



2 October, 2026

Princes Highway Duplication – Stammers Road, Traralgon East to Templetons Road, Fulham, Victoria

Compliance Assessment Report No.13, July 2025 to July 2026,
EPBC Approval No. 2010/5640



Document information

Criteria	Details
Document title:	Compliance Assessment Report No. 13, July 2025 to July 2026, EPBC Approval No. 2010/5640
Document owner:	VIDA Roads
Version:	1.0 DOC/25/282397
Issue date:	2 October 2026

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Glossary

Table 1 List of Terms and Abbreviations

Term/Abbreviation	Definition
CAB	Construction activity boundary
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (previously the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and before that the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE))
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (previously the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP))
DSEWPac	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, former Department of Energy and Environment (dissolved) Department of Environment (superseding), which is now also dissolved and now forms part of DCCEEW
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth)
GHD	GHD Australia, consultant
MTIA	Major Transport Infrastructure Authority
MRPV	Major Road Projects Victoria
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
VIDA Roads	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority, Roads (previously termed MRPV)

Executive Summary

The final approval to Referral No. 2010/5640 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) was given to VicRoads, now VIDA Roads, on the 23 January 2013 for the construction of the Princes Highway Duplication between Stammers Road, Traralgon East and Templetons Road, Fulham, Victoria (Princes Highway East Duplication Project).

Under Condition 14 of the decision notice, an annual compliance report is required to be published on VIDA Roads' (formerly Major Road Projects Victoria's) website within three months of every twelve-month anniversary of the commencement of the action. The report must address compliance with each condition of the approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions.

This compliance report addresses the current status of the Princes Highway East Duplication Project (the Project) against the conditions of EPBC Act Approval No. 2010/5640 (the Approval). This is the thirteenth compliance report to be prepared for the Princes Highway East Duplication Project and relates to the period 2 July 2025 to 2 July 2026, or year thirteen of the action.

VIDA Roads has complied with all the conditions referenced in the EPBC Act approval 2010/5640 for this annual reporting period.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

This report details the Princes Highway East Project's compliance with the conditions of Approval No. 2010/5640 under the EPBC Act in accordance with Condition No. 14 of the decision notice.

1.2 Background

The Princes Highway East is the primary road link between Melbourne and Gippsland and serves a number of key industries. The highway within the project area follows a generally straight alignment over undulating terrain and has had a poor casualty crash record involving a high percentage of heavy vehicles.

VIDA Roads developed a project to duplicate the Princes Highway East between Stammers Road, Traralgon East and Templetons Road, Fulham to deliver significant improvements in road safety, capacity and efficiency. The length of the project subject to the EPBC conditions is approximately 43 kilometres long and was broken into a number of construction sections.

Duplication of the highway between Traralgon East and Fulham is part of the larger project to duplicate 43 kilometres of the Princes Highway between Traralgon and Sale. The larger project is jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments with \$140M allocated under the former Commonwealth Nation Building Program (2009-2014), now the Infrastructure Investment Program, and \$35M allocated by the State Government. An additional \$85M of Federal and State funds was allocated in the 2015/16 budget, brought the total project funding to \$260M. Stage 3 funding from State and Federal Government was committed in July 2020 for an additional \$253M and will bring the completion of these works, which will result in the entire Princes Highway East between Traralgon and Sale being fully duplicated.

Stage 1 and 2 of the project was completed between 2013 and 2017 and included:

- 31 km of new lanes
- Upgrade of 22 intersections.

Stage 3 of the project was completed between 2021 and 2024 and included:

- Upgrade of 6 intersections
- 4 km of duplication at Flynn
- 5.2 km of duplication at Kilmanny and inclusion of arch rail bridge
- 3 km of duplication at Kilmanny East

Further detail regarding the timing of works for each stage is shown in Table Table 2.

