ACT Government
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

# Scoping Document

Under Division 8.2.2 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*

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|---|---|---|
| **APPLICATION NUMBER:** 201800022 | **DATE OF THIS NOTICE:** 13 June 2018 | |
| **DATE LODGED:** 1 May 2018 | **EXPIRY OF THIS NOTICE:** 13 December 2019 | |
| **PROJECT:** Belconnen Trunk Sewer Augmentation | | |
| **BLOCK:** | **SECTION:** | **DISTRICT:** |
| 8 & 20 | 97 | Charnwood |
| 1 | 66 | Flynn |
| 21 | 68 | Flynn |
| 1 | 71 | Flynn |
| 1 | 72 | Flynn |
| 2-6 & 9 | 74 | Flynn |
| 1-4 | 67 | Melba |
| 1 | 138 | Latham |
| 2 | 147 | Latham |
| **ADDRESS:** Companion Crescent, Kingsford Smith Drive and Ginninderra Drive – Charnwood, Flynn, Melba and Latham | | |
| **PROPONENT:** ICON Water | | |
| **APPLICANT:** Dale Hicks – Icon Water | | |
| **LAND CUSTODIAN:** Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) – Unleased | | |

## SCOPING DOCUMENT

The planning and land authority (the Authority) within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate received your application under section 212(1) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the PD Act) for Scoping of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above proposed development. Pursuant to section 212(2) of the PD Act, the Authority has:

a) Identified the matters that are to be addressed by an EIS in the relation to the development proposal; and

b) Prepared a written notice (the ***scoping document***) of the matters.

*NB: The EIS must conform to the requirements of this scoping document. This document does not indicate approval or support in any way, nor does it indicate approval in principle.*

## TERM OF SCOPING DOCUMENT

Pursuant to section 213(2) of the PD Act, the proponent must give the draft EIS to the Authority by the end of the period of 18 months starting on the day the Authority gives the scoping document for the development proposal to the applicant.

## FORM AND FORMAT OF EIS

The Authority requires that the proponent engage a suitably qualified independent consultant to prepare an EIS, OR the proponent submits, with the draft EIS, an independent review of the draft EIS undertaken by a suitably qualified consultant. The EIS must be in the following form and format:

- The EIS must be prepared in accordance with section 50 of the *Planning and Development Regulation 2008.*
- The EIS must be written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon as much as possible.
- The EIS is required to be provided in the same structure as described in this Scoping Document as closely as possible. A table that cross-references the EIS to the scoping document must be included in the EIS submission.
- The report must reference any figures or supporting information used to the supporting appendix and page number, table or figure.
- Additional technical detail, including relevant data, technical reports and other sources of the EIS analysis must be provided in appendices.
- Maps, diagrams and other illustrative material should be included in the EIS to assist readers to interpret information.
- The EIS document sized A4 with maps and drawings in A4 or A3 format.
- The proponent must supply a copy of all draft EIS and revised EIS documents in electronic formats for circulation and web posting. These are to be supplied by email, USB, or another agreed method.
- Digital files must not exceed 20 MB each.
- The proponent must supply three hard copies of the draft EIS once it has been accepted for lodgement and three hard copies of the revised EIS once it had been accepted for lodgement.

## COST OF PREPARATION OF EIS

The proponent is responsible for the preparation of the draft and revised EIS and any related applications and associated costs. This includes additional copies of the draft and revised EIS and other associated documents as required by the Authority from time to time.

## NEXT STEPS

The proponent is now required to prepare a document (a ***draft EIS***) that addresses each matter raised in the scoping document for the proposal within the timeframe provided in this scoping document. Once the draft EIS has been accepted for lodgement, a public notification fee is payable in order for notification, referrals and assessment to commence. After the notification period has closed, the Authority will provide comments and any public representations received for the proponent to address in preparing a ***revised EIS***, and any further instructions on the application.

If you have any queries about the requirements outlined in this scoping document, please contact Dominic Riches to arrange a suitable time to discuss.

ACT Government

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

# Scoping Document

Under Division 8.2.2 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*

**Delegate of the planning and land authority**
Brett Phillips
Planning Delivery Division
Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development Directorate

**Contact**
Dominic Riches
Impact Assessment and Business Improvement
Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development Directorate

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## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EIS

### 1. Cover Page

The cover page must clearly display the following:

- The name of the proposal (project title)
- The block identifier(s) and street address for the proposal
- The date of the preparation of the document
- Full name and postal address of the designated proponent
- Full name and postal address of the designated applicant
- Name and contact details of the person/organisation who prepared the documents (if different to the above)

### 2. Glossary

Provide a glossary of technical terms, acronyms and abbreviations used in the EIS.

