

Planning and Development (Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade – Blocks 27 & 2087 Jerrabomberra) Scoping Document 2019

Notifiable instrument NI2019–592

made under the

Planning and Development Act 2007, section 212 (Scoping of EIS)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Planning and Development (Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade – Blocks 27 & 2087 Jerrabomberra) Scoping Document 2019*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Scoping of EIS

Under section 212 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the Act), the planning and land authority has prepared the scoping document in the schedule.

Brett Phillips
Delegate of planning and land authority
10 September 2019



ACT
Government

**Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development**

Scoping Document

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

APPLICATION NUMBER: 201900029		DATE OF THIS NOTICE: 10 September 2019
DATE LODGED: 30 July 2019		
PROJECT: Upgrade of the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to cater for a future equivalent population of 75,000		
IMPACT TRACK TRIGGER: <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> , Schedule 4 Part 4.2 Item 5		
BLOCKS: 27 and 2087	SECTION: 0	DISTRICT/DIVISION: JERRABOMBERRA
ADDRESS: 7 Mountain Road, Jerrabomberra ACT		
PROPONENT: Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)		
APPLICANT: Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)		
LESSEE/LAND CUSTODIAN: Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)		

SCOPING DOCUMENT

The planning and land authority (the Authority) within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) received your application under s 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 s 212(2) of the PD Act, the Authority has:

- Identified the matters that are to be addressed by an EIS in relation to the development proposal; and
- 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 s 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 s 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.



ACT
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Scoping Document

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- The EIS is required to be provided in the same structure as described in this scoping document as closely as possible (e.g. executive summary, introduction, proposal details, legislative context, risk assessment, assessment of impacts, consultation, recommendations/mitigation, conclusion).
- A table that cross-references the EIS to the scoping document must be included in the EIS submission.
- The EIS must reference any figures or supporting information such as appendices and page numbers, tables and figures.
- Additional technical detail, including relevant data, technical reports and other sources of the EIS analysis must be provided in appendices.
- A redacted version (in addition to the full version) of any reports containing restricted or sensitive information must be provided for public notification, such as a Cultural Heritage Assessment report.
- 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 and two copies on individual USB's once it has been accepted for lodgement and three hard copies and three copies on individual USB's of the revised EIS once it has 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 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.

Delegate

Brett Phillips
Executive Group Manager
Planning Delivery Division
Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development Directorate

Contact

Linda Ren
Impact Assessment and Business Improvement
Environment, Planning and
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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 these developments;
- i) A description of all the components of the proposal (such as sewage collection, sewage and sludge treatment and disposal systems), including the proposal specifications, the predicted timescale for implementation (design, approvals, construction, operation, decommissioning

- and future expansion) and project life;
- j) A description of technology, skills and workforce requirements to operate and maintain a modern sewage treatment plant;
 - k) A comparison of the existing and proposed system such as discharge quantity, Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, and Biological Oxygen;
 - l) 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
 - m) 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 design and location (any site within the ACT or other jurisdictions) alternatives to the proposal and provide reasons for selecting the preferred option with an analysis of site selection;
- 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 EIS must include information on the following statutory requirements:

- *Planning and Development Act 2007*
- *Planning and Development Regulation 2008*
- *Utilities Act 2000*
- *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*
- *Environment Protection Act 1997*
- *Environment Protection Regulation 2005*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2014*
- *Tree Protection Act 2005*
- Other 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 in relation to extreme events such as 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 2045 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
- Relevant Environment Protection Policies and Separation Distance Guidelines for Air Emissions (https://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/legislation_and_policies)
- Canberra Airport Master Plan 2020 Preliminary Draft (<https://www.canberraairport.com.au/masterplan/>)
- Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy 2017
- Plans of Management for any public land
- Any relevant Master Plan
- Other relevant planning and environmental guidelines, action plans and management plans.

6.3.1. Ecologically sustainable development (ESD)

Provide a description of the proposed action in relation to the long-term and short-term considerations of economic development, social development and environmental protection. The proponent should ensure that the EIS adequately addresses the principles of sustainable development as defined by s 9 of the P&D Act, especially the economic consequences of the environmental impacts from the proposed development.

6.3.2. 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.

The Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) submitted as part of the request for a scoping document must be revised to include, but not be limited to, the risks identified by the Authority in Table 1.

