

INLAND RAIL – ILLABO TO STOCKINBINGAL – CSSI 9406

ER MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

Authorisation

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The Planning Secretary

Prepared by:
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1. KEY FINDINGS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD

Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) 9406 Condition of Approval (CoA) A26(j) requires that the Environmental Representative (ER) must *'prepare and submit to the Planning Secretary and other relevant regulatory agencies, for information and make publicly available, an Environmental Representative Monthly Report providing the information set out in the Environmental Representative Protocol under the heading "Environmental Representative Monthly Reports". The Environmental Representative Monthly Report must be submitted within seven (7) days following the end of each month for the duration of the ER's engagement for the CSSI.'*

This Environmental Representative (ER) Monthly Report has been prepared in accordance with CoA A26(j), covering the period from 1 to 28 February 2025 (the reporting period).

No construction works have commenced under CSSI 9406 prior to or during the reporting period. Inland Rail's Principal Contractor, John Holland, have undertaken Low Impact Works (LIW), as defined in CSSI 9406, in the form of surveys, investigations and use of a minor ancillary facility (MAF) during the reporting period.

No non-compliances or incidents causing or threatening to cause material harm, were recorded during the reporting period.

Consultation with potentially affected stakeholders was undertaken during February 2025, in the forms of emails and telephone calls. No complaints were received during the reporting period. No complaints are open at the time of reporting.

The ER reviewed and endorsed a Low Impact Works Assessment (LIWA) during the reporting period associated with survey works, geotechnical works involving investigations with boreholes and test pits, service investigations, pavement coring and geophysics surveys at multiple locations across the project site.

An inspection of the Minor Ancillary Facility (MAF) established at Old Cootamundra Road intersection with Dudauman Road and a number of survey sites was conducted by the ER on the 26 February 2025. No issues or areas of concern were identified during the inspection.

The ER will continue to report on the progress of the Project each month.

2. BACKGROUND

Inland Rail is a proposed 1,600km freight rail line, comprising 12 sections, which will connect Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Inland Rail Pty Ltd (IRPL), a subsidiary of Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), is building Inland Rail on behalf of the Australian Government. As each section of Inland Rail is completed, it will be operated and managed by ARTC.

Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) obtained approval from the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for the Inland Rail's Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) section (Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CCSI-9406)) on the 4 September 2024 under Section 5.19 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act) (the Project) subject to Conditions of Approval (CoA).

The I2S Project (the Project) involves the construction and operation of approximately 39 Kilometres of new single-track standard gauge railway to accommodate trains with a maximum length of 1,800m. Key features involve:

- Connection to other rail lines, including Stockinbingal to Parkes line, Lake Cargelligo line, and Main Southern Railway;
- One crossing loop and maintenance siding;
- Level crossings and stock crossings;
- Bridges over rivers and other watercourses, floodplains and roads;
- Upgrade of around 3.5km of existing track for the tie-in works to the existing Main South Line at Illabo;
- New track to maintain Lake Cargelligo line connection either side of the proposal;
- Realignment and road-over rail bridge for a section of the Burley Griffin Way at Stockinbingal;
- Realignment of Ironbong Road to allow for safe sight lines at the new active level crossing;
- Ancillary infrastructure to support the proposal, inclusive of signalling and communications; drainage, drainage control areas, signage and fencing, and services and utilities; and
- Construction infrastructure, including ancillary facilities, and a temporary workforce accommodation facility.

In accordance with CoA A22 – A25, IRPL sought approval to engage WolfPeak's Ricardo Prieto-Curiel, Derek Low and Tim Elder as the Project's primary and alternates ERs respectively. This approval was granted by the Planning Secretary's nominee of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department or DPHI) on 11 September 2024 and 7 February 2025.

John Holland have been engaged as the Principal Contractor to design and construct the Project. The Project is currently in the 'Detailed design and early works (including low impact work) stage.