### 3. Executive Summary

Provide a non-technical summary of the EIS including a description of the proposal, key findings and recommendations.

### 4. Introduction

Summarise the proposal background and justification for the proposal.

### 5. Proposal Details

#### 5.1. Project Description

Provide a description of the proposal, including:

a) The objectives and justification for the proposal;

b) The location of the land to which the proposal relates, including detailed maps;

c) The division and/or district names and block and/or section numbers of the land under the *Districts Act 2002;*

d) If the land is leased – the lessee's name;

e) If the land is unleased or public land – the custodian of the land;

f) The purposes for which the land may be used;

g) A clear identification of all lands subject to direct disturbance from the proposal and associated infrastructure and geomorphic features such as waterways and wetlands. This is to be supported by a map showing all affected lands;

h) An outline of any developments that have been, or are being, undertaken by the proponent, or other person(s) or entities, within the proposal area and broadly in the region. Describe how the proposal relates to those in the region affected by the proposal;

i) A description of all the components of the proposal, including the proposal specifications, the predicted timescale for implementation (design, approvals, construction and decommissioning) and project life;

j) A plan/description of the precise location of any works to be undertaken, structures to be built or elements of the proposal that may have relevant impacts; and

k) A description of the construction methodologies for the proposal.

### 5.2. Alternatives to the proposal

Provide details of any alternatives to the proposal considered in developing the proposal including a description of:

a) Any alternatives to the proposal (including adjustments to the alignment) and provide reasons for selecting the preferred option with an analysis of site selection as an attachment to the EIS;

b) The criteria used for assessing the performance of any alternative to the proposal considered;

c) Any matters considered to avoid or reduce potential impacts prior to the selection of the preferred option; and

d) Details of the consequences of not proceeding with the proposal.

## 6. Legislative and Strategic Context

A description of the EIS process including any statutory approvals obtained or required for the proposal, and how the proposal is aligned with strategic priorities for the ACT.

### 6.1. Statutory requirements

The description must include information on statutory requirements for the preparation of an EIS:

- *Planning and Development Act 2007*
- *Planning and Development Regulation 2008*
- Related statutory approvals.

### 6.2. Climate change

The EIS must include information on how the proposal will reduce the risks from climate change impacts and include proposed adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of the community and the Territory, particularly the extreme events of heatwaves, droughts, storms with flash flooding and bushfires. The information must address impacts on the local microclimate and how it will avoid contribution to urban heat and positively contribute to urban cooling measures.

Additionally, the EIS must address the contribution the proposal will make to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting the legislated target for a net zero emissions Territory (by 2050 at the latest).

Preparation of the EIS must consider the ACT Government's policies:

- ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, 2016
- AP2 – A new climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory, 2012

### 6.3. Other requirements

The description must also include information on how each of the following has been considered in the preparation of the EIS and the development of the proposal:

- Territory Plan 2008
- ACT Planning Strategy

- National Capital Plan
- Sustainability Policies
- Transport for Canberra Policy
- *Environment Protection Act 1997*
- Plans of Management for any public land
- Other relevant planning and environmental guidelines and management plans.

*6.3.5. Ecologically sustainable development (ESD)*

Provide a description of how the proposed development demonstrates ESD. This is to include long-term and short-term considerations related to economic development, social development and environmental protection at local, regional and national scales. The proponent should ensure that the EIS adequately addresses the ESD principles as defined by section 9 of the PD Act.

*6.3.5. Territory Plan strategic directions*

A statement must be provided regarding the proposal's consistency with the principles in the Statement of Strategic Directions in the Territory Plan 2008 (Section 2.1 - Strategic Direction).

## 7. Risk Assessment

### 7.1. Risk Assessment Methodology

Provide a risk assessment in accordance with the Australian and New Zealand Standard for risk management AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 *Risk Management – Principles and guidelines.* The proposed criteria for determining which risks are potentially significant impacts must be described. This should be based upon the Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) submitted with your request for the scoping application.

Should any risk levels change during the preparation of the EIS or any new risks become apparent, these must be assessed and included within the EIS, and where relevant, the residual risk assessment.

| -Assessment guide- | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Provide a table with the headings below to describe the risks identified and the original risk rating without any mitigation strategies in place. This table format is one option, however alternative formats can be used provided the methodology is clearly described and in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 *Risk Management – Principles and guidelines* | | | |
| Risk | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk rating |

## 8. Assessment of Impacts

Sufficient information is required to provide the Authority with an adequate understanding of the environmental impacts associated with the proposal. Each potentially significant impact rated with a risk rating of medium and above as identified in the risk assessment must be addressed with the information required by sections 8.1.1- 8.1.11 of this scoping document.

