

Biodiversity Offset Report – January 2024

CSSI 9371 North Star to NSW/QLD
Border - Minister's Conditions of
Approval E26

Table of Contents

1 Introduction..... 3
 1.1 Purpose..... 3

2 Evidence of biodiversity measures delivered 3
 2.1 Compensatory Measure Scoping 3
 2.2 Progress Towards Remaining Offset Obligations..... 3

3 Confirmation residual biodiversity offset obligation will be satisfied no later than two years from date of approval 4
 3.1 Inland Rail Review 4

4 Security Account 5

5 Conclusion 6

List of tables

Table 1: Biodiversity Offset Report Requirements 3

Table 2: Summary of Ecosystem Credits 4

Table 3: Summary of Species Credits 4

List of figures

Figure 1: NAB Security Amount Bank Statement 5

1 Introduction

This document has been developed to report on activities underway in compliance with the Biodiversity Offset Package for the North Start to New South Wales/Queensland Border project (NS2B). The Biodiversity Offset Package was approved by the Planning Secretary on 19 October 2023, which requires this report to be submitted by 19 January 2024, to ensure compliance with CSSI 9371 Minister's Conditions of Approval (MCoA) E26.

1.1 Purpose

This document has been developed to comply with CSSI 9371 MCoA E26. Table 1 indicates where these requirements have been addressed.

Table 1: Biodiversity Offset Report Requirements

CONDITION NUMBER	CONDITION	WHERE THIS CONDITION IS ADDRESSED
E26	<p>All activities completed in compliance with the Biodiversity Offset Package must be reported to the Planning Secretary every three months in a Biodiversity Offset Report.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Offset Report must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) evidence of specific biodiversity offset measures that have been delivered, including retirement of credits and payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund;(b) progress of remaining biodiversity offset measures and the preparation and implementation of the project plans required by Condition E24;(c) the residual biodiversity offset obligation; and(d) confirmation that the residual biodiversity offset obligation will be satisfied no later than two years from the date of this approval.	<p>Section 2</p> <p>Section 3</p> <p>Section 4</p>

2 Evidence of biodiversity measures delivered

2.1 Compensatory Measure Scoping

In the lead up to the approved Package, ARTC has undertaken a range of scoping discussions with both the Australian Botanic Gardens and ERM to inform the compensatory measures proposed within the Offset Package to detail and agree the scope of each measure.

2.2 Progress Towards Remaining Offset Obligations

ARTC has continued to secure credits towards the NS2B obligation, including through landowner partnerships, ARTC owned land and purchases from the NSW Credit Supply Taskforce. The current status of credits secured towards the NS2B obligation is outlined in **Table 2 and 3**.

Table 2: Summary of Ecosystem Credits

PROJECT SEGMENT	DESCRIPTION IN BDAR	ECOSYSTEM CREDITS OBLIGATION	INCLUDING REDUCTION FOR COMPENSATORY MEASURES	CREDITS SECURED	RESIDUAL CREDIT OBLIGATION
North Star Corridor (C2)	Brownfield Alignment	4,297	4,297	1,040	3,257
Macintyre Floodplain (C3)	Greenfield Alignment	1,354 Plus 1 scattered tree credit	1,354	365	520
Laydown area, temporary accommodation and setup areas	Early Works	1,398	1,398	765	633
Borrow Pits (BP)	BP1, BP2, BP4, BP5, BP7, BP8, BP9, BP13, BP25	1,518 Plus 5 scattered tree credits	1,449 (-69 credits for BP1)	369	1,080
	TOTAL	8,567 Plus 6 scattered tree credits	8,498	2,539	5,959

Table 3: Summary of Species Credits

PROJECT SEGMENT	DESCRIPTION IN BDAR	SPECIES CREDITS	INCLUDING 10% REDUCTION FOR COMPENSATORY MEASURES	CREDITS SECURED	RESIDUAL CREDIT OBLIGATION
North Star Corridor (C2)	Brownfield Alignment	7,670	7,670	1,984	5,686
Macintyre Floodplain (C3)	Greenfield Alignment	7,746	7,746	225	7,521
Laydown area, temporary accommodation and setup areas	Early Works	1,963	1,844 (- 119 credits for Koala)	412	1,432
Borrow Pits (BP)	BP1, BP, 2, BP4, BP5, BP7, BP8, BP9, BP13, BP25	3,698	3,698	257	3,441
	TOTAL	21,077	20,958	2,878	18,080

3 Confirmation residual biodiversity offset obligation will be satisfied no later than two years from date of approval

3.1 Inland Rail Review

In April 2023, the Commonwealth Government released the independent report into the delivery of Inland Rail that included 19 recommendations. A key outcome of the review is a revised approach to the delivery of Inland Rail, taking a staged approach, with the priority being the delivery of the project sections south of Parkes. This means that construction will no longer commence within two years (of the date of approval) for the NS2B project.

In late 2023, ARTC received direction from its Commonwealth Shareholding Ministers, to explore avenues to change the arrangements within the approved Biodiversity Offset Package, specifically to pursue the release the funding contained in the Security Account. Commencement of any project works for the NS2B project, is

subject to further decisions by Government, being more than two years away, and therefore the current Offset Package and Security arrangements no longer achieve the desired outcomes.

Inland Rail will commence discussion with relevant stakeholders within the Department to explore what options are available to modify the MCoA and Security Account arrangements.

4 Security Account

The Security Account remains funded with a total of \$115,462,953.99, with a bank statement extract included at **Figure 1**. Noting the Department has access to view this account at their discretion.

Figure 1: NAB Security Amount Bank Statement



NAB CONNECT

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

All accounts

2 accounts

Total debit balances

Total credit balances

Net position**

\$ 0.00 AUD

+ \$ 115,462,953.99 AUD

+ \$ 115,462,953.99 AUD

BalanceCurrent

Account Account number	Current balance*	Available balance	Currency
ARTC AGENCY 082-001 / 91-001-0443	0.00	0.00	AUD
ARTC AGENCY 082-001 / 32-161-8346	+ 115,462,953.99	0.00	AUD

2 of 2 accounts found as at 04:09 PMAEST, Thursday 11 January 2024

*Current balance may include uncleared funds, e.g. a deposited cheque.

5 Conclusion

In conclusion, this report highlights efforts made by Inland Rail to adhere to the requirements outlined in the Biodiversity Offset Package, specifically CSSI 9371 Minister's Conditions of Approval (MCoA) E26. The document outlines reporting requirements required in Condition E26.

Inland Rail acknowledges that limited progress has been made on the Offset Package due to the uncertainty that has existed around the NS2B project and recent Shareholder Minister direction.

Due to the significant shift in Inland Rail project's delivery approach and in light of the extended timeline for the NS2B project, Inland Rail will commence discussions with the Department and relevant stakeholders to investigate a potential modification to the approval.

Inland Rail acknowledges the limited progress that can be made within the existing framework during this transitional period.