CoA A26(j) requires that for the duration of the works or as otherwise approved by the Planning Secretary, the ER must *'prepare and submit to the Planning Secretary and other relevant regulatory agencies, for information and make publicly available, an Environmental Representative Monthly Report providing the information set out in the Environmental Representative Protocol under the heading "Environmental Representative Monthly Reports". The Environmental Representative Monthly Report must be submitted within seven (7) days following the end of each month for the duration of the ER's engagement for the CSSI.'*

This ER Monthly Report has been prepared in accordance with CoA A26(j), covering the period from the 1 to 28 February 2025 (the reporting period).

3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3.1 Construction works

3.1.1 Construction works completed during the reporting period

No construction works have commenced under CSSI 9406 prior to or during the reporting period. The following activities, defined as low impact works (LIW) under the Approval, were completed or underway during the reporting period:

- Site inspection and ground truthing properties.
- Use of Minor Ancillary Facility (MAF) at Property #13 (caravan) (EIS construction compound # 18).
- Checking and confirming existing survey control points along the alignment.
- Construction impact zone (CIZ) delineation (survey) and geotechnical test set-out.
- Geotechnical investigations.

3.1.2 Upcoming works

The following LIW are planned for March 2025:

- Continuation of geotechnical investigations, including:
 - Slot trenches
 - Pavement cores
 - Auger holes
 - Test pits
 - Bore holes
 - Geophysics
- Commencement of gate installations on existing fence lines at various properties along the alignment.
- Continuation of CIZ delineation and geotechnical set out (survey).
- Establishment of new MAF at CH5600 (Old Sydney Road) North at Property #4 John Green.
- Out of Hours Works (OOHW planned) including geotechnical investigations and surveys works are planned during a 60-hour rail possession between 22-23 March at Illabo and Stockinbingal, with shift times across the possession being 0700-1800. OOHW are planned on Sunday, 23rd March between 0700 and 1800. The works will be undertaken under Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 3142 held by Australian Rail Track Corporation limited.

3.2 Minor construction ancillary facilities

In the January 2024 reporting period, the ER reviewed and endorsed a LIWA for a MAF involving the use of a moveable caravan to provide for on-site amenity support to staff at three locations assessed in the EIS as construction compounds including Property # 7 off Dirnasseer Road (EIS construction compound # 11), Property # 12 south side of Old Cootamundra Road (EIS construction compound # 16) and Property #13 north of Old Cootamundra Road (EIS construction compound # 18).

During the reporting period, John Holland used the MAF at Property#13 (EIS construction compound # 18).

3.3 Changes to the Project

Nothing to report.

3.4 Community consultation and complaints received

3.4.1 Consultation

Pre-construction community consultation occurred throughout February 2025. The consultation primarily related to property access, works notifications and request for consultation with agencies.

Consultation undertaken during February 2025 is presented in Appendix A.

3.4.2 Complaints

The complaints register current to 28 February 2025 was supplied to the ER. It includes details of all complaints received and the actions undertaken by John Holland to resolve each complaint.

No complaints were received during the reporting period.

A copy of the complaints register can be provided by IR to the Department on request, in accordance with CoA B11.

3.5 Incidents, Emergency Works and non-compliances

3.5.1 Incidents

No incidents causing or threatening to cause material harm, were recorded during the reporting period.

Four incidents were recorded in the incident register involving the following:

- a minor leak (<1L) of hydraulic oil occurred on 18 February 2025 near Borehole 220-05-BH5052 (approximately CH 28450), which is located at the crest of a small hill with no adjacent waterways. The leak was stopped and the spilled material collected into a sealed container for disposal at licensed facility.

- Three (3) unexpected waste finds identified during site investigations on 18, 19 and 20 February 2025 respectively inside the project footprint on CH17750 and CH38350. The pre-existing waste found included tyres, machinery parts, rubble stockpiles and the like. Investigations stopped in those areas and the waste dumps were delineated for future management in accordance with the instructions of a contamination consultant. The unexpected finds were notified to IRPL and the ER.

John Holland confirmed that there was no material harm caused or threatened to cause from the 4 events. The ER agrees with this assessment based on the information provided by John Holland

3.5.2 Emergency Works

Nothing to report.

