



ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION - Corin Dam access improvements (ESO 202500026)

In accordance with section 140 (4) of the *Planning Act 2023* (the Act), I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

APPLICANT

Icon Water Pty Ltd, as represented by Mr Henry Grogan, Senior Environmental Scientist.

APPLICATION and DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The applicant has applied under section 140 (4) of the Act to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion to the effect that the development proposal set out in the submission is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact (the application).

The development proposal is for the installation of stone steps and handrail for personnel safety when accessing a dam safety monitoring survey marker above Corin Dam wall as described in the submission.

LOCATION

The proposed works are located in Namadgi National Park, Block 21 Cotter River district.

MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES

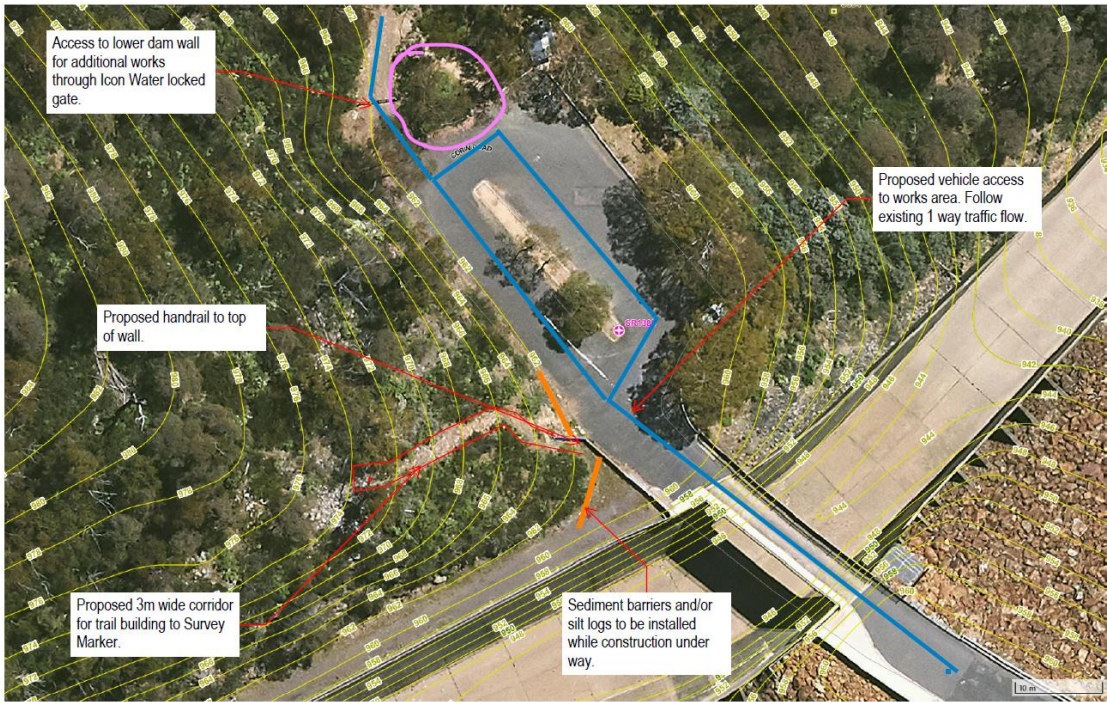
This opinion applies only to the development proposal as described in the application.

OPINION

Provided the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the following conditions in addition to the mitigation measures contained in the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

This opinion is granted subject to the following conditions made under s140 (4)(b) of the Act:

1. Conditions of approval including mitigation measures as stated in the application.
2. Access to the site must be granted to Conservation Officers if a random compliance inspection is requested by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.
3. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be required to outline specifics of the proposed works. The CEMP will need to be approved by the Conservator before works commence. The following points are to be addressed in the CEMP:
 - If works are undertaken in spring then a suitably qualified ecologist must inspect the shrubs for nesting birds before works commence. If nesting native animals are found then a licence (issued by PCS Licensing and Compliance) will be needed prior to any disruption of the nest. The licence will stipulate the conditions relating to any nest removal.
 - The reseeded mix for rehabilitation specified in the CEMP should include species local to the area (such as those listed in the flora list in Table 5 of the ESO).
 - The total works area and any set down/parking areas must be clearly defined in the CEMP.
 - There is to be no damage to vegetation (including shrubs and understory) in the northern part of the Corin Road carpark (as marked in pink in the below map) due to the presence of the ACT rare plant Long-leaf Waxflower (*Philotheca myoporoides* subsp. *Myoporoides*).



Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Burkevics'.

Bren Burkevics
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

July 2025

STATEMENT OF REASONS REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 1 of the *Planning (General) Regulation 2023* – requiring environmental impact statement, being:

Part 1.2, item 18 - proposal for development in a reserve, unless the proposal is for minor public works to be carried out by or for the Territory in accordance with a minor public works code approved by the conservator of flora and fauna under the Nature Conservation Act 2014, section 318A;

The proposed works are within Namadgi National Park.

The proponent is seeking an environmental significance opinion to remove the requirement for an environmental impact statement on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an opinion to that effect.

Meaning of *significant* adverse environmental impact

An adverse environmental impact is ***significant*** if—

- (a) the environmental function, system, value or entity that might be adversely impacted by a proposed development is significant; or
- (b) the cumulative or incremental effect of a proposed development might contribute to a substantial adverse impact on an environmental function, system, value or entity.

In deciding whether an adverse environmental impact is ***significant***, the following matters must be taken into account:

- (a) the kind, size, frequency, intensity, scope and length of time of the impact;
- (b) the sensitivity, resilience and rarity of the environmental function, system, value or entity likely to be affected.

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact it does not matter whether the adverse environmental impact is likely to occur on the site of the development or elsewhere.

