which the NTGVVP Offset is located. The Department must be provided with evidence of registration within 2 weeks of registration.		
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p>12. Within 9 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must submit a draft NTGVVP Offset Management Plan to the Department for the Minister's approval. The NTGVVP Offset Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist and provide for the conservation and enhancement of the viability of the population of NTGVVP within the NTGVVP Offset, and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. baseline data and other supporting evidence that documents the baseline quality of NTGVVP within the NTGVVP Offset Management Plan. b. description, key performance indicator, and timeframe for implementing specific management actions to improve the condition of NTGVVP within the NTGVVP Offset Management Plan, including but not limited to control of weed and pest species, control of access to the protected land, strategic fire and grazing management (acknowledging that such impacts may be positive or negative depending on circumstances); c. measures to ensure that actions taken have no detrimental impact on the populations or habitat of other listed threatened species and communities that are likely to occur or utilise the NTGVVP Offset Management Plan. d. information and commitments about monitoring and reporting on the improvements in condition of the offset site; and 	Complaint	The requirements of Condition 12 were completed prior to the reporting period. The NTGVVP Offset Management Plan (dated March 2015) was approved by the Minister on 17 April 2015.

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	e. corrective actions and contingency measures to be implemented where monitoring under the NTGVVP Offset Management Plan indicates a degradation of the NTGVVP.		
Original dated 17/4/2014	13. The person taking the action must ensure the NTGVVP Offset is managed in accordance with the approved NTGVVP Offset Management Plan for a period of at least 10 years from the date of execution of the Agreement.	Compliant	<p>The NTGVVP Offset was managed during the reporting period in accordance with the NTGVVP Offset Management Plan (OMP). Key management actions undertaken in response to the key performance indicators during the reporting period included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed monitoring. • Weed management through strategic grazing. • Monitoring and management of pest animals through various methods including spotlighting transects. • Monitoring of fencing and gates. <p>The progress report and landowner monitoring form were completed in April 2025. All key performance indicators were met for the reporting period.</p>
As varied on 13/01/2021	<p>14. The person taking the action must ensure that construction activities do not impact more than 63.90 ha of Golden Sun Moth habitat. This comprises:</p> <p>a. impact of no more than 31.56 ha approved on 17 April 2014; and</p> <p>b. no more than 32.34 ha additional impact approved on 13 January 2021.</p>	Complaint	Impact of construction activities to Golden Sun Moth (GSM) habitat to date is below 63.90 ha. No construction activities have taken place during the reporting period.
As varied on 13/01/2021	<p><i>Offset requirements for impact of no more than 31.56 ha Golden Sun Moth habitat.</i></p> <p>15. Unless otherwise approved by the Minister, the person taking the action must establish a 100 ha Golden Sun Moth Offset at the Darlington Property to compensate for the loss of Golden Sun Moth habitat as approved in condition 14 (a). Within 9 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must:</p>	Compliant	<p>The requirements of Condition 15 were completed prior to the reporting period.</p> <p>A copy of the signed s.173 Agreement and evidence of lodgement with the Titles Office was submitted to the Department electronically on 25 July 2016.</p>

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provides the Department with evidence that the property(s) identified to form the basis of the Golden Sun Moth Offset contain a viable population of Golden Sun Moth, and at least 100 ha of known Golden Sun Moth habitat. Property(s) must be surveyed in accordance with EPBC Act policy statement 3.12 - significant impact guidelines for the critically endangered golden sun moth (<i>Synemon plana</i>) by a suitably qualified ecologist. b. enters into Agreement with the landowner under section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, or a Trust for Nature covenant mechanism to secure a 100 ha Golden Sun Moth Offset of known Golden Sun Moth habitat at the Darlington Property. c. provides the Department with a signed copy of the Agreement and evidence of lodgement with the Titles Office, within 2 weeks of lodgement. d. provides the Department with the offset attributes, shapefile and map(s) clearly defining the location and boundaries of the Golden Sun Moth Offset, within 2 weeks of lodgement; and e. ensure that the Agreement is registered on the title on which the Golden Sun Moth Offset is located. The Department must be provided with evidence of registration within 2 weeks of registration. 		
Original dated 17/4/2014	16. Within 9 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must submit a draft Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan to the Department for the Minister's approval. The Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist and provide for the conservation and enhancement of Golden Sun Moth within the Golden Sun Moth Offset(s), and must include details of:	Compliant	The requirements of Condition 16 were completed prior to the reporting period. The Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan (dated March 2015) was approved by the Department on 17 April 2015.