Table 2 Timing of construction activities per stage

Stage	Section	Construction Start	Construction End
Stage 1 and Stage 2	Traralgon 2 – Stammers Road to Minniedale Road (1.7 km)	July 2013	February 2015
	Flynn To Rosedale (8.1 km)	March 2014	November 2016
	Nambrok 1 – Nambrok Road (2.6 km)	December 2013	April 2015
	Traralgon East 3 – Minniedale Road to east of sheepwash Creek Road (3.9 km)	December 2016	December 2018
	Nambrok 2 – Nambrok Road to Maffra-Rosedale Road (3.4 km)	February 2017	December 2018
Stage 3	Flynn – East of Sheepwash Creek Road to west of Flynn's Creek Road (4 km)	August 2021	February 2023
	Kilmany – East of Maffra-Rosedale Road Nambrok to Velore Road (5.1 km)	November 2021	October 2024
	Kilmany East – East of Velore Road in Kilmany to east of Templetons Road (3 km)	August 2021	March 2023

1.3 Description of activities

The approved action is to duplicate the Princes Highway East between Stammers Road, Traralgon East and Templetons Road, Fulham, Victoria.

Major construction works were completed in October 2024, however minor defects work, landscaping and monitoring remain ongoing.

Table 1: Key activities

Item	Key Information
EPBC number	2010/5640
Project Name	Princess Highway Duplication - Stammers Road, Traralgon East and Templetons Road, Fulham, Victoria.
Dates for the reporting period	Period from 2 July 2025 to 2 July 2026
Activities during the reporting period	Ongoing implementation of the offset management plan, rectification of defects and landscaping works across the Project Area of Stage 3.
Key project dates	• Commonwealth approval: 23 January 2013 • Commencement of the Action: 2 July 2013 • Notification to the Department of Action commencement: 2 July 2013 • Expiry of Commonwealth approval: 31 January 2027 • Stage 1 and Stage 2 completion: December 2018 • Stage 3 completion: April 2024 • Stage 3 Practical Completion issued: October 2024

2 Performance and compliance (EPBC 2010/5640)

Table 2 below contains the compliance assessment against the conditions in Approval EPBC 2010/5640 for activities carried out between 2 July 2025 to 2 July 2026.

