

# Regional Rail Revival Gippsland

PREPARED FOR VICTORIAN INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY  
AUTHORITY (VIDA) RAIL

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ANNUAL EPBC ACT APPROVAL - (EPBC  
2019/8563) COMPLIANCE REPORT 2024 – 2025

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This document should be read in full and no excerpts are to be taken as representative of the findings.

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# Glossary & Abbreviations

TERM / ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
2024 – 2025 reporting period	Relating to the 12-month period following commencement of the action, which includes the reporting period between 16 November 2024 and 15 November 2025
AJM JV	Aurecon Jacobs Mott Macdonald Joint Venture
Action area	As defined in EPBC Act 2019/8563 Approval
Approval holder	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority Rail acting on behalf of Department of Transport and Planning
Big Build	Victoria's Big Build Website
Compliant	The requirements of the condition have been carried out
CTA	Credit Trading Agreement
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DoT	Victoria's Department of Transport (now known as Department of Transport and Planning)
DTP	Victoria's Department of Transport and Planning
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)</i>
GLU	Gippsland Line Upgrade
LCRP	Level Crossing Removal Project (now known as Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority Rail)
Not applicable	The requirements of conditions were not triggered during the reporting period or were no longer applicable to the reporting period
Offset site owner	Deep Lead Pty Ltd trading as Bush Blocks
OMP	Offset Management Plan
the department	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
the Project	Upgrade to the railway corridor of the Gippsland Line between Pakenham and Longwarry, Victoria
RRR	Regional Rail Revival
RPV	Rail Projects Victoria (now known as Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority Rail)
SBB	Southern Brown Bandicoot
VIDA	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority, acting on behalf of Victoria's Department of Transport and Planning

# 1. Executive Summary

The approval of the Gippsland Line Upgrade Corridor Works – Pakenham to Longwarry East referral (EPBC 2019/8563) was issued to Victoria's Department of Transport (DoT) on the 25 June 2021 to upgrade the railway corridor of the Gippsland Line between Pakenham and Longwarry, Victoria (herein referred to as 'the Project').

In accordance with Condition 11 of the EPBC Act approval (EPBC 2019/8563); within 60 days of every 12-month anniversary of the commencement of construction (15 November 2021), the approval holder must publish a report addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of the conditions under the EPBC Act set out in Annexure A of the Approval Decision notice.

This compliance report addresses the compliance of the Project against the conditions for approval of the EPBC Act referral 2019/8563 for the activities carried out between 16 November 2024 and 15 November 2025. This is the fourth report prepared under the EPBC Act approval 2019/8563 for this Project.

Works conducted during the 2024 – 2025 reporting period are compliant with applicable conditions of EPBC Act approval 2019/8563.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Overview

As part of the Victorian Regional Rail Revival program, the Gippsland Line Upgrade is upgrading the rail line servicing the Gippsland region of eastern Victoria. The Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority – Rail (VIDA Rail), on behalf of the State Government of Victoria, is responsible for the planning and implementation of the upgrade. The Gippsland Line Upgrade will enable extra services on the Gippsland line and improve safety for motorists and trains at level crossings. Construction of the action commenced in 2021.

The upgrade works to the railway corridor of the Gippsland Line between Pakenham and Longwarry, Victoria (i.e. the Project) include:

- Sections of track duplication at Bunyip and Longwarry Stations.
- Upgrades to train control systems along the line and at level crossing locations between Pakenham and Longwarry East.
- Second platform and station amenity works at Bunyip Station and Longwarry stations.
- Level crossing upgrades from Pakenham to Longwarry East.

The Action Area spans approximately 25 kilometres along the Gippsland railway corridor located within the municipalities of Baw Baw Shire Council and Cardinia Shire Council. An overview map of the Project area has been provided in Appendix A.