Table 1 identifies the issues that the Authority has identified as potentially significant risks, and the relevant sections of the scoping document that must be addressed in the EIS. The risks and their associated risk levels were determined from the information submitted with the PRA, comments received from entities on the request for scoping document application and the Authority's assessment.

**Table 1 – Identified impacts and requirements to be addressed in the EIS**

| Environmental Theme | Risk identified | See section/s below for further detail |
|---|---|---|
| Biodiversity | • Impact on protected fauna and flora species including the removal of habitat<br>• Impact on native vegetation<br>• Impact on protected ecological communities<br>• Impact on existing trees/clearing of existing vegetation | 8.1.1 |
| Traffic and Transport | • Increased traffic impacts on existing network during construction<br>• Impacts on the pedestrian and cyclist network from construction and operation | 8.1.2 |
| Materials and waste | • Generation of waste from operation | 8.1.3 |
| Soils and Geology | • Impacts to soil during construction and from vegetation removal<br>• Potential soil contamination from construction activities | 8.1.4 |
| Landscape and visual | • Visual impact of proposed infrastructure | 8.1.5 |
| Water quality and hydrology | • Impacts from construction on existing waterways such as Ginninderra Creek<br>• Severe storm event impacting on construction and operation<br>• Impact on natural stormwater flow channels/paths from proposed infrastructure | 8.1.6 |
| Climate change and air quality | • Increase in air pollution during construction<br>• Impacts from climate change on future operation<br>• Odour impacts during construction and operation | 8.1.7 |

| Environmental Theme | Risk identified | See section/s below for further detail |
|---|---|---|
| Noise and vibration | • Noise and vibration from construction activities | 8.1.8 |
| Hazards and risk | • Increased hazards from construction activities | 8.1.9 |
| Heritage | • Impacts on known and unknown places or objects of Aboriginal cultural significance | 8.1.10 |
| Utilities | • Impacts on existing utility infrastructure during construction<br>• Impacts on other future works within the vicinity | 8.1.11 |

### 8.1. Required detail for addressing impacts (Table 1)

The following items (sections 8.1.1 - 8.1.11), relate to the potentially significant environmental impacts identified in Table 1. They must be addressed in detail in the EIS.

NOTE: The information provided under the following headings is not an exhaustive list of matters that may be required to accurately detail the assessment scenarios.

*8.1.1 Biodiversity*

- Describe all ecological communities and protected species present in the proposed area of construction
- Describe whether any ecological communities or species that may be present in the proposed area are listed as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or conservation dependent, or protected, under any of the following Acts:
  - *i. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*
  - *ii. Nature Conservation Act 2014*
  - *iii. Tree Protection Act 2005*
- Describe all avoidance measures for the proposed development and associated works including measures relating to critical habitat within proximity of the site
- Include a description of mitigation measures aimed at reducing impacts on ecological communities and protected species
- Define any areas where habitat rehabilitation will occur after the works have been conducted
- Ecological studies must be conducted and provided as part of the draft EIS to determine the presence, or absence, of threatened reptile species within the impact zone
- If Natural Temperate Grassland cannot be avoided then the EIS must address how the width of disturbance can be reduced
- Discuss the impacts of removing habitat in relation to movement corridors and the functional connective canopy which is used to create linkages between core habitat
- Consider the effect of removing habitat within the impact zone and what impact it may have for connectivity on a broader scale
- Describe the effects of the potential degradation of marginal habitat and lesser quality habitat and what affect this will have to biodiversity
- Identify EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities potentially within, or surrounding, the impact zone which may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposal

- Provide tree assessment/plans indicating the tree type, health, size, specie, and canopy and outline strategies to minimise the impact of planted and native trees along the corridor

*8.1.2 Traffic and transport*

- Include a comprehensive Traffic Impact Assessment in accordance with relevant guidelines of Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS)
- Describe arrangements for the transport of construction materials, equipment, products, waste and personnel during both the construction phase and operational phase of the development proposal
- Describe suitable access arrangements with justification for selection of access points
- Include a description of the volume of traffic generated during the construction proposal
- Include details of vehicle traffic, transit routes and transport of heavy and oversize loads (including types and composition)
- Describe traffic volume data for Ginninderra Drive/Tillyard Drive/Kingsford Smith Drive
- Detail any traffic disruption, traffic management plans, proposed road closures and any impact on the emergency services facility to the West of Tillyard Drive

