

INLAND RAIL – ILLABO TO STOCKINBINGAL – CSSI 9406

ER MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2025



Authorisation

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The Planning Secretary

Prepared by:
WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd

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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, 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 1 to 31 January 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 commenced Low Impact Works in the form of surveys, investigations and establishment of a minor ancillary facility (MAF).

No non-compliances or incidents were recorded during the reporting period.

Consultation with potentially affected stakeholders was undertaken during January 2025, in the forms of emails and meetings. One complaint was received during the reporting period regarding Project investment in the local economy but has since been closed. No complaints are open at the time of reporting.

Advice has been provided by the ER to Inland Rail and John Holland, throughout late 2024 and January 2025 regarding the development (and endorsement) of the Community Communication Strategy (CCS) in accordance with CoAB1 and the Unexpected and Incidental Finds protocol prepared under CoA A17. In addition, the ER reviewed and endorsed two Low Impact Works Assessments (LIWA).

No inspections have been conducted during the reporting period. Consequently, no observations, findings or recommendations have been made regarding site conditions / management. Inspections are expected to commence from late February 2025.

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 as the Project's Environmental Representatives (ER). 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.

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, 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 31 January 2025 (the reporting period).

3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3.1 Construction works

3.1.1 Construction works completed during the reporting period

No construction (as defined by the CSSI approval) had commenced in January 2025. 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.
- Establishment 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) on Property #13.

3.1.2 Upcoming works

The following works are planned for February 2025:

- Commencement of geotechnical investigations, including:
 - Slot trenches
 - Pavement cores
 - Auger holes
 - Test pits
 - Bore holes
 - Geophysics
- Continuation of CIZ delineation and geotechnical set out (survey).
- Establishment of new MAF at CH5600 (Old Sydney Road) North.

3.2 Minor construction ancillary facilities

As detailed in Section 4.1, the ER reviewed a LIWA for a MAF (Caravan) 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).

The ER endorsed the MAF's LIWA on the 29 January 2025 confirming that meets the criteria under CoA C9. As discussed in Section 3.1, John Holland established 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 January 2025. The consultation primarily related to design, construction timing and property survey, access and the like.

Consultation undertaken during January 2025 is presented in Appendix A.

3.4.2 Complaints

The complaints register current to 31 January 2025 was supplied to the ER. It includes details of all complaints received and the actions undertaken by John Holland to resolve each complaint.

One complaint was received during the reporting period regarding a stakeholder concern about project investment in the local community. The contractor's stakeholder representative discussed the matter with the complainant over the phone and the complaint was subsequently closed.

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 reported during the reporting period.

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

Advice has been provided by the ER to IR and John Holland throughout late 2024 and January 2025 regarding the development of the Community Communication Strategy (CCS) and the Unexpected and Incidental Finds Protocol (UIFP) under CoAs B1 and A17 respectively. Further details are provided in Section 4.2, below.

In addition, the ER reviewed and endorsed the following LIWAs during the reporting period:

- Low Impact Works (Survey) Assessment (document number: 5-0019-220-EEC-00-RA-0001 rev 2 dated 17 January 2025) for ground truthing (visual inspection) and site walk at proposed geotechnical and utility locations, visual inspection of creeks and general landform (on-foot), low-level dilapidation of existing access routes, delineation of the CIZ and set out of geotechnical test locations. The ER endorsed the LIWA on the 29 January 2025 confirming that the works meet the definition of low impact works under the terms of CSSI-9406.
- Minor Ancillary Facility (MAF) - Caravan (document number: 5-0019-220-EEC-00-RP-001 rev A dated 15 January 2025) for the use of a moveable caravan as a meeting room, kitchenette and two bathrooms 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). The ER endorsed the MAF's LIWA on the 29 January 2025 confirming that meets the criteria under Condition C9 of CSSI-9406.

4.2 Environmental management plans and programs

4.2.1 Development

The CCS and the UIFP were developed during late 2024 and submitted to the ER for review as discussed below.

The ER reviewed the CCS prepared under CoA B1 in accordance with CoA A26(d) to ensure its consistency with the requirements under CSSI-9406. The ER endorsed the CCS (ref: 4-0000-220-PCS-00-ST-0001_3, rev 3, dated 14 October 2024) on the 15 October 2024. The letter of endorsement of the CCS is presented in Appendix B.

The ER reviewed the UIFP prepared under the CoA A17. The UIFP I (document number 5-0019-220-PES-00-PR-0001, rev 0 dated 16 December 2024) was finalised and made publicly available in accordance with CoA A17.

4.2.2 Implementation

Construction has yet to commence. Nothing to report.

4.2.3 Site inspections

No site inspections have been undertaken by the ER to date. Inspections are anticipated to commence in late February 2025 and 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 as required for the review of the CCS, UIFP and LIWAs have been held throughout 2024 and continued in January 2025, including the involvement of the ER.

No routine meetings have commenced between the Department, IR, John Holland and 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 endorsement letter for the CCS as noted in Section 4.2.1 above.

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 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 or complaints relating to construction 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 JANUARY 2025

Table A1: Consultation completed during the reporting period

Date	Stakeholder	Suburb	Method	Area covered
13/01/25	Community	Illabo, Bethungra, Cootamundra, Stockinbingal	Email	Work notification.
14/01/25	Local landowner	Cootamundra	Email	Follow up email after landholder introduction meeting and submission of meeting minutes to the landholder.
14/01/25	Local landowner	Cootamundra	Email	Follow up email after landholder introduction meeting and submission of meeting minutes to the landholder.
14/01/25	Local landowner	Cootamundra	Email	Follow up email after landholder introduction meeting and submission of meeting minutes to the landholder.
15/01/25	Community	Cootamundra	Email	Community works notification – temporary site facilities. Community works notification for the establishment of a temporary site facility
28/01/25	Community	Illabo, Bethungra, Cootamundra, Stockinbingal	Email	Work notification.
31/01/25	Community member	Stockinbingal	Email	A local community member requested an update on the Project to confirm that they are still on the email list for updates. Request from an individual to be placed on the distribution list for updates on the Project.



APPENDIX B – ER ENDORSEMENT LETTERS



15 October 2024

Daniel Lumby
Principal Environmental Advisor
Level 6, 180 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Daniel,

RE: Inland Rail: ER Endorsement of Community Communication Strategy for Illabo to Stockinbingal (SSI-9406) – Condition A26(d)

SSI 9406 Condition of Approval (CoA) A26 (d) requires the Environmental Representative to review the Community Communication Strategy prepared under CoA B1 to ensure it is consistent with the requirements under the SSI Approval and make a written statement to this effect.

I have reviewed Revision 3 of the Community Communication Strategy (dated 14 October 2024) and consider that the revised version of this plan is consistent with the requirements of the SSI Approval for the Project.

Should you have any queries or require further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on the details below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'R. Prieto-Curiel'.

Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

Environmental Representative

P: 0488220642

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