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	<p>a. baseline data and other supporting evidence that documents the baseline condition and extent of Golden Sun Moth habitat and population viability on the Golden Sun Moth Offset(s).</p> <p>b. description, key performance indicator, and timeframe for implementing specific management actions to improve the condition of Golden Sun Moth habitat within the Golden Sun Moth Offset(s), including but not limited to control of weed and pest species, control of access to the protected land, strategic fire and grazing management (acknowledging that such impacts may be positive or negative depending on circumstances);</p> <p>c. measures to ensure that actions taken have no detrimental impact on the populations or habitat of other listed threatened species and communities that are likely to occur or utilise the Golden Sun Moth Offset(s).</p> <p>d. information and commitments about monitoring and reporting on the improvements in condition of the offset site; and</p> <p>e. corrective actions and contingency measures to be implemented where monitoring under the Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan indicates a degradation of Golden Sun Moth habitat.</p>		
Original dated 17/4/2014	17. The person taking the action must ensure the Golden Sun Moth Offset(s) is managed in accordance with the approved Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan for a period of at least 10 years from the date of execution of the Agreement.	Compliant	<p>The GSM Offset was managed during the reporting period in accordance with the GSM Offset Management Plan (OMP). Key management actions undertaken in response to the key performance indicators during the reporting period included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed monitoring. • Weed management through strategic grazing. • Monitoring and management of pest animals through various methods including spotlighting transects. • Monitoring of fencing and gates.

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
			The progress report and landowner monitoring form were completed in April 2025. All key performance indicators were met for the reporting period.
As varied on 13/01/2021	<p><i>Additional Offset Requirements for no more than 32.34 ha additional impact on Golden Sun Moth habitat</i></p> <p>17A. In addition to the requirements specified in Condition 15, unless otherwise approved by the Minister, the person taking the action must establish an additional Golden Sun Moth Offset in accordance with the EPBC Environmental Offsets Policy and Offset Assessment Guide to compensate for the impact on additional areas of Golden Sun Moth habitat specified in Condition 14(b).</p>	Non-Compliant	At the time of preparation of this report, the additional Golden Sun Moth offset has not been established as required by Condition 17A. A variation of the Approval was requested on 20 December 2022 to provide additional time to secure the Golden Sun Moth offset. At the time of publishing this report, the variation request is still under consideration by the Department.
As varied on 13/01/2021	<p>17B. Within 24 months of the date of the approval of the variation adding Conditions 17A to 17E to this approval, the person taking the action must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provides the Department with evidence that any property/ies identified to form the basis of this Golden Sun Moth Offset contain a viable population of Golden Sun Moth that meets the requirements of Condition 17A. The property/ies must be surveyed in accordance with EPBC Act policy statement 3.12 - significant impact guidelines for the critically endangered golden sun moth (<i>Synemon plana</i>) by a suitably qualified ecologist. b. enters into Agreement with the landowner under section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, or a Trust for Nature covenant mechanism to secure the Golden Sun Moth Offset of known Golden Sun Moth habitat. c. provides the Department with a signed copy of the Agreement and evidence of lodgement with the Titles Office, within 2 weeks of lodgement. 	Non-Compliant	The additional Golden Sun Moth Offset was not established by 13 January 2023 as required by Condition 17B. A variation of the Approval was requested on 20 December 2022 to provide additional time for the additional offset to be secured. At the time of publishing this report, the variation request is still under consideration by the Department.