*8.1.3 Materials and Waste*

- Describe how spoil from construction will be managed
- Describe what mitigation measures will be in place so that spoil which is stored on site does not affect the surrounding landscape or enter Ginninderra creek

*8.1.4 Soils and Geology*

- Describe the soil and geology features of the area
- Discuss any contamination impacts that are present at the site (soil and groundwater), and how the site will be remediated
- Discuss the potential impacts associated with soils and geology on the proposed site and surrounding areas
- Provide information on measures to limit impacts from spills during construction
- Provide information on methods of impact reduction and rehabilitation associated with soils and geology
- Describe how erosion from the removal of vegetation will be managed

*8.1.5 Landscape and Visual*

- Conduct a visual impact assessment that details predicted impacts the proposal may have on the landscape character of the site and surrounds
- The visual assessment is to include aesthetics of the pipe bridge and design options
- Provide perspectives and/or a visual analysis of the proposal from local vantage points
- Describe measures that are to be adopted to reduce the visual impact from the odour control facility
- Detail restoration methods for disturbed areas which will ensure that landscaped areas will be restored to their original condition in accordance with the land custodian's requirements

*8.1.6 Water quality and hydrology*

- Describe how groundwater runoff will be managed
- Outline any potential impacts to Ginninderra Creek
- Describe how overland water flow will be managed if a significant rain event occurs during construction

- Describe all mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce the impact from construction runoff into Ginninderra creek.
- Provide information on stormwater/waste water management during construction
- A 1%AEP localised flood study of Ginninderra Creek must be undertaken. The study is to extend and include the location of the odour control unit.
- A technical study relating to the construction integrity of the pipe bridge in a 1%AEP flood event must be undertaken

*8.1.7 Climate change and air quality*

- An air quality and odour impact assessment must be completed by a suitably qualified environmental consultant and in accordance with the South Australian EPA's *Ambient Air Quality Assessment August 2016*
- Provide an assessment of the effect the proposal may have on climate change and how the proposal is consistent with associated ACT and national policies
- Detail potential dust generation or dust movement during construction
- Detail any potential impacts on existing air quality caused by the trunk sewer main and associated odour control unit

*8.1.8 Noise and vibration*

- Describe the staging for the construction of the development including expected completion of each stage given the location of the works near residential properties
- Describe the proposed time of day that the construction will be undertaken
- Describe any mitigation measures to reduce the impact of noise and vibration on existing residential and commercial properties

*8.1.9 Hazards and risks*

- Identify, assess and detail mitigation measures for any risks associated with bushfire protection
- Identify potential public hazards from construction and describe mitigation measures to reduce the risk
- Include any temporary management measures for public areas

*8.1.10 Heritage*

- Provide information on water control measures in the vicinity of the Umbagong District Park Grinding Grooves, to demonstrate that the heritage site will not be indirectly affected by changes in water and soil conditions in this section of Ginninderra Creek
- A map of survey transects must be provided confirming that the previous archaeological survey has adequately assessed the project
- Indicate how any unexpected Aboriginal places or objects will be managed during construction
- Describe reporting techniques that will be used for the discovery of any Aboriginal sites or artefacts that are encountered during construction

*8.1.11 Utilities*

- Describe feasibility of all options considering existing conservation values and other proposed works within the vicinity
- Provide an options analysis that led to a pipe bridge solution being proposed, instead of a syphon and/or an alternative starting point

- Describe the existing utilities located on the land subject to this proposal
- Describe any projects under construction in the vicinity of the proposed development that need to be considered in the design
- Describe any known future projects in the vicinity of the proposed development that need to be considered in the design
- Provide information on how this project fits into any wider trunk sewer upgrade within the catchment
- Describe any new utilities, removal or realignments required as a result of this development
- Provide information relating to the commissioning of the asset

### 8.2. Investigating impacts (Table 1)

Each potentially significant environmental impact identified within Table 1 should be addressed/structured as per sections 8.2.1 - 8.2.5.

| -Assessment Guide- | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Assessment Scenarios:** The proponent should describe and use baseline case, application case and planned development case in their EIS to describe and address impacts at all stages of the project (construction, operation, decommissioning and reclamation) | | |
| **Baseline case**<br>The baseline case establishes and describes the conditions that exist prior to the development or if the project were not developed. Describe the environmental conditions that include the effects of existing land uses of the area. | **Application case**<br>The application case describes the baseline case with the effects of the proposal added. Information is provided to allow regulators to determine how project operations should be controlled and how adverse effects can be mitigated and managed. | **Planned development case**<br>The planned development case describes the environmental conditions of the project when integrated with the existing conditions and any other planned projects which can be reasonably expected to occur. |

#### *8.2.1 Environmental conditions and values*

Describe the environmental conditions and identify the environmental values for the environmental themes identified in Table 1. This section should discuss the baseline conditions for the area.