-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
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The risks identified in Table 1 are based on the scoping document application and comments received from entities on the application. All of these risks are considered potentially significant (i.e. a medium risk level or above), and must be addressed in the EIS. Should any risk levels change during the preparation of the EIS or any new risks become apparent, these must be assessed and included with a justification in the EIS, and where relevant, the residual risk assessment.

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

Environmental Theme	Risk identified	See section/s below for further detail
Planning and Land Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on existing and potential adjacent land uses Impact on the STP operation if existing lease cannot be renewed 	8.2.1
Traffic and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased traffic congestion and reduced road safety during construction 	8.2.2
Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to existing infrastructure, including the underground sewage pipes, during construction Utility failure causing issues with the STP operation 	8.2.3
Materials and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased waste to landfill during construction, demolition and operation Impacts from storage of large amount of contaminated sludge and biosolids Spill of liquid waste or fuel during operation 	8.2.4
Soils and Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contamination of soil from uncontrolled release of chemical spills and leaks Impact of existing soil contamination from existing and previous uses, including the burial of solids and screenings Potential to increase run-off (sediment and erosion) entering into the Molonglo River in high rainfall events during construction 	8.2.5
Water Quality and Hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on water quality of Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin from effluent leaving the site Leakage or spills of untreated or partially treated sewage contributing to contamination of surface and groundwater Potential for bank stabilisation works to impact on the river water quality Microplastics, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 	8.2.6

Environmental Theme	Risk identified	See section/s below for further detail
	(EDCs) and other non-organic contaminants impacting water quality and ecosystems	
Climate Change and Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions from construction traffic and equipment 	8.2.7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events result in the breach / failure of infrastructure and contamination of water 	
Socio-economic and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of odour impacting nearby land uses, including but not limited to residential uses 	8.2.8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health risk associated with the effluent leaving the site 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on recreational use of Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin due to water quality impact 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on health from accidental leakage or spill of untreated or partially treated sewage 	
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise impacts on the amenity of sensitive receivers during operation 	8.2.9
Hazard and Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of failure to construct the new STP within the proposed timeframe 	8.2.10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of bushfire or fire damaging the proposed facility 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts related to infrastructure damage/ failure due to flooding or extreme rain event 	
Ecology and Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on terrestrial and aquatic species or ecological communities from construction and operation 	8.2.11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharged wastewater from the site impacting on aquatic habitat and species in the waterway 	
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on Aboriginal places and objects 	2.2.12

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 risk identified in Table 1 and in the proponent's PRA must be addressed, and structured, as set out in sections 8.1.1-8.1.5 below.

8.1. Standard requirements

8.1.1. Environmental conditions and values

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

8.1.2. Investigations

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

8.1.3. Impacts

Describe the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation for the environmental themes identified in Table 1 and in the proponent's risk assessment (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. 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 impacts.

8.1.4. Mitigation

Discuss the proposed safeguards and mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce the potentially significant impacts identified in Table 1 and the proponent's risk assessment. This is to include:

- a) A description and an assessment of the proposed impact avoidance, mitigation or offsetting measures to deal with the environmental impact of the proposal, along with which stage the mitigation measures will be adopted
- b) Any statutory or policy basis for the mitigation measures
- c) 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
- d) The frequency, duration and objectives of monitoring proposed
- e) The name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program
- f) Any corrective actions should the mitigation measures fail
- g) A description of the cost effectiveness of environmental mitigation or rehabilitation measures proposed and the expected or predicted effectiveness of those measures.

8.1.5. Residual risk

Provide a table that details the residual risk for potentially significant impacts identified in Table 1 and the proponent's risk assessment. 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 implementation of mitigation or offsetting measures. A discussion of how the calculations were determined should also be included, including the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures.

-Assessment Guide-				
Provide the residual risk assessment as set out in the table below.				
Risk identified in	Original risk rating from	Residual	Residual	Residual risk

Section 7	items identified in 7	likelihood	consequence	rating
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8.2. Detailed requirements

The following matters relate to Table 1 and must be addressed in detail in the EIS. Please note this is not an exhaustive list of matters that may be required to accurately detail the assessment scenarios.