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	<p>d. provides the Department with the offset attributes, shapefile and map(s) clearly defining the location and boundaries of the Golden Sun Moth Offset, within 2 weeks of lodgement; and</p> <p>e. ensure that the Agreement is registered on the title on which the Golden Sun Moth Offset is located. The Department must be provided with evidence of registration within 2 weeks of registration.</p>		
As varied on 13/01/2021	17C. Within 24 months of the date of the approval of the variation adding Conditions 17A to 17E to this approval, the person taking the action must submit a draft Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan relating to the Golden Sun Moth Offset required under Condition 17A to the Department for the Minister's approval. The Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist and provide for the conservation and enhancement of Golden Sun Moth within the Golden Sun Moth Offset(s) and must include the information specified in Condition 16.	Non-Compliant	The additional Golden Sun Moth Offset was not established by 13 January 2023 as required by Condition 17B. A variation of the Approval was requested on 20 December 2022 to provide additional time for the additional offset to be secured. At the time of publishing this report, the variation request is still under consideration by the Department.
As varied on 13/01/2021	17D. The person taking the action must ensure that the Golden Sun Moth Offset(s) required under Condition 17A is/are managed in accordance with the Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Plan prepared pursuant to Condition 17C for a period of 10 years from the date of execution of the Agreement required under Condition 17B.	Non-Compliant	The Agreement required under Condition 17B has not been executed and the 10-year period under Condition 17D has not commenced.
As varied on 13/01/2021	17E. Construction activities can proceed in advance of satisfaction of Conditions 17A, 17B, 17C and 17D.	Compliant	No construction activities have taken place during the reporting period.
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p><i>Contingency condition for offsets</i></p> <p>18. If the GEWVVP Offset as per condition 7, and/or the NTGVVP Offset as per condition 11, and/ or the GSM Offset as per condition 15 cannot be secured as an offset within 9 months of</p>	Not applicable	The requirements of Condition 18 have not been triggered.

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	<p>the date of this approval, and/or if information required by condition 15(a) fails to demonstrate a viable population of Golden Sun Moth at the Darlington Property to the Department's satisfaction, the person taking the action must establish a Contingency Offset(s) with Trust for Nature for the residual offset requirements of the relevant condition.</p> <p>a. within 10 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must provide the Department with a proposal for the Contingency Offset(s), for the Department's approval. The proposal must include a copy of the draft Agreement with Trust for Nature that documents the property(s) identified to form the basis of the Contingency Offset(s), prior to signature by any parties. The plan must also include details of how the size and quality of the matters present at the site of the proposed Contingency Offset(s) will provide for the residual offset requirements of this approval, supported by surveys in accordance with the Department's guidelines and by a suitably qualified ecologist; and</p> <p>b. within 24 months of the date of this approval, the person taking the action must:</p> <p>i. enters into a written Agreement with Trust for Nature that documents the property(s) agreed by the Department to form the basis of the Contingency Offset(s). The person proposing to take the action must provide the Department with a signed copy of the Agreement and within 7 days of signature by all parties.</p> <p>ii. ensure that the properties(s) identified by Trust for Nature to form the basis of the Contingency Offset(s) are surveyed in accordance with relevant survey guidelines by a suitably qualified ecologist to determine the baseline quality.</p> <p>iii. provide Trust for Nature with \$50,000 Australian dollars per hectare, for the number of hectares required by the</p>		

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	<p>Department for the Contingency Offset(s) (the funds), to be held until such time as the Contingency Offset(s) is approved by the Minister, at which time the money will form the basis of the payment to purchase environmental services from the landowner of the Contingency Offset(s). If the cost of purchasing the environmental services is greater than the funds, the person taking the action must provide additional funds to Trust for Nature as required. If the cost of purchasing the environmental services is less than the funds, the remaining funds must be returned to the person taking the action. The arrangements for the provision and expenditure of the funds must be set out in the Agreement.</p> <p>iv. enter into a Credit Trading Agreement with Trust for Nature and the landowner under the Nature Conservation Trust Act 1972, to secure Contingency Offset(s).</p> <p>v. provides the Department with a signed copy of the Credit Trading Agreement within 2 weeks of its signature by all parties.</p> <p>vi. ensure that a Deed of Covenant for the Contingency Offset(s) is executed with Trust for Nature and is registered on the title documents of the site of the Contingency Offset(s) within 6 months of the date of signing the Credit Trading Agreement.</p> <p>vii. provide the Department with evidence of registration within 2 weeks of registration.</p> <p>viii. provide the Department with the offset attributes, shapefile and map clearly defining the location and boundaries of the Contingency Offset(s), within 2 weeks of registration; and</p> <p>ix. provide a Contingency Offset Management plan to the Department for the Minister's approval. The person taking the action must ensure that any Contingency Offset(s) are</p>		