#### *8.2.2 Investigations*

Identify the findings and results of any environmental investigation in relation to the land to which the proposal relates.

#### *8.2.3 Impacts*

Describe the effects of the environmental impact as a result of construction and operation for the environmental themes identified in Table 1 (including cumulative, consequential and indirect effects) on physical and ecological systems and human communities. Particular emphasis should be placed on the potentially significant impacts identified in the risk assessment and this scoping document.

Include a discussion of the timeframes of impacts i.e. short or long term, their nature and extent and whether they are reversible or irreversible, unknown or unpredictable. Include an analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts. Information must include any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.

### *8.2.4 Mitigation*

Discuss the proposed safeguards and mitigation measures proposed to be taken for the environmental management of the land to which the proposal relates for the environmental themes identified in Table 1. This is to include:

a) A description and an assessment of the proposed impact prevention, mitigation or offsetting measures to deal with the environmental impact of the proposal

b) A description of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures

c) Any statutory or policy basis for the mitigation measures

d) An outline of an environmental management plan (EMP) that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing

e) The frequency, duration and objectives of monitoring proposed

f) The name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program

g) A description of the cost effectiveness of environmental mitigation or rehabilitation measures proposed and the expected or predicted effectiveness of those measures.

### *8.2.5 Residual risk*

Provide a table that details the residual risk for the potentially significant impacts identified for the environmental themes in Table 1. A residual risk assessment is only required where the significance of impact is determined as medium or above.

The calculation of the residual risk should take into account the influence of implementation of mitigation or offsetting measures on the impacts identified by the risk assessment. A discussion of how the calculations were determined should also be included.

| -Assessment Guide- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Provide a table with the headings below to describe the risks identified and the original risk rating without any mitigation. The residual risk assessment will include the consideration of management, mitigation and monitoring strategies applied to each risk identified. The residual risk rating describes the final risk with the mitigation measures in place. | | | | |
| **Risk identified in Section 7.1** | **Original risk rating from items identified in 7.1** | **Residual likelihood** | **Residual consequence** | **Residual risk rating** |

## 9 Community and stakeholder consultation

### 9.2 Consultation must be undertaken with:

- Lease holders and land managers of land potentially impacted by the proposal;
- Any recreational groups which may be affected by the proposal;
- Any volunteer conservation, landscape management or land care groups active in the area to be affected by the proposal; and
- The local community.

### 9.3 Methods

Describe the community consultation undertaken (methodology and criteria for identifying stakeholders and the communication methods used).

### 9.4 Consideration of community feedback

Describe how any concerns have been considered in light of the proposal and any future development planned.

### 9.5 Consideration of public representations from Draft EIS notification

The revised EIS must include the representations received, issues raised in the representations and a response to the issues and values identified. The summary response must clearly identify the representation(s) to which the responses relate.

### 9.6 Stakeholder consultation

The EIS must include any previous correspondence with relevant entities in relation to the requirements or support of the proposal.

## 8 Recommendations

Provide a summary of any commitments to impact prevention, mitigation measures, offsetting measures and other actions within the EIS.

Describe the monitoring parameters, monitoring points, frequency, data interpretation and reporting proposals.

## 9 Other relevant information

The proponent may wish to include issues outside the scope of the EIS as a separate section of the EIS. This allows the proponent to identify matters not required to be addressed in the EIS, but that would be subject to development assessment consideration and notification. This can provide additional context for members of the public regarding management of environmental issues, by ensuring that the public is aware that these issues will be addressed in the detailed design of the proposal.

## 10 References

A reference list using standard referencing systems must be included.

## 11 Required Appendices

### 11.2 Scoping document for the EIS

A copy of the scoping document should be included in the EIS. Where it is intended to bind appendices in a separate volume from the main body of the EIS, the scoping document should be bound with the main body of the EIS for ease of cross-referencing.

### 11.3 Scoping Document Reference

Include a table that cross-references the EIS to the scoping document.

### 11.4 Proponent's Environmental History

Provide details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against:

- The person proposing to take the action
- For an action for which a person has applied for a permit, the person making the application.

If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, then provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework. Enough information is required to satisfy s136(4) of the EPBC Act.

### 11.5 Information Sources

For information given the following must be stated:

- The author or any reports or studies
- The publication date
- The source of the information
- How recent the information is (i.e. when a study was conducted or when primary sources were produced)
- How the reliability of the information was tested
- What uncertainties (if any) are in the information.