### 2.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the EPBC Act approval for the Project (EPBC 2019/8563) and to satisfy Condition 11 of that approval, which states:

*The approval holder must prepare a compliance report addressing each condition of this approval for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must:*

- publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12-month period*
- notify the department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within 5 business days of the date of publication*
- keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires*
- exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website*
- 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.*

This compliance report covers the reporting period between 16 November 2024 and 15 November 2025 (herein referred to as the '2024 – 2025 reporting period') in respect of EPBC Approval 2019/8563: Gippsland Line Upgrade, Corridor Works – Pakenham to Longwarry East, Victoria issued to the Department of Transport on 25 June 2021.

The key dates that related to the approval are detailed in Table 2.1.

TABLE 2.1 KEY EPBC ACT APPROVAL DATES

ACTION	DATE
Commonwealth approval granted	25 June 2021
Commencement of action	15 November 2021
Variation of conditions attached to approval	03 March 2023
Conduct an independent audit of compliance with conditions of approval 36 months from the commencement of the action	15 November 2024
Publication date for the fourth compliance report (this report) (60 business days from the anniversary of the commencement of the action)	13 February 2026
Notify the department of compliance report publication (5 business days from the publication date)	20 February 2026
Period for which approval has effect	30 June 2041



### 3. Works conducted

Construction within the action area began in November 2021. During the 2024 – 2025 reporting period, actions within the activity area consisted of the completion and commission of Stage 2 major rail systems. A summary of the works completed in the action area as of November 2025 have been provided in Table 3-1 below.

**TABLE 3-1 WORKS COMPLETED UNDER EPBC 2019/8563 AS OF NOVEMBER 2025**

YEAR	WORKS COMPLETED
2024 – 2025 reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion and commissioning of stage 1 major rail systems scope was completed in May 2024 with defect works continuing from Nov 2024 into 2025 and they include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil defect works to address combined service route and maintenance access issues raised by VLine signalling maintenance technicians</li> <li>Replanting of disturbed vegetation post stage 1 occupation</li> <li>Minor train control and signalling data updates to address test logs from stage 1 occupation</li> <li>Minor rectification works at newly built Bunyip and Longwarry Station platforms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2023 – 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corridor Works including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finishing touches at Bunyip and Longwarry stations, including landscaping and platform line marking.</li> <li>Minor signalling, site survey, cable hauling, trackside equipment and maintenance access.</li> <li>Road works along the Bunyip line.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2022 – 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rail control system upgrades, including upgrades to signalling, communications and train control system associated with the below works.</li> <li>Level crossing and pedestrian crossing upgrades including enhancing train detection on applicable crossings with the introduction of electronic wheel sensors or axle counter upgrades.</li> <li>Station upgrades at Bunyip Station, Longwarry Station</li> <li>Track and Civil works.</li> </ul>
2021 – 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of combined services route including maintenance and access routes.</li> <li>Construction of V/line car park and station drainage south-west of Bunyip Station.</li> <li>Non-destructive drilling at several locations.</li> <li>Utility relocations at Bunyip and Longwarry Stations.</li> <li>Installation of new electrical systems at Bunyip and Longwarry Stations.</li> <li>Construction of hardstands in several locations.</li> <li>Platform and bus loop upgrades at Bunyip station, including earthworks, structures, drainage, and landscape works.</li> <li>Platform and bus loop upgrades at Longwarry Station, including earthworks, structures, drainage, and landscape works.</li> <li>Track formation at several locations.</li> </ul>

## 4. Approval Conditions Compliance Table

A summary of compliance with EPBC Act approval (EPBC 2019/8533) conditions has been provided in Table 4.1