Table 2 EPBC Act Approval Notice 2010/5640 compliance results

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
1	Project area and preferred alignment	Project activities must be limited to the Project Area.	Compliant	There have been no Project activities outside of the defined 'Project Area' during the reporting period.
2	Project area and preferred alignment	The proponent must undertake the action in accordance with the proposed preferred alignment.	Compliant	Detailed design drawings for all sections are based on electronic shape files for the preferred alignment developed during the EES. The preferred alignment at Traralgon East Stage 3 - Sheepwash Creek Section was modified to accommodate the future Traralgon Bypass interchange. This change impacted on a small area outside the Project Area. This variation was approved by the DOEE (now DCCEEW) Post Approvals Section on 17 June 2016. Design was finalised during the 2020/2021 reporting period for Stage 3 works and is in accordance with the proposed preferred alignment as show in Attachment 4 of the Variation of Conditions (EPC 2010/5640) dated 4 February 2022.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
3	Project commitments	The proponent must ensure that project activities do not impact on more than 9.03 hectares of the critically endangered ecological community 'Gippsland Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> subsp. <i>Mediana</i>) Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland.'	Compliant	The project has impacted less than 8.83 hectares of Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland which is under the 9.03 hectare limit.
4	Project commitments	The proponent must ensure that project activities do not impact on more than four endangered Matted Flax-lily (<i>Dianella amoena</i>).	Compliant	Condition not triggered during this reporting period.
5	Project commitments	The proponent must translocate the impacted Matted Flax-lily identified in Condition 4, in accordance with the Matted Flax-lily translocation plan.	Not applicable	Condition not triggered during this reporting period.
6	Project commitments	Proposed activities must not impact on any matter of national environmental significance (MNES) other than those identified in conditions 3 and 4 above. If at any time, the proponent becomes aware of a potential impact to MNES not identified above, activities in the affected area must stop immediately and the Department must be notified in writing within 48 hours. The	Compliant	No additional MNES were identified during construction nor within the current reporting period. Activities have not impacted on any MNES other than those identified in conditions 3 and 4 above.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		Department may direct the proponent to prepare a species-specific management plan that, at a minimum, quantifies the impact, specifies mitigation and avoidance measures as well as proposed offsets to compensate for the impact. Work in that area cannot recommence until directed in writing by the Department.		
7	Project commitments	To protect populations of Dwarf Galaxias (<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>) the proponent must ensure that pier installation and any earthworks surrounding Flynn's Creek and Blind Joes Creek and the Sheepwash Creek realignment are undertaken in low or no flow conditions, outside of the breeding/dispersal period for the species (August – September inclusive).	Compliant	No works were undertaken as a part of Stage 3 that would impact areas relevant to condition 7.
8	Project commitments	The proponent must revegetate Sheepwash Creek to replace and rehabilitate all Dwarf Galaxias habitat removed as a result of the proposed action. Rehabilitation must be to a condition that is equal to or greater than the condition of vegetation prior to the commencement of activities (as determined by a suitably qualified ecologist). Revegetation must be undertaken	Compliant	Condition not triggered for Stage 3 of the project.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		immediately following the completion of all activities in Sheepwash Creek.		
9	Project commitments	To prevent unacceptable impacts to the Growling Grass Frog, (<i>Litoria raniformis</i>) the proponent must implement a Growling Grass Frog Management Plan developed in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist. At a minimum, this plan must quantify impacts and include mitigation and management measures (i.e., translocation and handling protocols). This plan must be implemented prior to the commencement of construction.	Compliant	Condition not triggered during this reporting period.
10	Offsets	The proponent must prepare an offset management plan for the 'Bengworden' property that includes commitments to offset the impacts to the critically endangered ecological community Gippsland Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> subsp. <i>mediana</i>) Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland with 47.8 hectares of land. The offset management plan must also quantify the anticipated increase in the extent of the ecological community as a result of management actions. The offset management plan must be approved by the	Compliant	An Offset Management Plan for the Bengworden property was finalised in April 2011 and approved by DSEWPac (now DCCEEW) on 25 March 2013. Ongoing measures have been undertaken since 2013 consistent with the Bengworden Offset Site management plan. In 2022, a year-10 review of the OMP management actions identified the need for ongoing weed management to reduce weed cover from around 10% to <5% as outlined in the management action targets. The implementation of the OMP is ongoing to achieve the OMP targets.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		department prior to commencement of the action. The approved plan must be implemented.		