### 11.6 Study team

The qualifications and experience of the study team and specialist sub-consultants and expert reviewers must be provided.

### 11.7 Specialist studies

All reports generated based on specialist studies undertaken as part of the EIS are to be included as appendices.

### 11.8 Research

Any proposals for researching alternative environmental management strategies or for obtaining any further necessary information should be outlined in an appendix.

## Attachment A

## 12 ENTITY REQUIREMENTS

Where not otherwise identified as a potentially significant impact, provide information in accordance with the requirements of the entities. If the issues raised by entities have been addressed in other sections of the EIS, this must be cross referenced in this section.

### A1. ACT Heritage Council

On 1 May 2018, the ACT planning and land authority referred an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) scoping document application to the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) for entity advice.

The application relates to a proposed new trunk sewer main and associated odour control unit (OCU) facility adjacent to Ginninderra Drive between Tillyard Drive and Copeland Drive, and associated works including access tracks, compound areas and laydown areas; identified as the 'Belconnen Trunk Sewer Augmentation' (the project). All project works would be contained within the defined project area, which consists of a linear corridor ranging between 50 and 400 metres in width.

The application is informed by the *Belconnen Trunk Sewer Augmentation Project Preliminary Aboriginal and Historical Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Past Traces 2018), which includes desktop analysis, archaeological field survey and consultation with Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs). The key findings and recommendations of this report include:

- No registered or recorded heritage places or objects occur within the project area;
- One registered Aboriginal place is located in the vicinity of works, being the 'Umbagong District Park Grinding Grooves', however, works will not directly or indirectly affect this heritage site, as no change to soil and water conditions along Ginninderra Creek is expected;
- Archaeological survey of the project area was undertaken by Past Traces and Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) on 22 March 2018; which identified one Aboriginal place, being an artefact scatter recorded as 'BT1 '. As BT1 is located over 200 metres away from the proposed OCU facility, impacts to this site are unlikely to occur;
- No potential archaeological deposits (PADs) have been identified within the project area, which is considered to be of low archaeological potential through survey and desktop analysis;
- As the project is not expected to result in heritage impacts, no management heritage actions are identified; and
- Should any Aboriginal places or objects be encountered during construction, those finds are to be managed in accordance with the Unexpected Discovery Plan attached as Appendix 2.

**Advice:**
Following review of the preliminary heritage assessment (Past Traces, 2018), the Council identifies the following heritage assessment requirements for inclusion in the project's EIS scoping document:

- Further information is required on water control measures in the vicinity of the Umbagong District Park Grinding Grooves, to demonstrate that the heritage site will not be indirectly affected by changes in water and soil conditions in this section of Ginninderra Creek;
- To demonstrate that the March 2018 archaeological survey adequately assessed the project area, a map of survey transects must be provided; and
- The Past Traces (2018) report should be updated with the information set out above, and submitted to the Council for review.

## A2. Conservator for Flora and Fauna

The findings of the Flora and Fauna study already completed for the project are not agreed. While African Lovegrass and Chilean Needlegrass expansion has reduced the extent of Natural Temperate Grassland since the pipeline route was proposed a few years ago, the Preliminary Environmental Assessment is incorrect when it states that Natural Temperate Grassland does not occur along the route. As shown in the map at Attachment A, the proposed route passes through two patches of critically endangered Natural Temperate Grassland, one of which is about 0.15ha in area and the other patch is approximately 0.5ha.

To be considered as Natural Temperate Grassland under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, a patch must be at least 0.1ha in area and native perennial species must make up at least 50% of the perennial understorey. In Grassland 1, native perennial species comprise 60% of the perennial understorey, while in Grassland 2 native perennial species comprise 69% of the perennial understorey.

Perennial cover was determined by criss-crossing two 50m tapes across the patches and recording the species present at each 1m mark. Species were also recorded in 20m x 20m according to the methodology required to obtain a floristic Value Score. As the survey took place at an unfavourable time, to be considered as Natural Temperate Grassland the Floristic Value Score has to be at least 3, or there has to be at least one indicator species or 4 non-native grass species.

Grassland 1 had a Floristic Value Score of 8.1, while four indicator and eight non grass native species were observed (see data sheet at Attachment B).

Grassland 2 had a Floristic Value Score of 11.7, while five indicator and six non grass native species were observed (see data sheet at Attachment C).

The Floristic Value Scores for both sites were above the 6.5 score and therefore they are considered as areas of high condition.