It has been determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact, based on the documentation submitted, known values of the site, and provided the works and ongoing management are carried out in accordance with the conditions attached to this ESO.

Project description

The development proposal is for the installation of stone steps and handrail for Icon Water personnel safety when accessing a dam safety monitoring survey marker above Corin Dam wall.

Works proposed involves building a set of natural stone steps from Corin Road up to the survey marker, which is located above a steep stony slope above the dam. The proposed trail will climb approximately 10m in elevation and approximately 40m from the roadside to the base of the marker. At the base of the stairway, a short section of handrail will be built to address an initial fall risk.

The stone will be dug and laid by hand. No trees are proposed for removal, however removal of shrubbery is required around a 3m wide area for trail building. Sediment barriers and/or silt logs will be installed while construction is under way. Disturbed areas will be rehabilitated with native grass mix.

Documentation Submitted

- Explanatory note regarding supporting documentation for the application for an Environmental Significance Opinion;
- Letter of Authorisation
- Form 1M.

Natural conservation values present

Namadgi National Park conserves a wide variety of ecosystems and contributes to regional ecological connectivity through its links to reserves within NSW. Over 400 species, with at least 30 species listed as threatened under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, have been recorded in Namadgi.

The site is to the west of Corin Dam, on a steep slope above the spillway. The surrounding vegetation consists of dense mountainous eucalypt forest, dominated by tree species such as Broad-leaved peppermint (*Eucalyptus dives*), Mountain Gum (*E. dalrympleana*) and Ribbon Gum (*E. viminalis*). Shrub species observed include *Acacia* and *Cassinia*, with *Lomandra* and *Poa* grasses dominating the ground layer.

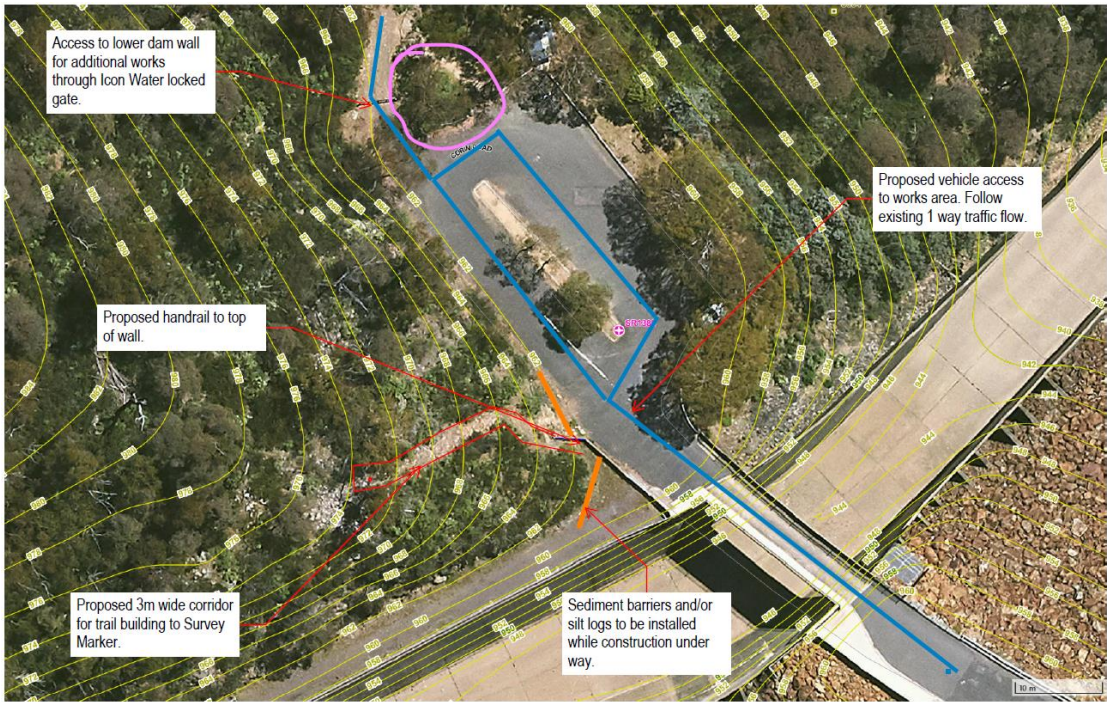
Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

The proposed works pose a low risk to environmental values in the area, given the small area of impact and the minimal vegetation removal.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be required to outline specifics of the proposed works. The CEMP will need to be approved by the Conservator before works commence.

This opinion is granted subject to the following conditions made under s140 (4)(b) of the Act:

1. Conditions of approval including mitigation measures as stated in the application.
2. Access to the site must be granted to Conservation Officers if a random compliance inspection is requested by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.
3. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be required to outline specifics of the proposed works. The CEMP will need to be approved by the Conservators office before works commence. The following points are to be addressed in the CEMP:
 - If works are undertaken in spring then a suitably qualified ecologist must inspect the shrubs for nesting birds before works commence. If nesting native animals are found then a licence (issued by PCS Licensing and Compliance) will be needed prior to any disruption of the nest. The licence will stipulate the conditions relating to any nest removal.
 - The reseeding mix for rehabilitation specified in the CEMP should include species local to the area (such as those listed in the flora list in Table 5 of the ESO).
 - The total works area and any set down/parking areas must be clearly defined in the CEMP.
 - There is to be no damage to vegetation (including shrubs and understory) in the northern part of the Corin Road carpark (as marked in pink in the below map) due to the presence of the ACT rare plant Long-leaf Waxflower (*Philotheca myoporoides subsp. Myoporoides*).



It has been determined that if the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the above conditions attached to the ESO in addition to the mitigation measures contained in the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.