

Our ref: SSI-9406-PA-79

Your ref: 6-0000-220-EEC-00-LT-0071

Inland Rail Pty Ltd  
via Major Projects Portal

12 March 2026

Attention: Harry Mercer, Project Director

---

**Inland Rail – Illabo to Stockinbingal (SSI-9406) – request for extension regarding Flood Design Verification Report**

Dear Mr Mercer,

I refer to your letter dated 10 March 2026 requesting an extension of time to obtain Planning Secretary's approval of the Flood Design Verification Report (FDVR) for the Inland Rail Illabo to Stockinbingal project (the project) in accordance with condition A9 until 8 May 2026. The effect of this would be that Inland Rail Pty Ltd (IRPL) would commence permanent works that may impact on flooding prior to the Planning Secretary's approval of the FDVR.

As nominee of the Planning Secretary, I agree to

1. extend the date for submission of the FDVR until 8 May 2026;
2. allow the following works to commence prior to the Planning Secretary's approval of the FDVR:
  - a. topsoil stripping;
  - b. bulk earthworks;
  - c. foundation treatment;
  - d. bridge piling works; and
  - e. base slabs for culverts (noting that this work would occur at the risk of IRPL needing to replace slabs if the approved FDVR requires changes to the location of configuration of culverts); and
3. allow low risk culverts and/or pipes (including their base slabs) to be installed prior to the Planning Secretary's approval of the FDVR subject to IRPL demonstrating to the Planning Secretary's satisfaction that the culverts and/or pipes in question meet the low risk criteria provided in Attachment 2. Please note that the Planning Secretary's decision about whether particular culverts and/or pipes are low risk is final.

## Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

The Department accepts that these works are unlikely to be determinative of the project's final flood performance and, in the interest of facilitating the project's progression, is prepared to allow these works to commence prior to the approval of the FDVR.

I do not agree to the installation of culverts and/or pipes (including their base slabs) that are not low risk to occur prior to the approval of the FDVR. As these works are likely to determine the project's flood performance, the Department does not consider that it would be appropriate to allow these works to occur prior to the approval of the FDVR, which ultimately documents the project's approved flood performance.

To clarify the works that are excluded from this approval, my agreement to extend the date for submission of the FDVR is subject to the Planning Secretary's direction provided in Attachment 1.

The Department notes that discussions about the FDVR's compliance with conditions of approval are ongoing and welcomes further discussions and revisions of the FDVR to close out remaining matters.

If you wish to discuss this, please contact me on 0488 044 819 or [alexander.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alexander.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Alexander Scott

Director, Freight Assessments

*As nominee of the Planning Secretary*

Attachment 1

Planning Secretary’s Direction

As nominee of the Planning Secretary, I direct Inland Rail Pty Ltd in accordance with Condition A4 of the Infrastructure Approval SSI-9406, as follows in Table 1:

Table 1: Directions

	Direction
1	<p>You must demonstrate to the Planning Secretary’s satisfaction that low risk pipes and/or culverts (including base slabs) meet the criteria provided in Attachment 2 at least 7 days (excluding public holidays) prior to installing any low-risk pipes and/or culverts.</p> <p>Your submission via the Major Projects Portal must be set out in a table and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- location and structure id of each culvert or pipe considered to be low risk and;</li> <li>- consideration of the criteria in Attachment 2 with supportive information.</li> </ul>
2	<p>You must obtain the Planning Secretary’s approval of the Flood Design Verification Report prior to installing any non-low risk pipes and/or culverts (including base slabs).</p>

## Attachment 2

### Low risk pipes and/or culverts criteria

1. Work outside of Stockinbingal village or work outside catchments that influence flows through Stockinbingal village;
2. 50% blockage assessment (Condition E48) shows no change to QDL exceedances (QDL-Condition E55/E56 and Appendix B, Schedule 1);
3. Default erosive threshold value (ETV) (Condition E60) the default ETV is used to determine velocity QDL exceedances;
4. Skewed culverts: the culvert is not skewed or approval has been obtained for the Planning Secretary with geomorphologist report (Condition E82); and
5. If at a known QDL exceedance location, written agreement with the affected party/ies has been finalised (Condition E58).