In previous advice on the sewer route, it was suggested that the Natural Temperate Grassland patches should be avoided or at the very least the route should skirt around the edges of a patch, rather than going through the middle as currently proposed. This advice is still current and prudent and the EIS must clearly articulate why the Natural Temperate Grassland patches cannot be avoided. While the patches are small and disturbed, the assessment still indicates that they are in a relatively good condition in comparison to Natural Temperate Grassland elsewhere. They would also be focus areas for rehabilitation works and management actions seeking to extend the area of Natural Temperate Grassland along Ginninderra Creek. If the patches cannot be avoided then the EIS must address how the width of disturbance can be reduced by applying mitigation measures and construction techniques for any work that occurs within these grassland areas.

Rehabilitation of disturbed areas in or adjoining Natural Temperate Grassland should not be with dryland grass mix or other exotic grass mixes but should utilise grass species native to the Ginninderra Creek area. These native grass rehabilitation areas will also need specific weed control measures for a minimum of two years.

Given that *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) (a C4) species is the dominate grass at both grassland sites these areas are unlikely to be habitat of the critically endangered Golden Sun Moth, (a species that feeds on the roots of C3 grasses). The moth is known to thrive in areas invaded by Chilean Needle Grass (a C3 grass) in other close-by downstream locations along Ginninderra Creek, so its presence outside of the Natural Temperate Grassland patches cannot be dismissed. This is particularly so as the preliminary Environmental Assessment did not include a targeted survey for the species, and makes an erroneous conclusion that habitat is determined by the dominant presence of

native wallaby grasses.

The Environmental Assessment report is also wrong in its assumption that Striped Legless Lizard is only found within patches of Natural Temperate Grassland. In fact the majority of records in the ACT are outside of Natural Temperate Grassland. Records largely occur within areas that were once Natural Temperate Grassland, have not been overplanted with trees, and which have a medium grass height. Such habitat is common along the pipeline route. However, the route is about 5km west of the nearest record (on the eastern side of the Belconnen Naval Transmission Station), and there has been survey effort for the species downstream and upstream of the route, so it is perhaps unlikely to be present, but remains a possibility.

The EIS must contain an updated environmental assessment report taking these comments into consideration.

### A3. Department of Environment and Energy (Commonwealth)

The Department notes that the proponent has considered the potential for this project to have significant impacts on matters of national environmental significance protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) with the conclusion that significant impacts are unlikely and a referral is not required under the EPBC Act.

The Department considers that the supporting documentation may underestimate the potential for significant impacts and recommends that further consideration be given to a route that avoids impacts to EPBC Act protected matters. In the event that the route is able to be re-aligned to avoid impacts to protected matters, a referral is unlikely to be necessary. If the route is unable to be re-aligned to avoid protected matters, it is recommended that additional surveys for EPBC Act protected matters are undertaken in accordance with relevant EPBC Act survey guidelines. As protected matters are known to occur along the proposed route and the current alignment will have direct impacts, it is recommended that the project be referred for a decision whether or not assessment and approval is required under the EPBC Act. In the event of the action being determined to be a controlled action requiring assessment and approval under the EPBC Act, it may be possible, depending on the timing of a referral, for a streamlined assessment process to be undertaken in accordance with the ACT assessment bilateral agreement.

### A4. Emergency Services Agency (ESA)

I note that ICON Water has, in the PEA, referenced the requirement to assess and mitigate any risks associated with bushfire in any future proposed/approved development noting that land to the West of Kingsford Smith Drive is in the BPA which includes a section of the proposed sewer main and the Odour Control Unit. We would obviously also be interested in traffic disruption/management plans/proposed road closures/any impact on our facility to the West of Tillyard Drive etc.

### A5. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)

The following further matters must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

- An options analysis that led to a pipe bridge solution being proposed, instead of a syphon and/or an alternative starting point
- Information on how this project fits into any wider trunk sewer upgrade within the catchment

- 1%AEP localised flood study of Ginninderra Creek. The study is to extend and include the location of the odour control unit. If the study identifies that the odour control unit is impacted by the 1%AEP flood event, the location of this critical infrastructure may need to be relocated, elevated or treated to minise impact
- Technical study relating to the construction integrity of the pipe bridge in a 1%AEP flood event
- The visual assessment is to include aesthetics of the pipe bridge and design options
- Information relating to the commissioning of the asset
- Any projects under construction in the vicinity of the proposed development that need to be considered in the design
- Any future projects in the vicinity of the proposed development that need to be considered in the design

### A6. Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

Odour impacts associated with this proposal should be assessed in accordance with the South Australian EPA's Ambient Air Quality Assessment August 2016 available at http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/standards_and_laws/air_quality.

### A7. Evoenergy (electricity)

Evoenergy has no objections to this proposed sewer main.