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
	managed in accordance with an approved Contingency Offset Management Plan for a period of at least 10 years from the date of execution of the Agreement.		
Original dated 17/4/2014	<p><i>Administrative conditions</i></p> <p>19. Within 30 calendar days after the commencement of construction activities, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement construction activities.</p>	Compliant	The requirements of Condition 19 were completed prior to the reporting period. Construction activities commenced on 5 June 2014, and the Department was notified in writing of the commencement of construction activities on 11 June 2014.
Original dated 17/4/2014	20. The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement management plans 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.	Compliant	Accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of the Approval for the reporting period are stored and maintained in MRPV's electronic file storage system.
Original dated 17/4/2014	21. Within three months of June 30 each year following the commencement of construction activities, the person taking the action must publish an annual report of compliance on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. 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 annual report of compliance is published. The annual report of compliance must document the outcomes of the management plan(s) against the performance indicators of the management plan(s).	Compliant	<p>This compliance report was published on the MRPV website by 30 September 2025 and can be accessed here:</p> <p>https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/mrpv/western-highway-upgrade/environment. Notice of publication of the report was provided to the Department by 30 September 2025.</p>

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
Original dated 17/4/2014	22. The person taking the action must notify the Department in writing of any non-compliance with conditions as soon as practicable and no later than 2 business days of becoming aware of the non - compliance.	Not applicable	<p>The requirements of this condition were not triggered during the reporting period.</p> <p>MRPV actively engaged with the Department during the reporting period as part of the audit process referred to in section 2.4 above. As part of this process, the issue regarding the timing of the landowner reporting addressed in response to condition 9 was identified.</p> <p>The Department has been aware of the non-compliance with Conditions 17A, 17B, and 17C since December 2022, prior to the reporting period.</p>
Original dated 17/4/2014	23. Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	Not applicable	There was no request for an independent compliance audit made under Condition 23 during the reporting period.
Original dated 17/4/2014	24. If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with management plans as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the Department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that management plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied management plan in writing. The Minister will not approve a varied management plan unless the revised management plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the Minister approves the revised management plan, that management plan must be implemented in place of the management plan originally approved.	Compliant	<p>It is noted that Issue No.6 of the TSMP dated May 2020 was implemented during the reporting period. As discussed in Section 2.4 above, an amended version of the TSMP was submitted to the Department on 27 November 2020 and was approved on 13 January 2021.</p> <p>On 2 February 2021, the Department approved implementation of Issue No. 6 of the TSMP in relation to all Project activities until such time as the amended TSMP is approved by DEECA.</p>

Date of decision	Conditions of Approval (as varied on 13 January 2021)	Compliance Status for 2024/2025 reporting period	Comments / Evidence
Original dated 17/4/2014	25. If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and ecological communities and wetlands of international importance to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the management plans specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plans for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved management plans must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised management plans then the person taking the action must continue to implement the management plans originally approved, as specified in the conditions.	Not applicable	No request was received from the Minister under Condition 25 during the reporting period.
Original dated 17/4/2014	26. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish a copy of each approved management plan referred to in these conditions of approval on their website within 1 month of approval of the management plan. Each management plan(s) must be accessible to general members of the public for a period of at least 10 years from the date of approval of the management plan(s). Any variations to management plans must be published on the website within 1 month of the variation being approved by the Minister	Compliant	All current management plans for the Project can be found on the Victoria's Big Build website. (https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/western-highway-upgrade/environment) .
Original dated 17/4/2014	27. If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Not applicable	The action was substantially commenced on 5 June 2014, and the requirements of Condition 27 have not been triggered.

4 References

1. Ecology and Heritage Partners (May 2017), Ecological Assessment – Western Highway Project: Section 2B, Ecology and Heritage Partners 230 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong West VIC 3218
2. Ecology and Heritage Partners (June 2020), Interim Vegetation Clearance Audit – Western Highway Project: Section 2B (part), Ecology and Heritage Partners 230 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong West VIC 3218
3. Ecology and Heritage Partners (July 2020), Supplementary Ecological Assessment – Western Highway Project: Section 2B Realignment, Ecology and Heritage Partners 230 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong West VIC 3218
4. Ecology and Heritage Partners (July 2021), Interim Vegetation Clearance Audit – Western Highway Project: Section 2B (part), Ecology and Heritage Partners 230 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong West VIC 3218
5. Ecology and Heritage Partners (July 2022) Interim Vegetation Clearance Audit – Western Highway Project: Section 2B (part) 2021-2022 Financial Year Ecology and Heritage Partners 292 Mt Alexander Road, Ascot Vale VIC 3032