**TABLE 4.1 CONDITIONS AND DEMONSTRATION OF COMPLIANCE FOR THE 2024-2025 REPORTING PERIOD**

CONDITION NO.	APPROVAL CONDITION	IS THE PROJECT COMPLIANT WITH THIS CONDITION?	EVIDENCE / COMMENTS	APPENDICES
1	The approval holder must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear more than 0.901 ha of Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat in the action area.</li> </ul>	Compliant	The Project has, as of 1 August 2024 cleared a cumulative total of 0.899 ha of Southern Brown Bandicoot (SBB) habitat of the 0.901 ha allowed under this condition as per the Ecological Impact Assessment Submission #7. No further SBB habitat removal has been undertaken for the project. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix B: Ecological Impact Assessment Submission #7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear any Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat outside the action area.</li> </ul>	Compliant	No clearing outside the action area has occurred within the 2024 – 2025 reporting period. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix B: Ecological Impact Assessment Submission #7
2	To compensate for the loss of habitat connectivity, the approval holder must install culverts in areas where the rail line will be duplicated.	Compliant	Culverts have been installed within duplication works areas at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CH 79450</li> <li>CH 83200</li> </ul> The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix C: Bunyip culvert as-built drawing. Appendix D: Longwarry culvert as-built drawing. Appendix E: Bunyip and Longwarry culvert photo evidence.
	The approval holder must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence construction unless a plan specifying the number and locations of culverts to be installed has been approved in writing by the Minister.</li> </ul>	Compliant	A Southern Brown Bandicoot Culvert Construction Plan (dated 7 October 2021) was submitted to the department on the 16 August 2021. A response letter from the department approving the Southern Brown Bandicoot Culvert Plan (dated 7 October 2021) was issued to VIDA Rail on the 1 November 2021. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix F: Southern Brown Bandicoot culvert plan. Appendix G: Culvert plan approval letter.

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CONDITION NO.	APPROVAL CONDITION	IS THE PROJECT COMPLIANT WITH THIS CONDITION?	EVIDENCE / COMMENTS	APPENDICES
3	Within twelve months of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must secure the offset area.	Compliant	<p>A Letter of Understanding between VIDA Rail and the offset site owner (Deep Lead Property, trading as Bush Blocks) was signed for securing the proposed offset site: 'Loch Sport' on the 8 August 2021.</p> <p>Following endorsement from the department in reference to the suitability of the proposed offset site, a Trust for Nature Covenant under the Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972 (Vic) Credit Trade Agreement (CTA) was executed on the 26 October 2022. This occurred within 12 months of the commencement of the action.</p> <p>The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.</p>	<p>Appendix H: Letter of understanding between VIDA Rail and offset site owner.</p> <p>Appendix I: Executed credit trade agreement.</p>
4	Within 10 business days of the offset area being secured, the approval holder must provide the department with:	Compliant	<p>Evidence was issued (via email) to the department on the 9 November 2022, one business day after the offset was secured notifying the department that the offset area had been secured.</p> <p>The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.</p>	Appendix J: Notification offset has been secured.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written evidence demonstrating that the offset area has been secured.</li> <li>Shapefiles and the offset attributes for the offset area.</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>Shapefiles including offset attributes were submitted to the department via email on the 9 November 2022, 1 business day after the offset was secured.</p> <p>The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.</p>	Appendix J: Notification offset has been secured.
5	The approval holder must:	Compliant	<p>The offset site has been managed continuously since July 2020. Management actions as per the Southern Brown Bandicoot Offset Management Plan have been completed during the 2024 – 2025 reporting period.</p> <p>The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.</p>	Appendix K: Landowner management actions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence implementing the Offset Management Plan for the offset area prior to the commencement of the action.</li> <li>Continue to implement the Offset Management Plan for the duration of the approval.</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>The offset site has been managed continuously since July 2020. Management actions as per the Southern Brown Bandicoot Offset Management Plan have been completed during the 2024 – 2025 reporting period.</p> <p>The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.</p>	Appendix K: Landowner management actions.
6	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	<p>Notice of commencement of construction works was provided to the department on the 15 November 2021.</p> <p>The department confirmed commencement of the action in correspondence to VIDA Rail on the 16 November 2021.</p> <p>The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.</p>	Appendix L: Notification from the department acknowledging commencement of the Action.
7	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	<p>The Action commenced on the 15 November 2021, within five years from the date of approval (25 June 2021).</p>	Not Applicable