Evoenergy does have some assets (underground cables and overhead power lines) along this section of Ginninderra Drive. The contractor should obtain WAE drawings via the DBYD process and ensure these assets are avoided during the works or request their protection or relocation via the normal channels.

### A8. Evoenergy (gas)

Evoenergy Gas has no objections to this proposed sewer main.

Evoenergy has both medium and secondary pressure gas assets along and across this section of Ginninderra Drive. DBYD should be consulted to ensure that the gas network assets are avoided during the works. If they can't be avoided please contact us to request protection or relocation of the assets.

### A9. Health protection service

The Health Protection Service (HPS) notes that the EIS scoping document relates to the proposed construction of a new trunk sewer main and associated odour control unit (OCU) in Belconnen.

The HPS requests that the EIS consider:

- Potential dust generation or dust movement during construction; and
- Any potential influence upon existing air quality caused by the trunk sewer main and associated OCU.

## A10. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS)

The following comments from TCCS must be taken into consideration when preparing the EIS for Belconnen Trunk Sewer Main.

- Several conservation sites are impacted, including removal of vegetation and native/threatened species, by this plan; these areas would be underbore only. Ginninderra Catchment Group would need to be consulted and can provide more detail. Melba BMX club should also be consulted as they lie within the potentially impacted property zone.
- To minimise the impact on landscape, native vegetation, trees and threatened plant species, EIS may assess carefully the Option A and/or Option B instead of Option D, which is being considered by ICON Water. OPTION A (Option A involving a 10 megalitre (ML) overflow tank that would be located at the intersection of Ginninderra Drive and Copland Drive in Melba, near the existing overflow point. In an overflow event, sewage would spill into the 10 ML tank by gravity, and would be pumped back into the sewer after the event has finished) or OPTION B (Option B involving two stages, both of which would be constructed parallel to the existing BTS with flow diversions at their upstream connection points. Flows would combine again at a point of higher capacity downstream).
- It is also noteworthy that ACT Healthy water ways are installing a wetland on the corner of Ginninderra Dr and Copland Dr https://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways/healthy-waterways/sites-and-progress. As such EIS must assess whether Option A can be considered or not.
- If ICON Water goes with any other options i.e. Option C or D then strategies should be devised to minimise the impact of planted and native trees along the corridor.
- In the EIS, tree assessment plans indicating the tree type, health, size, specie, and canopy should be supplied for all the proposed options.
- An indication of access arrangement must be clearly mentioned in the EIS and provide a justification for choosing the proposed access points.
- EIS must provide traffic volume data on Ginninderra/Tilliyard/Kingsford Smith drive when providing traffic report. Data can be obtained by contacting Edward Meredith of Roads ACT on 6207 6820.
- EIS must include meeting minutes with all entities including TCCS. Any in-principle support/agreement must also be attached to the Draft EIS.
- TCCS does not necessarily agree to all assumptions made in Nature Conservation Value in table 3.2. Details response will provide once we have a full set of EIS DA.
- There should be a clear mention in the EIS that all agreed disturbed areas must be restored to its original condition to the satisfaction of land custodian.

## A11. Utilities Technical Regulation, Access Canberra

Expressed no comment at this preliminary stage.

Attachment B

## GLOSSARY

**Controlled Action (EPBC):** An action defined under the EPBC Act, section 67.

**Development application (DA):** Application for development as defined under the PD Act.

**Environment:** As defined under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the PD Act), each of the following is part of the environment:

(a) the soil, atmosphere, water and other parts of the earth;

(b) organic and inorganic matter;

(c) living organisms;

(d) structures, and areas, that are manufactured or modified;

(e) ecosystems and parts of ecosystems, including people and communities;

(f) qualities and characteristics of areas that contribute to their biological diversity, ecological integrity, scientific value, heritage value and amenity;

(g) interactions and interdependencies within and between the things mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f);

(h) social, aesthetic, cultural and economic characteristics that affect, or are affected by, the things mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f).

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** As defined under the PD Act.

**EPBC Act:** *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth)

**Impact Track:** An assessment track that applies to a development proposal defined under the PD Act, section 123.

**Long term:** Greater than 15 years duration.

**Medium term:** Greater than three (3) years to 15 years duration.

**PD Act:** *Planning and Development Act 2007* (ACT)

**Regulated waste:** waste defined under the *Environment Protection Act 1997*

**Scoping:** The process of identifying the matters that are to be addressed by an EIS in relation to the development proposal - see the PD Act, Section 212 (2).

**Short term:** Zero to three (3) years duration.

**Socio-economic:** Involving both social and economic factors.