8.2.1. Planning and Land Status

- Include a description of planning context of the area where the project will be located.
- Describe planning and development status of any land or project relevant to the proposal.
- Describe land use of the proposed land and any land to be affected (including, but not limited to, zoning, lessee(s) or custodian of the land, the permissibility of the proposed use defined in the Territory Plan).
- Investigate the impacts associated with the proposal including the potential requirement for a buffer zone, on the surrounding uses and whether the proposal will limit existing or future use for the surrounding blocks.
- Describe the potential impacts of lease expiration on future operation of the STP.

8.2.2. Traffic and Transport

- Describe arrangements for the transport of construction materials, equipment, products, and personnel during the construction phase of the development proposal.
- Include a description of the volume of traffic generated during construction.
- Investigate the impacts the proposal will have on traffic congestion and road safety and describe mitigation measures to reduce the impacts.
- Investigate the impacts the proposal will have on the structural capacity and the design life of the road network due to heavy vehicles accessing the facility during construction works and describe mitigation measures to reduce the impacts.
- Investigate the impacts on the vehicular route chosen to transport oversized equipment and accessories by heavy vehicles and describe mitigation measures to reduce the impacts.

8.2.3. Utilities

- Describe the existing utilities located on the land subject to this proposal.
- Describe any new utilities, removal or realignments required as a result of this development.
- Investigate potential impacts to existing infrastructure and provide mitigation measures to reduce the impacts.
- Explain how the proposal will meet the licensing requirements under the *Utilities Act 2000*.

8.2.4. Materials and Waste

- Describe all hazardous chemicals to be used on the site.
- Provide details on the quantity, storage and disposal of all sludge and biosolids.
- An asbestos management plan is required to address potential asbestos contamination.
- Discuss proposed treatment of biosolids prior to final disposal.

- Discuss mitigation measures to reduce impacts of storing large amounts of contaminated sludge and biosolids.

8.2.5. Soils and Geology

- Describe the soil and geology features of the area.
- A contaminated land search for the site needs to be performed and reflected in the EIS.
- Discuss any contamination impacts that are present at the site, and how the site will be remediated, if required.
- A contamination assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the PFAS (the per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substance) National Environmental Management Plan 2018, considering Poly-fluoroalkyl substances along with other contaminants.
- Describe erosion impacts from construction and operation activities, especially during extreme weather, and measures to reduce the impacts.
- Provide information on measures to limit impact on soil from spills.

8.2.6. Water Quality and Hydrology

- Undertake a water quality assessment which details management of water quality within the site and operational discharges from the site to ensure the upgrade meets the water quality standards in the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* and/or as set by the EPA in the updated license for the upgraded STP.
- The water quality assessment should include comparison of the management of water quality within the site and operational discharges from the site to other similar plants (recently established) within Australia or internationally.
- Include consideration of future expansion of the STP and resultant outputs in analysis of water impact.
- Provide consideration of how the new STP will satisfy the requirements of 2012 report from the Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment (https://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/590860/Part_1_Report.pdf) and the subsequent water quality expert panel recommendations.
- Provide an assessment of impacts to receiving waters, particularly Lake Burley Griffin and Molonglo River.
- Provide measures to mitigate against potential flooding and the impacts of the release of partially treated effluent in the Molonglo River system and Lake Burley Griffin.
- Discuss how the recommendations in the EPSDD submission to the QPRC master plan have been considered.
- Describe how the proposal meets the National Capital Authority Lake Burley Griffin Water Quality Management Plan (<https://www.nca.gov.au/national-land/lake-burley-griffin-management/lake-burley-griffin-water-quality-management-plan-2011>).
- Provide a suitable performance monitoring program to ensure discharge from the site meets the agreed standards.

8.2.7. Climate Change and Air Quality

- A climate change and air quality assessment must be prepared by a suitably qualified consultant, using South Australian Environment Protection Authority Air Quality

Assessment Methodology Guidelines and must consider the impact of increased frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events.

- The assessment must also include recommendations on air quality management and controls.

8.2.8. *Socio-economic and Health*

- An odour impact assessment (using a maximum possible value and considering future expansion) must be completed by a suitably qualified environmental consultant.
- The assessment must also include recommendations on odour controls such buffer requirements.
- Include consideration of future STP expansion in analysis of buffer requirement.
- Provide maps showing impacts on the surrounding sensitive receivers.
- Provide suitable performance indicators to monitor the odour emissions from the operation.
- Provide a formal Health Impact Assessment that includes an analysis of the potential impacts on human health and proposed measures to mitigate these impacts.
- Provide detail of any potential source of contamination and contaminants of concern at the site and their risk to human health or amenity.
- Discuss potential impacts on recreational use of Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin (including fishing) and provide mitigation measures to address the impacts.
- Describe the suitability of the land for the type of proposal described in terms of socio-economics and health.