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CONDITION NO.	APPROVAL CONDITION	IS THE PROJECT COMPLIANT WITH THIS CONDITION?	EVIDENCE / COMMENTS	APPENDICES
8	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Compliant	VIDA Rail maintains an organised Environmental Management Systems (EMS) database with relevant documents.	Not Applicable
9	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.  Note: Compliance records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, and or used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the result of an audit may be published on the department's website or through the general media.	Compliant	No requests have been received from the department during the 2024 – 2025 reporting period, or in any previous reporting year.	Not Applicable
10	The approval holder must keep the Offset Management Plan published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Compliant	The Southern Brown Bandicoot Offset Management Plan was published in June 2021 and continues to be available on the Big Build website: <a href="#">RRR-GLU-Protecting-the-Southern-Brown-Bandicoot-Offset-Management-Plan.pdf (bigbuild.vic.gov.au)</a> . The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Not Applicable
11	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report addressing each condition of this approval for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must:	Compliant	The Annual EPBC Act Approval (EPBC 2019/8563) Compliance Report 2023 – 2024 was published on the Big Build website: <a href="#">RRR-GLU-EPBC Act Approval Compliance Report 2023 to 2024 (bigbuild.vic.gov.au)</a> on 11 February 2025, within 60 business days after the 15 November 2024 (the relevant 12-month period). The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Not Applicable
	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 and provide the weblink for the compliance report within 5 business days of the date of publication.	Compliant	The department was notified (via email) on 11 February 2025 that the 2023 – 2024 compliance report had been published. This is within 5 business days of the date of publication. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix M: Electronic notification to the department of published compliance report.
	c) Keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires.	Compliant	The Annual EPBC Act Approval (EPBC 2019/8563) Compliance Reports (2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 - 2024) continues to remain publicly available on the website at <a href="#">Gippsland Line Upgrade planning approvals - Victoria's Big Build</a> . The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Not Applicable



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CONDITION NO.	APPROVAL CONDITION	IS THE PROJECT COMPLIANT WITH THIS CONDITION?	EVIDENCE / COMMENTS	APPENDICES
	d) Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website.	Compliant	The compliance report published on the Big Build website has redacted sensitive ecological data (see compliance reports publicly available on the website at <a href="#">Gippsland Line Upgrade planning approvals - Victoria's Big Build</a> ). The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Not Applicable
	e) 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.	Compliant	A non-redacted version of the annual EPBC Act Approval (EPBC 2019/8563) Compliance Report 2023 – 2024 was issued (via email) to the department on 19 February 2025, within 5 business days after the compliance report was published on the Big Build website. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix N: Electronic notification to the department with non-redacted version of the compliance report.
12	The approval holder must notify the department in writing of any: incident <sup>1</sup> ; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 2 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify: a) Any condition which is or may be in breach.	Compliant	No incident, non-conformances with the conditions and commitments made in the Offset Management Plan were recorded during the 2024 – 2025 reporting period.	Not Applicable
	b) A short description of the incident and/or non-compliance.	Compliant	Refer to Condition 12 a)	Not Applicable
	c) The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or non-compliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.	Compliant	Refer to Condition 12 a)	Not Applicable
13	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.	Compliant	No incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in the plans were recorded during the 2024 – 2025 reporting period.	Not Applicable
	b) The potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance.	Compliant	Refer to Condition 13 a).	Not Applicable

<sup>1</sup> As per referral decision definition: **Incident** means any event which has the potential to, or does, impact on one or more **protected matter(s)** other than as authorised by this approval.