11	Offsets	The proponent must prepare a roadside vegetation offset management plan for the Princes Highway between Sheepwash Creek and Flynn. This plan must be approved by the Department prior to commencement of the action. The approved plan must be implemented. At a minimum, the roadside vegetation offset management plan must: Include commitments for offsetting the impact to the critically endangered ecological community <i>Gippsland Red Gum (Eucalyptus tereicornis subsp. Mediana)</i> Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland; Include specific details, including maps and diagrams that show boundaries of the proposed offset site; Include information and commitments about management arrangements that will be employed, now and into the future to ensure the ongoing rehabilitation and improvement of the offset site;	Compliant	The final version of the Offset Management Plan for Princes Highway East, Sheepwash Creek to Flynn approved by DSEWPac (now DCCEEW) on 28 October 2013. Implementation of the Offset Management Plan actions are in progress. Year 1 of management commenced in May 2014 and as such year 10 commenced in May 2024. As targets set out in the approved OMP have not yet been met, management will continue until the targets for Year 10 have been met. Ongoing management actions will be taken until all key performance targets are met.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		Demonstrate how the offset site will be protected in perpetuity; Include information and commitments to monitoring and reporting on the progress of the offset site; Be based on the <i>'Roadside Vegetation Offset Management Plan Princes Highway – Sheepwash Creek to Flynn, October 2012'</i>.		
12	Offsets	Within 30 calendar days after the commencement of the action, the proponent must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.	Not applicable	Notification of commencement was sent to the Department on 10 October 2013 advising that the activity commenced on 2 July 2013. A non-conformance was raised in Year 1 of the compliance reporting (July 2013 to July 2014) for failing to notify the Department of the commencement of works within the stipulated time frame of Condition 12.
13	Offsets	The proponent 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	Compliant	Compliance records to be provided to the Department upon request.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		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.		
14	Offsets	Within three months of every 12-month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the proponent must publish a report 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 compliance report is published.	Compliant	This is the thirteenth compliance report completed for the project. The current Compliance Report (2026) will be published on VIDA Roads Big Build website in accordance with Condition 14.
15	Offsets	Upon the direction of the Minister, the proponent 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.	Compliant	The Office of Compliance in the Department of Environment and Energy conducted a site visit of the project area and reviewed compliance on the conditions of the EPBC 2010/5640 approval on 24 January 2019. During this site visit the Department did not identify any non-compliance with these EPBC Act approval conditions.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
16	Offsets	If the proponent wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with management plans as specified in the conditions, the proponent 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.	Not applicable	Condition not triggered during this reporting period.
17	Offsets	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and ecological communities, the Minister may request that the proponent make specified revisions to a management plan specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plan for the Minister's written approval. The proponent must comply with any such	Not applicable	Condition not triggered during this reporting period.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		request. The revised approved management plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised management plan then the proponent must continue to implement the management plan originally approved, as specified in the conditions.		
18	Offsets	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the proponent must provide a copy of each approved management plan referred to in these conditions of approval to members of the public upon request. Copies must be provided within a reasonable time to the request.	Not applicable	Condition not triggered during this reporting period.
19	Offsets	If, at any time after 10 years from the date of this approval, the proponent 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	Condition not triggered during this reporting period.

