

# Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Canberra Centenary Trail recreational traffic counter installation – block 1432 Tuggeranong and block 685 Gungahlin) Notice 2012 (No 1)

Notifiable Instrument NI2012–513

Made under the

**Planning and Development Act 2007 s 138AD (Requirements in relation to environmental significance opinions)**

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## **1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Canberra Centenary Trail recreational traffic counter installation – block 1432 Tuggeranong and block 685 Gungahlin) Notice 2012 (No 1)*.

## **2 Commencement**

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

## **3 Environmental Significance Opinion**

An Environmental Significance Opinion has been prepared by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

The text of the opinion is shown at Annexure A.

A copy of the opinion may be obtained from ACTPLA's website:

[http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design\\_build/da\\_assessment/environmental\\_significance\\_opinions](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_significance_opinions)

## **4 Completion**

The environmental significance opinion and the notice including the text of the opinion expire 18 months after the day the notice is notified.

David Papps  
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate  
24 September 2012



**ACT**

Government

Environment and  
Sustainable Development

Mr David Papps  
Chief Planning Executive  
ACT Planning and Land Authority  
Dame Pattie Menzies Building  
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Mr Papps

This is to advise of my decision, under s.138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, on the request for an environmental significance opinion on the installation of recreational traffic counters within Bullen Range and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserves.

The proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact on land reserved under s. 315 for the purpose of wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve.

Please find attached the Environmental Significance Opinion and a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

Yours sincerely

Penny Farnsworth  
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

19 September 2012



**ACT**  
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Environment and  
Sustainable Development

## ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION

In accordance with section 138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

### PROPONENT

Daniel Iglesias, Director, Parks and Conservation Service.

### LOCATION

The proposed works are in two separate locations:

- Within the existing Murrumbidgee Walking Track in the Bullen Range Nature Reserve – Block 1423 District of Tuggeranong; and
- Within the existing fire trail on the north western border of Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, in the area of the nature reserve known as Little Mulligans – Block 685 District of Gungahlin.

### DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Installation of pedestrian and cyclist traffic counters to collect information on the types and frequency of use of the recreation trail.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed 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 environmental significance opinion to that effect.

### OPINION

The proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact. Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

Penny Farnsworth  
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

19 September 2012

## STATEMENT OF REASONS REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 4 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* – Development proposal for an activity requiring an EIS Schedule 4, part 4.3, item 3, being development on land reserved under s. 315 for the purpose of a wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve.

Bullen Nature Reserve and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve are areas reserved as public land nature reserve.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed 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 environmental significance opinion (ESO) 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 and known values of the site.

## **Project description**

The installation of pedestrian and cyclist traffic counters to collect information on the types and frequency of use of the recreational trails.

Two types of counters will be installed:

- A pyroelectric sensor located in a post approximately 1.5m in height which uses a combination of passive infrared pyroelectric technology and a high precision lens to detect changes in temperature when a person passes in the range of the sensor will be used to count walkers; and
- A ZELT loop, buried in the ground at a depth of 20-50mm, which precisely analyses the electromagnetic signature of each bicycle wheel will be used to count cyclists. This gives the ability to count the number of bicycles even when groups are crossing at the same time, and counts only bicycles not any other type of vehicle that may pass.

Works will involve:

- the installation of a post 1.5m high and buried 100mm deep to house the pyroelectric sensor;
- A shallow trench approximately 50mm deep within the existing track to bury a single ZELP loop; and
- Digging a small hole of approximately 200mm in diameter to install a data logger and battery pack.

## **Documentation Submitted**

Report titled Request for an ESO Recreational Traffic Counters: Canberra Centenary Trail, September 2012

## **Natural conservation values present**

While the works will be within nature reserves, all works will be within existing trail alignments that are already disturbed and devoid of native vegetation. The report submitted with the ESO request notes that an independent ecological assessment conducted for the Centenary Trail (Eco Logical 2012) failed to identify any uncommon, rare or endangered flora or fauna within the impacted areas.

## **Impact of development on these values (including offsite impacts)**

As the installation will disturb approximately 2m<sup>2</sup> of bare or previously disturbed ground within the existing trail alignments, it is unlikely that there will be any environmental impacts as a result of the proposed works.

## **Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts**

The potential for a significant environmental impact is low.