CONDITION NO.	APPROVAL CONDITION	IS THE PROJECT COMPLIANT WITH THIS CONDITION?	EVIDENCE / COMMENTS	APPENDICES
	c) The method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.	Compliant	Refer to Condition 13 a).	Not Applicable
	d) The measures put in place to prevent a reoccurrence of the incident of non-compliance.	Compliant	Refer to Condition 13 a).	Not Applicable
14	The approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted for the 36-month period starting from the commencement of the action, and thereafter that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted when requested by the Minister.	Compliant	An independent audit of compliance with the conditions of the approval, undertaken by KPMG, was completed on 18 March 2025, for the 36-month period starting from the commencement of the action (15 November 2021). This 36-month period was from 15 November 2021 to 15 November 2024. No requests have been received from the department for additional independent compliance audits. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Not Applicable
15	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: a) Provide the name and qualifications of the proposed independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the department before the end of the subject time period.	Compliant	The department was notified of the name and qualifications of the proposed independent auditor, and the draft audit criteria on the 14 November 2024, within the subject time period. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix O: Department Approval of Independent Audit Criteria Appendix P: Electronic notification to the department of the intention of an independent audit Appendix Q: Auditor Competence and Audit Criteria/Methodology
	b) Only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria and auditor have been approved in writing by the department.	Compliant	The audit criteria and auditor were approved in writing by the department on 16 December 2024 prior to commencement of the audit. The Project is therefore compliant with this condition.	Appendix O: Department Approval of Independent Audit Criteria
	c) Submit an audit report to the department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.	Compliant	The independent audit report was submitted to the department on 18 March 2025, within the timeframe specified by the Department (19 March 2025) as stated via email correspondence upon Department approval of the audit criteria.	Appendix R: Electronic notification from the department approving the audit report.
16	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.	Compliant	The department approved the independent audit on 24 April 2025. The independent audit report was published on the Big Build website on 30 April 2025, within 10 business days of receiving the department approval. The audit report currently remains on the Big Build website (see <a href="#">Gippsland Line Upgrade planning approvals - Victoria's Big Build</a> ).	Appendix R: Electronic notification from the department approving the audit report.

CONDITION NO.	APPROVAL CONDITION	IS THE PROJECT COMPLIANT WITH THIS CONDITION?	EVIDENCE / COMMENTS	APPENDICES
17	<p>Within 30 business days after whichever is the earlier of the completion of the action or 60 business days before the end date of the period for which the approval has effect</p> <p>The approval holder must notify the department in writing of the date of the completion of the action and submit all completion data to the department.</p>	Compliant	Construction of the Gippsland Line Upgrade – Pakenham to Longwarry is currently still in progress.. Following completion, notification will be provided to the department as per the condition.	Not Applicable

## 5. Conclusion

This compliance report has detailed the Project's adherence to the conditions of the EPBC Act approval (EPBC 2019/8563) for activities carried out during the reporting period from 16 November 2024 to 15 November 2025. It confirms that all works undertaken as part of the Gippsland Line Upgrade Corridor Works – Pakenham to Longwarry have remained compliant with the requirements specified in the Approval Decision notice. As the fourth compliance report prepared under this approval, it demonstrates the Department of Transport and Planning's ongoing commitment to meeting environmental obligations and ensuring responsible project delivery.



## 6. References

AJM Joint Venture. (2023). Annual EPBC Act Approval - (EPBC 2019/8563) Compliance Report 2021 - 2022. Retrieved from <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/gippsland-line-upgrade/about/planning>

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KPMG. (2025). EPBC Act 1999 Approval Independent Audit - Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) – Gippsland Line Upgrade, Corridor Works – Pakenham to Longwarry East, Victoria (EPBC 2019/8563). Retrieved from [https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/932669/Final-Audit-Report-LXRP-GLU-EPBC-Act-36-Month-Audit-18-March-2025-No-Signatures.pdf](https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/932669/Final-Audit-Report-LXRP-GLU-EPBC-Act-36-Month-Audit-18-March-2025-No-Signatures.pdf)

## Appendix A

# Project Area Overview



## Appendix B

# Ecological Impact Assessment



## Appendix C

# Bunyip Culvert As-Built Drawing



## Appendix D

# Longwarry Culvert As-Built Drawing



## Appendix E

# Bunyip and Longwarry Culvert Photo Evidence



## Appendix G

# Culvert Plan Approval Letter



## Appendix H

# Letter of Understanding Between VIDA Rail and Offset Site Owner





## Appendix I

# Executed Credit Trade Agreement



## Appendix J

J

# Notification Offset Has Been Secured




## Appendix K

# Landowner Management Actions




## Appendix L




# Notification from the Department Acknowledging Commencement of The Action

## Appendix M



# Electronic Notification to the Department of Published Compliance Report

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# Department Approval of Independent Audit Criteria



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# Electronic Notification to the Department of the Intention of an Independent Audit




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## Appendix R



# Electronic Notification from the Department Approving the Audit Report



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