3 References

DEWHA (2010) *Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland - A nationally threatened ecological community Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Policy Statement 3.22*. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Commonwealth of Australia

Ecology Partners (April 2011), *Flora and Fauna Assessment, Net Gain Analysis and Offset Management Plan – 475 Boundary Road, Bengworden Victoria*, Ecology and Heritage Partners 292 Mt Alexander Road Ascot Vale VIC 3032

Ecology and Heritage Partners (January 2013), *Management (and Translocation) Plan for Matted Flax-lily Dianella amoena, Princes Highway Duplication Project, Traralgon East to Kilmany Victoria*, Ecology and Heritage Partners 292 Mt Alexander Road Ascot Vale VIC 3032

Ecology and Heritage Partners (April 2013), *Roadside Vegetation Offset Management Plan Princes Highway – Sheepwash Creek to Flynn*, Ecology and Heritage Partners 292 Mt Alexander Road Ascot Vale VIC 3032

GHD (August 2016), *Traralgon East to Kilmany Duplication Project – Growling Grass Frog Management Plan*, GHD House 239 Adelaide Terrace Perth WA 6004

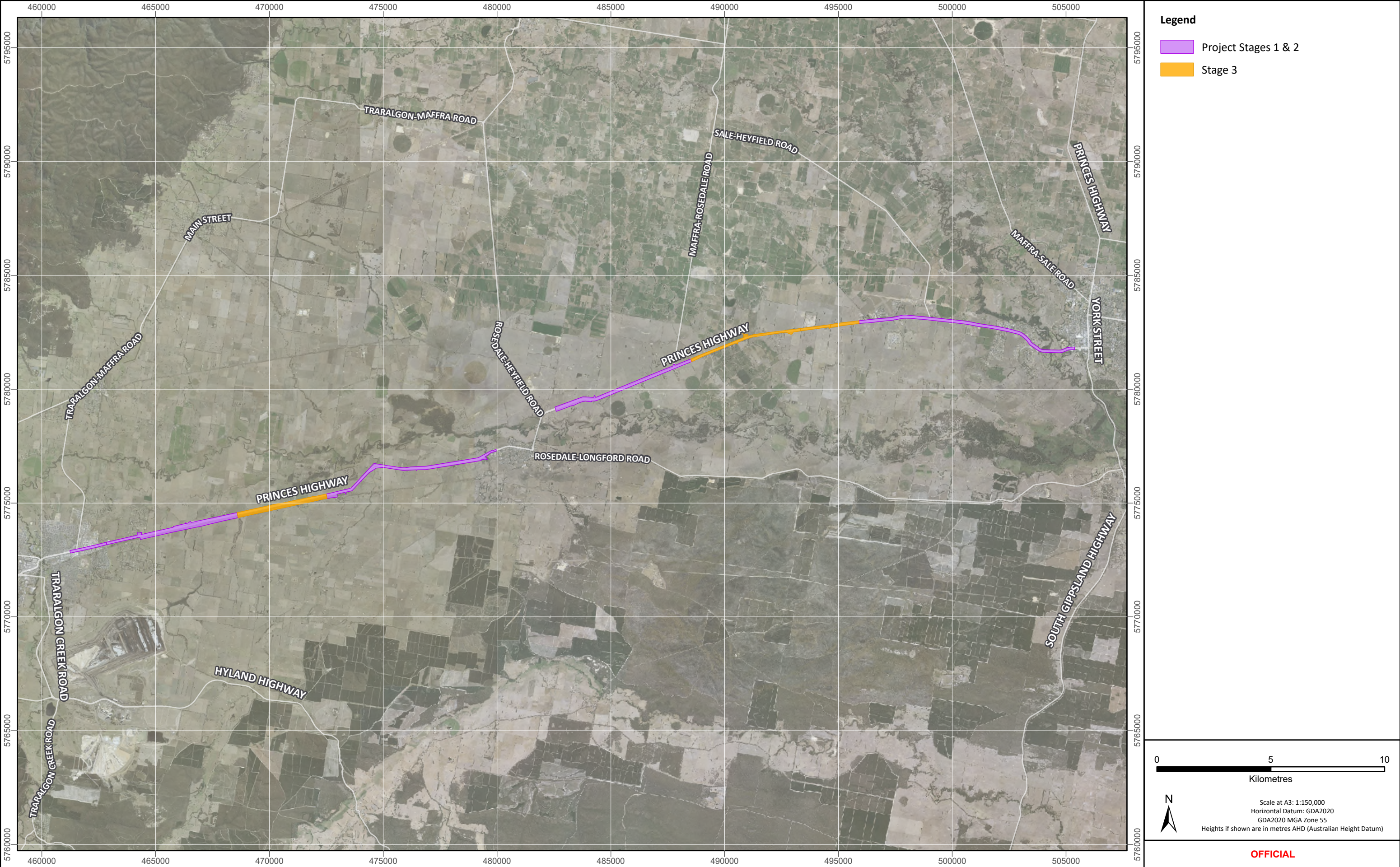
McGuckin J. (April 2013), *Conservation Management Plan for the Dwarf Galaxias (Galaxiella pusilla) Princes Highway Duplication, Traralgon East to Kilmany*, Streamline Research Eltham North VIC 3095

VicRoads and GHD (January 2012), *Princes Highway Duplication Traralgon East to Kilmany – Environment Effects Statement and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment*, VicRoads 60 Denmark Street Kew VIC 3101

Appendix A Project Map

Princes Highway East Duplication Stage 3 – Traralgon to Sale

Princes Highway Duplication – Stammers Road, Traralgon East to Templetons Road, Fulham, Victoria





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Princes Highway Duplication
- Traralgon East to Fulham



Data source:
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Created by: T Holton
Created on: 11/09/2026

Approved by: H Vickers
Approved on: 11/09/2026

EPBC NUMBER: 2010/5640
PROJECT NAME: Princes Highway Duplication - Traralgon East to Fulham
FIGURE 1