8.2.9. *Noise*

- Undertake a noise assessment for the operation of the proposed STP to ensure compliance with the noise zone standards detailed in the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* for the site.
- Identify any potentially sensitive receivers which may be affected by the project.

8.2.10. *Hazard and Risk*

- Provide an assessment of the potential hazard and risk associated with the operation of the project including fire, flooding and accidents.
- Provide measure to manage risks in relation to potential hazards.
- Provide detailed analysis of the potential causes and impacts of infrastructure failure and how the associated risks will be managed.
- Provide bushfire protection measures, such as asset protection zone and vegetation management, in accordance with the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan V3 (or any updated version).
- Provide an assessment of the potential threat of flooding, utilising higher exceedance probabilities and recurrence intervals to reflect the critical nature of the infrastructure.
- Explain the availability of technology, skills and workforce requirements to operate and maintain the new STP.

8.2.11. Biodiversity

- Provide a description of the ecological values (including native vegetation, endangered ecological communities) and potential aquatic and terrestrial threatened species and their habitat on and adjacent to the site.
- Undertake ecological surveys by a qualified ecologist for the Golden Sun Moth (GSM), Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (PTWL) and their habitats. Please note all surveys must be undertaken using standard survey techniques.
- Provide maps showing the location of PTWL and GSM habitat in relation to the proposal.
- Discuss the impacts of the development on the ecological values, and provide mitigation measures to reduce the impacts.
- Provide an assessment of the potential impacts on aquatic habitat and species (including, but not limited to Murray Cod, Silver Perch and Macquarie Perch) and mitigation measures proposed to reduce the impacts.

8.2.12. Heritage

- A Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist in accordance with ACT Heritage Council 'Cultural Heritage Reporting Policy', and in consultation with Representative Aboriginal Organisations. This CHA must consider potential development impacts to Aboriginal places and objects, including the 'King Billy's Cottage Site' which has been nominated to the ACT Heritage Register.

8.3 Entity requirements

The EIS must address the entities comments provide in [Attachment A](#). If the issues raised by entities have been addressed in other sections of the EIS, this must be cross referenced.

9. Community and stakeholder consultation

9.1. Consultation must be undertaken with:

- Lease holders and land managers of land potentially impacted by the proposal such as adjacent businesses and residents of Beard and Oaks Estate;
- Any recreational groups which may be affected by the proposal;
- Any volunteer conservation, landscape management or land care groups active in the area who may be affected by the proposal; and
- The local community and community groups, such as ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group, Lake Burley Griffin User Groups, Lake Burley Griffin Guardians, Molonglo Catchment Group, Jerrabomberra Residents' Association, Inner South Canberra Community Council, and Pialligo Residents Association.

9.2. Consultation methods

- Describe the community consultation undertaken (methodology and criteria for identifying stakeholders and the communication methods used).
- Provide details on the information provided during the community consultation process. A plain English statement explaining the proposal and conceptual drawings must be made available to the community and stakeholders.
- Consultation should occur as early as possible and avoid, or make allowances for public holidays, school holidays and the summer holiday (Christmas) shutdown period.

9.3. Consideration of community feedback

- Provide a summary of how the community and stakeholders responded to the proposal and the main comments raised.
- Describe how any concerns have been considered and identify any changes that have been made to the proposal.

9.4. 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.

10. Recommendations

Provide a summary of commitments to avoid, mitigate and offset the potential significant impacts associated with the proposal.

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

11. 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.

12. References

A reference list using standard referencing systems must be included.

13. Required Appendices

13.1. Scoping document for the EIS

A copy of the final 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 final scoping document should be bound with the main body of the EIS for ease of cross-referencing.

13.2. Scoping Document Reference

Include a table that cross-references the EIS to the scoping document. If the EIS addresses the scoping document in multiple places then this must be also referenced.

13.3. 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.

13.4. 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

13.5. Study team

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

13.6. Specialist studies

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

13.7. Research

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

GLOSSARY

Controlled Action (EPBC): An action defined under the EPBC Act, s 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, s 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, s 212 (2).

