
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION – SYMONSTON AND MUGGA WATER PUMP STATION FENCING (ESO 202500052)

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

APPLICANT

Icon Water, as represented by Michael Smith, 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 development proposal is for the installation of a new security fence at the Symonston and Mugga Water Pump Station, located in Callum Brae Nature Reserve, as described in the submission.

LOCATION

Block 2042, 2228 Jerrabomberra.

MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES

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

OPINION

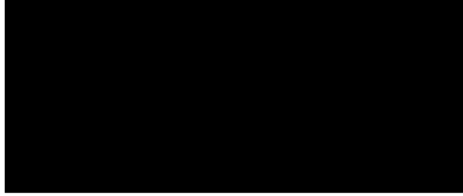
Provided the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the following conditions in addition to the mitigation measures contained in Section 7.2 of the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

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. Excavation/trenches are not left open overnight or appropriate fencing to exclude wildlife must be installed.

4. The proponent is to submit an Unexpected Finds Protocol for endorsement by the Conservator prior to construction, to manage and minimise potential impacts during construction.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.



Bren Burkevics
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

4 December 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 Callum Brae Nature Reserve.

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

Icon Water will be installing a new fence around the site. This will include the following:

- The project will involve minor excavations for the fence line around the site, approximately 300mm deep and up to 600mm wide
- Fences are to be approximately 2.8m tall

- Approximately 120m of fencing will be installed
- The final fence style will be either chain-link, palisade or barrack style fencing.
- Fences are to be concreted in along trenches that have been dug to make them fauna proof
- Gates to be installed to have Icon Water locks on them
- Any excess soil is to be taken off site for disposal according to the ACT EPA Information Sheet 4
- Existing access around the site and through to the Callum Brae Nature Reserve will remain the same

Documentation Submitted

- CX1108 – water site security renewal - Environmental Significance Opinion
- Letter of Authorisation
- Form 1M.

Natural conservation values present

The site is surrounded by Callum Brae Nature Reserve to the North and North-East, and to the South of the site there is a landfill. Callum Brae Nature Reserve is a 143-hectare protected area in Symonston, located on the lower eastern slopes of Mount Mugga Mugga. The reserve is renowned as a bird watching hotspot, supporting large hollow bearing eucalypts dominated by Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum. It is a refuge for threatened and declining woodland bird species.

The development footprint is highly disturbed due to the presence of the pump station and access track. Symonston Water Pump Station is located in a pit at the site and Mugga Water Pump Station is located in a separate building adjacent to the pit. Site access is off Mugga Lane, through an Icon Water padlocked gate.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

The works will be minor in nature and not impact the reserve as all works are within an already disturbed area adjacent to the pump station. No trees will be removed, and there are appropriate mitigation measures in place to ensure no trees within the area will be damaged by the works.

Conditions have been included to ensure that works will not reduce the environmental values of Callum Brae Nature Reserve.

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. Excavation/trenches must not be left open overnight or appropriate fencing to exclude wildlife must be installed.
4. The proponent is to submit an Unexpected Finds Protocol for endorsement by the Conservator prior to construction, to manage and minimise potential impacts during construction.

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.