3.5.3 Non-compliances

No non-compliances were identified during the reporting period.

4. ER ACTIVITIES

4.1 Advice provided to the Proponent on the CoA and other authority conditions

The ER reviewed and endorsed a Low Impact Works Assessment (LIWA) (document number: 5-0019-220-EEC-00-RA-0001 rev 3 dated 10 February 2025) on the 13 February 2025 associated with survey works, geotechnical works involving investigations with boreholes and test pits, service investigations, pavement coring and geophysics surveys at 101 locations across the project site. The ER endorsement confirmed that the works met the definition of low impact works under the terms of CSSI-9406.

4.2 Environmental management plans and programs

4.2.1 Development

No environmental management plans, subplans or programs required under CSSI were reviewed/endorsed by the ER during the reporting period.

4.2.2 Implementation

Construction has yet to commence. Nothing to report.

4.2.3 Site inspections

An inspection was conducted by the ER on the 26 February 2025. The sites inspected included the Minor Ancillary Facility (MAF) location 2 North (Peter McClintock Property #13 (Old Cootamundra Road at intersection with Dudauman Road) (site of EIS's compound 18 (north side)), completed BH5053 (CH29700), other completed geotechnical works in the vicinity of the MAF, and the future location of the temporary workforce accommodation facility at Grogan Road north of Stockinbingal in the Cootamundra-Gundagai LGA.

The sites inspected were found to be in a good condition with adequate controls in place. No issues or areas of concern were identified during the inspection. An observation was made about the potential for dust generation along the MAF access road, which is a dirt road used by project vehicles. The contractor has two 1,000L water trailers at the MAF which can be used for dust control. It was recommended that a speed limit is implemented along the MAF site, and that such measure be included in the site induction and that a speed limit sign be placed at the MAF vehicular gate.

Subject to planned project program activities, inspections are anticipated to proceed on a fortnightly basis unless otherwise required.

4.2.4 Audits

The Independent Audit program under CoAs A28-A33 is yet to commence.

4.2.5 Complaint resolution

Nothing to report.

4.2.6 Meetings

Meetings with IR and John Holland, including the involvement of the ER, have been undertaken as required throughout the reporting period to discuss LIWAs, upcoming documentation and general project issues.

No routine meetings have commenced between the Department, IR, John Holland and the ER.

4.2.7 Documentation issued

Nothing to report.

4.2.8 Communications with the Secretary

There have been no communications with the Planning Secretary or its representatives during the reporting period, other than through issue of the ER monthly report for January 2025 on the 7 February 2025.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF THE PROJECT

5.1 Environmental Performance

Construction works have yet to commence and Low Impact Works, thus far are confirmed to survey, investigations and the establishment and use of a MAF. The ER is of the view that the potential for environmental impacts at this stage to be limited.

No non-compliances, incidents causing or threatening to cause material harm or complaints relating to work activities were recorded during the reporting period.

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5.2 Key learnings

No lessons learned sessions are scheduled at this time.

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APPENDIX A – CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN DURING FEBRUARY 2025

Table A1: Consultation completed during the reporting period

Date	Stakeholder	Suburb	Method	Area covered
7/2/2025	Landowner x 4	Stockinbingal	Phone	Property access
14/2/2025	Landowner x 3	Cootamundra	Phone	Property access
17/2/2025	Rural Fire Service	Wagga Wagga	Email	Bushfire Management Plan
21/2/2025	Landowner x 3	Cootamundra	Phone	Property access
21/2/2025	Landowner x 2	Illabo	Phone	Property access
24/2/2025	Crown Lands Pty Ltd	Glenfield	Email	Request for Agency consultation- Surface Water Monitoring Program
24/2/2025	State Emergency Service		Email	Request for Agency consultation- Flood Emergency Management Plan
25/2/2025	All landowners on the project alignment	Illabo to Stockinbingal	Email	Community works notification – Site investigations March 2025
28/2/2025	Landowner x 3	Stockinbingal	Phone	Property access
28/2/2025	Landowner x 2	Cootamundra	Phone	Property access