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

Socio-economic: Involving both social and economic factors.

ATTACHMENT A -- ENTITY COMMENTS

ACT Health

The Health Protection Service (HPS) requests that the EIS for the project consider and include the following details:

- *The need for Stage 1 and Stage 2 contamination assessments to be undertaken as required.*
- *The need for a Construction Environmental Management Plan to be prepared before construction.*
- *Odour emissions on nearby residential properties and propose suitable odour mitigation measures.*
- *Measures to mitigate against flooding potential and the release of partially treated effluent in the Molonglo River system.*

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

A contaminated land search for the site should be performed and the report updated accordingly. The report should also be updated to detail what proposed contamination assessments are to be undertaken as part of site development works. All contamination assessment reports must be reviewed by the EPA prior to commencement of works.

Conservator of flora and fauna

There are several major concerns which have been identified and are required to be included in the Scoping Document and addressed in the EIS process. In particular, the EIS will need to incorporate potential impacts of the future operation of the plant in addition to the impacts during construction. The specific items for inclusion are:

1. Impacts to terrestrial biodiversity

*Both the Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) have been recorded in the close vicinity of the sewage works. It is possible that degraded native grassland at the possible stockpile site, and elsewhere within the block, could also be habitat of the critically endangered Golden Sun Moth which has been recorded in similar habitat within an adjoining block.*

If rocky outcrops are present within this grassland, then the proposal area may also be Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat.

It is suggested that surveys by a qualified ecologist using standard survey techniques be undertaken for Golden Sun Moth in addition to mapping Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat. If any habitat is present, then it should either be avoided or surveyed to determine if the species is present.

2. Impacts to aquatic biodiversity

Consideration of impacts to aquatic habitat and species are required to be included in the EIS. In particular, it needs to address threatened aquatic species listed and protected under the Nature Conservation Act 2014 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, including, but not limited to:

- *Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii*)*
- *Silver Perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*)*
- *Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*).*

Consideration of impacts to these threatened species is likely to lead to the need for EPBC assessment.

3. Water quality

The Queanbeyan sewage treatment plant contributes a significant amount (approximately 30%) of the nutrients to Lake Burley Griffin and is therefore a key driver of lake water quality, including blue-green algal blooms and associated lake closures.

It is essential that the EIS includes a rigorous assessment of impacts to receiving waters, particularly Lake Burley Griffin, along with proposing a plant design to achieve high quality effluent consistent with the recommendations of the previous Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment taskforce report and subsequent water quality expert panel recommendations.

The description of water quality impacts in the Scoping Document is not satisfactory as it only discusses concentration and fails to include details of loads (e.g. kg/year) of effluent. To make any meaningful assessments, loads from the Sewage Treatment Plant (including discharge, Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, various species of the former, and Biological Oxygen Demand) need to be presented in the EIS. Furthermore, the statement that discharge of nitrates into the waterways has a positive impact is not supported without detailed information on the discharge.

ACT Emergency Services Agency

The Queanbeyan sewage treatment plant upgrade environment impact assessment scoping report correctly identified that the subject site falls within the Bushfire Prone Area as defined by the ACT ESA.

On this basis any environment impact assessment should firstly assess the likely required bushfire protection measures such as the creation of expansion of Asset Protection Zones and therefore the potential impact on the surrounding landscape as a result of vegetation management.

The specifications for APZs are detailed in the strategic bushfire management plan v3 and the associated bushfire management standards.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

Several urban reserve sites are impacted by this proposal, including presence of GSM on Block 2242 adjacent to south of the site and some exotic shrubland along the river corridor. EIS must address this matter while preparing a draft EIS report.

The site seems to be contaminated with stockpiles of biosolids, asbestos and general waste disposal. Asbestos Management Plan be prepared as part of EIS documentation.

TCCS will provide comments which we have a full set of EIS documentations including Development Application.

ACT Heritage Council

Review of the ACT Heritage Register has identified one registered heritage place (Oaks Estate 1 – Aboriginal Places in the District of Jerrabomberra) and one nominated heritage place (King Billy's Cottage Site) on the block. The register entry for Oaks Estate 1, identifies that there is high potential for further Aboriginal cultural materials on the block and broader locality.

