
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION - Erosion Control Kinlyside Nadjung Mada (ESO 202600018)

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

APPLICANT

ACT Parks and Conservation Service, as represented by Ms Michelle Ralph, Ranger in Charge.

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 erosion control works in Nadjung Mada and Kinlyside Nature Reserves as described in the submission.

LOCATION

Blocks 820 & 862 Gungahlin district.

MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES

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

OPINION

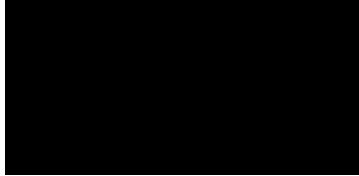
Provided the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the following conditions, and in addition to the mitigation measures contained in the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

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

1. Conditions of approval including impact 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. Works occur on Bushfire Prone Land, and the following is to be included in the works plan:
 - No work is permitted on site when a Total Fire Ban is declared.
 - On days of High fire danger rating (FBI 30 or greater), all hot works and works that could emit a spark must cease and be deferred until conditions are less risky. The works plan must identify mitigation measures, such as fire suppression equipment, that can be implemented. The daily rating and four-day outlook are available during the declared bushfire danger period at <https://esa.act.gov.au/> for the proponent to assess risks.

- Hot works include welding, cutting, grinding, or other works involving open flames or which emit a spark, such as excavating hard rock, slashing and brush-cutting.
4. Revegetation of both sites must be undertaken to support long-term site rehabilitation and remediation.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.



Bren Burkevics
Conservator of Flora and Fauna
City and Environment

20 July 2026

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 Nadjung Mada and Kinlyside Nature Reserves.

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 erosion control works in Nadjung Mada and Kinlyside Nature Reserves. Both reserves were historically under rural leases and experienced high grazing pressure, resulting in localised erosion issues requiring targeted erosion control.

Kinlyside

Major erosion control works were completed in Kinlyside along both tributaries of Hall Creek in 2016–17. While livestock grazing pressure has since been reduced, numerous active erosion sites remain at Kinlyside due to past land use and soil characteristics.

Works involve construction of two small-scale rock chutes and battering to stabilise two actively eroding head cuts and limit ongoing soil loss. The project involves earth moving, rock addition, construction of rock chutes and armouring. The area subject to earth-moving and installation of rock to reinforce active erosion will be no larger than 150m². A wider disturbance footprint of approximately 790m² accounts for access and material stockpiling.

It is noted that there is an additional disturbance area, 13m in length, where machinery will travel between the two head cuts. This has not been included in the disturbance footprint calculations due to the temporary nature of the disturbance.

Nadjung Mada

Erosion is less significant at Nadjung Mada, with the focus for this ESO on repairing erosion to allow for all-weather vehicle access across the reserve.

Works involve construction of a gabion rock crossing to allow access along an existing fire trail where it crosses a drainage line. The construction includes excavation to a depth of up to 1m for a gabion crossing that is 5.5m wide by 8m long, installation of geo-fabric and infilling with locally stockpiled rock. This design allows for water flow through the gabion and vehicle passage along the track, even in wet conditions. The footprint of the excavation would not exceed 55m².

Documentation Submitted

- Explanatory note regarding supporting documentation for the application for an environmental significance opinion;
- Letter(s) of authorisation;
- Form 1M.

Natural conservation values present

Nadjung Mada and Kinlyside are offset sites under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and protect key Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). The reserves are managed by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

Kinlyside

Kinlyside Nature Reserve is a 228ha area located in north-western ACT. The reserve forms part of a 2,000-hectare area of critically endangered Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland (Box Gum Woodland) in the northern ACT. It provides important wildlife habitat and a wildlife movement corridor linking to the Majura Valley, the Molonglo River valley and NSW.

The reserve provides habitat for several listed species, including:

- Key's Matchstick Grasshopper (*Keyacris scurra*)
- Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*)
- Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*)
- Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*)
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)
- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*)
- Varied Sitella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*)

Various orchids have been recorded. All orchids are protected under the NC Act.

The proposed work is within a Red Stringybark–Scribbly Gum Tableland Forest Plant Community Type mapped area bordering an open section of critically endangered Box Gum Woodland. The work area is near mapped Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat (20m from the site) and Golden Sun Moth habitat (200m from the site).

Nadjung Mada

Nadjung Mada Nature Reserve is a 160ha area located in eastern Gungahlin, adjoining Goorooyaroo and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserves to form a wildlife movement corridor. The reserve protects 85ha of critically endangered Box Gum Woodland, including many large old woodland trees.

The reserve provides habitat for several listed species, including:

- Perunga Grasshopper (*Perunga ochracea*)
- Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*)
- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*)
- Speckled Warbler (*Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*)
- Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*)
- Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*)
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)
- Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*)

The work area partially falls within critically endangered Box Gum Woodland and occurs within the Superb Parrot feeding corridor.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

Increases in urban development adjacent to both reserves, particularly Nadjung Mada, may increase runoff into the reserves and increase potential impacts to sensitive and critically endangered ecological values. Long-term strategic site rehabilitation and land management focused on reducing water flow are likely to provide ecological benefits.

Kinlyside

The Kinlyside package of works avoids sensitive areas and is restricted to exotic-dominant degraded areas. Although Kinlyside supports sensitive fauna, notably Golden Sun Moth, the proposal appropriately avoids impacts to rare or threatened values through design. The works are likely to improve ecological outcomes, consistent with offset commitments, by addressing historical land management issues that have resulted in erosion at the site.

Nadjung Mada

The Nadjung Mada package of works is situated within an area mapped as critically endangered Box Gum Woodland. However, impacts to Box Gum Woodland values are avoided by restricting disturbance to an existing trail. These works are consistent with reducing erosion and are likely to result in ecological benefits.

Conditions have been included to ensure the works minimise impacts to sensitive and critically endangered ecological values and provide ecological benefit by targeting erosion control.

1. Conditions of approval including impact 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. Works occur on Bushfire Prone Land, and the following is to be included in the works plan:
 - No work is permitted on site when a Total Fire Ban is declared.
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available during the declared bushfire danger period at <https://esa.act.gov.au/> for the proponent to assess risks.

- Hot works include welding, cutting, grinding, or other works involving open flames or which emit a spark, such as excavating hard rock, slashing and brush-cutting.
4. Revegetation of both sites must be undertaken to support long-term site rehabilitation and remediation.

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.