The works described in the scoping report include ground disturbance which has potential to damage Aboriginal places and objects. To determine the potential impact of the proposed works on Aboriginal places and objects, a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist, and in accordance with the ACT Heritage Council 'Cultural Heritage Reporting Policy' must be prepared as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

**Utilities Technical Regulation, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development
Directorate (CMTEDD)**

1. Compliance with the Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act (UTR Act)

The scoping document needs to explicitly reference that the proponent must meet their regulatory requirements under the Utilities Act 2000 and the Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014.

2. Definition of a Buffer Zone to the QSTP site

The QSTP is to be developed as the major sewerage treatment facility to the east of Canberra. If the QSTP redevelopment is approved, the investment in the site needs to be strongly safeguarded to ensure that the benefit of the investment is realised over the full asset life of the facility. Accordingly the requirement to define a buffer zone which has support in regulation both in the ACT as well as NSW is needed in the EIS Scoping Document.

The buffer around Icon Water's Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre is 2,450 metres (an area of approximately 470 hectares). Hence defined buffers although necessary, noting that these have the potential to constrain future development in the vicinity of the QSTP.

The extent of the buffer should recognise both visual and odour impacts of the QSTP. Noise may also be added as an associated consideration in determining the buffer.

3. Limit on Odour Emissions

The EIS Scoping Document considers odour as an issue. However it would be appropriate for the EIS Scoping Document to require the EIS to consider the maximum intensity of odour emissions permissible from the plant. The outcome of the EIS should be agreed limits on odour emissions, perhaps at the boundary of the QSTP, or alternatively at other defined locations. Defining clear odour intensity limits allows QPRC to efficiently plan and design the plant to meet the long term outcome required and so safeguard its tenure on the site. It also commits QPRC to building and managing the facility long term in a manner where odour from the QSTP does not become an issue for QPRC and communities in the ACT and NSW.

4. General

It would be helpful if the EIS Scoping statement were expanded to recognise and address the likelihood that QPRC will in the long term want to further increase capacity of the QSTP at the current site. Consideration of future buffer zones for development in the future should be referenced in the document.

National Capital Authority (NCA)

Sections 3.2.2 and 5.3 of the scoping report address the National Capital Plan (the Plan) and its relevance to the proposal. These sections in part correctly describe the application of the Plan, however the NCA makes the following comments aimed at ensuring the planning framework is accurately described in the report:

- The NCA supports the statement that a 'Public Utility' is a permitted use on the subject land.*
- The proponent should more accurately describe the application of Plan requirements. For example, there are general principles and policies of the Plan that apply (refer sections 3.2.5.2 and 3.2.5.3 of the Plan – clause 3 under the latter section is particularly relevant). The statement in section 3.2.2 that there are no requirements of the Plan that apply to the land isn't correct, and is also at odds with statements made at section 5.3 of the report.*

- *The site is not within Designated Areas, and therefore a development application must be lodged with the Territory planning authority. The Territory Plan is intended to be not inconsistent with the National Capital Plan, however where there are inconsistencies the Territory Plan has no effect. The statement at section 3.2.2 that compliance with the Territory Plan results in compliance with the National Capital Plan is not wholly accurate.*
- *Section 5.3 of the scoping report suggests that a Works Approval or Development Control Plan is unlikely to be required as the site is not located near any Designated Areas. The assertion is accurate however they should make more definitive statements about the planning framework. The roadmap at section 5.12 should be equally definitive (engagement with the NCA is relevant, but the roadmap should accurately identify why this engagement is occurring).*

The NCA has an active interest in the water quality of the Molonglo River in this location as it flows into Lake Burley Griffin. The NCA is concerned with measures proposed to ensure that any discharge into Lake Burley Griffin does not impact on water quality.

The NCA supports the location for the upgraded STP as it is located outside of a flood zone. The risks identified and mitigation strategies to manage water quality are considered suitable by the NCA.

Jemena

On behalf of Evoenergy Gas, Jemena have reviewed the Request for EIS Scoping Document (EIS201900029) – Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant and have no comment to make.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Compliance with the Utilities Act 2000

The scoping document needs to explicitly reference that the proponent must meet their licensing requirements under the Utilities Act 2000. A utility must not provide a utility service except in accordance with a licence, unless an exemption is given. Utility services are set out in Part 2 of the Utilities Act 2000. Commission staff are available to assist in discussions regarding utility services and licence requirements.